Stateless

They were born in Colombia.
Their parents fled Venezuela.
They are citizens of nowhere. P4-5

GULF TIMES
COMMUNITY

Your Page, Your Stage!

There's probably a photographer hidden in each of us, looking out for a platform. Community invites you to grab your chance and send your contributions with contact details and complete description of the images to qatarcommunity@gmail.com

--- PHOTO ESSAY, Page 10

COVER STORY

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--- PHOTO ESSAY, Page 10
**USEFUL NUMBERS**

Emergency 999
Worldwide Emergency Number 112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water 991
Local Directory 180
International Calls Enquires 150
Hamad International Airport 40106666
Labor Department 44508111, 44406477
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888
Qatar Airways 44496000
Hamad Medical Corporation 44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44594050
Qatar News Agency 44490205, 44490333
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444

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

**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr 3.12am
- Shorooq (sunrise) 4.44am
- Zuhr (noon) 11.35am
- Asr (afternoon) 2.58pm
- Maghreb (sunset) 6.25pm
- Isha (night) 7.55pm

**Quote Unquote**

“Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care for people will hear them and be influenced by them for good or ill.”

— Buddha

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

**Virus**

**DIRECTION:** Ashiq Abu
**CAST:** Revathy, Kunthacko Boban, Parvathy
**SYNOPSIS:** A real life account of the deadly Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala, and the courageous fight put on by several individuals which helped to contain the epidemic.

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

**Aladdin**

**DIRECTION:** Guy Ritchie
**CAST:** Naomi Scott, Mena Massoud, Will Smith
**SYNOPSIS:** When a street urchin finds a lamp with a genie inside, he uses the lamp to turn himself into a prince in order to win the heart of a beautiful princess. But an evil vizier is after the lamp too.

**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza
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: 9:15am – 4:15pm
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

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 Madhaham), 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 33497609.

ISC Skipping Rope Open Championship
WHERE: Ashoka Hall, ICC
WHEN: June 15
TIME: 11.00am – 1:30pm
Indian Sports Centre under the patronage of Embassy of India is organising Third edition of ISC Skipping Rope Open Championship 2019 for Speed Hop and Speed Endurance competitions. Categories, include Under –12 (Boys and Girls), Under –18 (Boys and Girls) and Adults (Men and Women) - Above 18 years. Entry is free. Championship is open to all Indians and students of any nationality studying in Indian Schools. Last date of entry is June 11. For further details, yoga.iscdoha@gmail.com or 55824194/55956008.

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.

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, 5544835.

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

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

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.

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gftesting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change
In the middle of nowhere

Thousands of children are stateless amid one of the largest forced displacement in modern history as an estimated 5,000 people flee Venezuela each day. More than 4 million have already left, over a quarter of them to Colombia, writes Andrea Castillo.
One study showed that by 2017 nearly 90% of Venezuelans were living in poverty and that the average citizen had lost 24 pounds — figures that are surely higher now.

Infantil, a public maternity ward where expectant mothers sleep six to a room on beds with aged metal frames, their names written on dry erase boards above their pillows.

A nurse came in to take her blood pressure and gasped at the results. “Dear girl, what are we going to do?” she said affectionately.

About 15 babies are born at the hospital each day, roughly a third of them to Venezuelan mothers, many of whom learn of the citizenship predicament only after they deliver.

Jubertis Alvarez Guanipa said a social worker had informed her that morning that her newborn daughter wasn’t Colombian. But the 19-year-old hadn’t been told about the impediments to getting her Venezuelan citizenship.

“I didn’t know,” she said in a near whisper. “I don’t even want to think about it.”

Colombian leaders say they’re doing everything they can to help Venezuelans.

“We aren’t responsible for statelessness — it’s Venezuela that didn’t want to give them the documents,” said Felipe Muñoz, an adviser to the Colombian president. “Colombia has exercised generosity and historic responsibility to help the Venezuelans. Here the discussion isn’t what to do but how to do it better.”

Migration officials left her waiting indefinitely.

She did manage to get a birth certificate. “The baby is a foreigner,” a nurse in Bogota told 23-year-old Belys Torrealba Tovar, 24, left, reaches for her newborn, Angel, at the Hospital Materno Infantil in Bogota, Colombia. She hopes to return to Venezuela so he can have citizenship.

The违etnolan Consulate, officials left her waiting indefinitely. She did manage to get a birth certificate from the Colombian civil registry office. On one side are his tiny footprints in black ink. On the other is a note: “Not valid for citizenship.” Suárez, who was close to finishing her law degree when she and her husband left Venezuela nearly four years ago, said she has little faith that the Colombian president, Ivan Duque, or his government will grant citizenship to children like her son.

“People see us as invaders,” she said, bursting into tears. “My son is a stateless baby to Maduro’s government because I betrayed my country the moment I came here. And to Duque’s government he is also a stateless baby because his mother came here.”

Suárez’s dreams for her son are simple: “What I want is for my son to have a citizenship document so he isn’t disadvantaged in the future. That he live well, and be able to do normal things like a normal person — that’s it.”

As for Torrealba, she has settled into motherhood in her new home. Her mother left Venezuela and moved to Bogota just before the baby’s birth. They both found new jobs, Torrealba at a public relations firm doing graphic design and her mother as a seamstress.

Torrealba recently devised a plan to give Angel citizenship. Over Christmas, she’ll return to Venezuela with her son and register him. She’ll do it somewhere other than Lara, where her family lives, and they’ll stay no longer than two weeks.

“If I enter Venezuela and they find out I’m there, they could put me in jail, keep me or disappear me,” she said.

But if the plan works, her baby will be a Venezuelan citizen by next year. — Los Angeles Times/TNS
COMMUNITY

BOWLING TOURNAMENT: Qatar Tamizhar Sangam (QTS), Indian socio-cultural organisation, recently organised bowling tournament for its members at Qatar Bowling Centre. More than 80 members participated in the tournament. The tournament was divided into different categories, including men, ladies, mixed doubles and children below 12. Prizes were distributed to the winners by QTC Management Committee members.

Karnataka based organisations mark World Environment Day

Karnataka based organisations associated to Indian Cultural Centre, including Karnataka Sangha Qatar (KSQ), Tulukotta Qatar, Mangalore Cricket Club (MCC), South Kanara Muslim Welfare Association (SKMWA), Mangalore Cultural Association (MCA), Bunts Qatar and Qatar Billawas, in association with Associated Technical Services and Advanced Technical Services Group, recently jointly celebrated World Environment Day by planting the saplings on the premises of Ideal Indian School. Various notable personalities including Ramachandra Shetty, Management Committee members of ICC, Venkat Rao, President of KSQ, Asmath Ali, President of Tulukotta Qatar, Sunil D'Silva, President of MCC, Abdul Majed, President of SKMWA, Veena Pais, President of MCA, Deepak Shetty, President of Bunts Qatar, Raghunath Anchan, President of Qatar Billawas, and Ravi Shetty, Managing Director of ATS Group, took part in the event.

BPS Principal to help MHRD India for PISA 2021

Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India has recently requested A P Sharma, Principal of Birla Public School, along with his team, to help selected schools in India to do well in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2021.

The Chairperson of CBSE has asked Sharma to share the strategic planning for preparing students and teachers for PISA, teacher training modules, question framing and modifications in the classroom transaction of curriculum. Two hundred schools of Punjab region, including government and private schools, have been identified to participate in the same. Sharma will conduct a workshop for the leadership teams of these schools in July. This programme is for international student's assessment which includes worldwide study by the organisation to evaluate educational system by measuring 15-year-old school pupils scholastic performance in mathematics, science and reading.

Speaking on the occasion, Sharma emphasised on the prime objective of BPS in elevating Qatar's rank in the same. The school has shared their best practices with the Ministry of Education in Qatar.

He mentioned we shall feel extremely privileged and honoured to assist other local government and private schools for a common cause to see the nations rank elevated significantly. He also shared the key for getting best results is creating strong foundation for 'reading' from Grade 1.
PWS organises cultural fiesta

Palpa Welfare Society (PWS), a Nepali community organisation, recently organised a cultural fiesta as part of its 6th Convention celebrations at Dalla Driving School and Academy. The event featured various Nepali singers and dancers, including popular Narayan Rayamajhi, Manju Poudel, Bikram Pariyar, Shrish Devkota and Sapana Ghale. The event was attended by over 500 people. The event was chaired by Ishwor Kafle, President of PWS. Narayan Rayamajhi, popular Nepali singer, was the chief guest on the occasion.

The event kicked off with the national anthem of Nepal, which was followed by a performance enacting the scene of cultivation back home in Nepal. The performers were dressed in oxen costumes to showcase how farmers plough their fields in June as monsoon hits the area.

Manju Poudel, Nepali folk singer, second time in Doha, hosted and performed six songs at the event. Speaking on the occasion, she said, “It’s my second time in Doha in a period of four years and I’ve always got the same amount of love and appreciation from the audience in Qatar.”

Sapana Ghale, a Nepali dancer, model and actress, also performed at the event. Shirish Devkota, a Nepali singer, performed seven of his songs on stage. Speaking on the occasion, he said, “I found Nepalis in Qatar very close to their culture. They love their music and artists. Their support and income is very crucial for their families and children back home, so I advise them to spend their incomes in the best possible way.”

The event also featured Kauda, an ethnic dance performance, choreographed by Jhanak Thapa Magar. Narayan Rayamajhi performed 15 songs at the event. Speaking on the occasion, he said, “Qatar has become a huge market for Nepali music. I strongly believe that our audience demands ‘conscious cinema’ from the filmmakers these days and we need to pay attention to the content of the films more than profits and media promotion.”

Ishwor Kafle, outgoing chairman of PWS, said, “We’ve organised this event to encourage travellers to visit Nepal, and support Nepal. Walk the beautiful trails in the shadow of the most magnificent mountains on earth as you help the Nepali people reset their course on the path to prosperity.” The new management committee of PWS, under the leadership of Manik Chhetri, was also elected on the occasion.

— Text and photos by Usha Wagle

Gautam

Narayan Rayamajhi

Bikram Pariyar

Shrish Devkota

Manju Poudel

BLUE DAY: The Kindergarten Section of Shantiniketan Indian School (SIS) recently celebrated blue day. The students were dressed in blue colour outfits and participated in ‘Show and Tell activity. The concept of blue colour was reinforced via various activities, including cotton dabbing, palm printing, sponge dabbing, craft and glitter work. The celebration helped the children to create a cognitive link between visual clues and words.
The International Ladies Pot Luck Group (ILPG) recently celebrated its 15th anniversary at the JBK Compound Clubhouse. Over 80 ladies, representing over 15 different countries, dressed in their national costumes, attended the event. Haruhi Otsuka, wife of the ambassador of Japan, was the guest of honour and welcomed the gathering. All the ladies, attending the event, brought a culinary dish typical of their home country for the sharing table. The event featured various traditional dances and performances. Rusandie Lawrence from the Dinu School of Dance represented Sri Lanka on the occasion. The Indonesian Puspa Qinarya Dance Community performed Legong Kupu, a Balinese dance, at the event. Padma Singh performed Ghoomer, a traditional folk dance of Rajasthan, India, and the members of Japanese Kimono Club put on a ‘Cherry Blossom’ Kimono fashion show at the event. The event was concluded with Indian bhangra dance, led by Bhavna. Along with the traditional dance performances, the event also included raffle prizes given out by the sponsors, including Qatar Airways, Salam Store, Sawasdee Thai Spa, Bellezza Salon, Sawasdee Thai Restaurant, Radisson Blu Hotel, Rotana City Centre, Oryx Rotana Hotel and Oriental Carpets.
Return of rooks ruffles feathers in Germany

Rooks, ravens and other members of the corvid family of birds have a reputation as bad omens. In Germany, their population has been on the rise for some decades – and not everyone is happy about it, writes Ulf Vogler.

The ravens residing at the Tower of London are a popular tourist attraction. Legend has it that the fortress – and kingdom – will fall if they leave, which helps explain why the ravenmaster feeds them royally and regularly trims their flight feathers.

Their cousins across the Channel in Germany, though, are widely viewed with suspicion, as the black birds have typically been for centuries. Some German farmers say rooks – a member of the bird family called corvids, which includes ravens, crows, jackdaws and magpies – pull up seedlings on their fields.

People in built-up areas complain about droppings and loud cawing, often describing the birds' presence as an 'infestation.' Shepherds in eastern Germany report that common ravens sometimes even kill newborn lambs. Wildlife conservationists, on the other hand, praise the birds' role in nature – as hunters of mice, for instance.

The opposing sides are entrenched, and at times the conflict can turn grisly. In 2016, a farmer near the Bavarian city of Augsburg strung up dead rooks on gallow to scare other rooks away from his field. A spokesman for the Bavarian Society for the Protection of Birds (LBV) called the spectacle 'outrageous.'

Uta Maria Juergens, spokeswoman for a federal working group on corvid protection in Germany’s Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), also disapproves of such drastic measures.

"Prejudice [against rooks]," she says, "starts with their name," which in German literally means ‘seed crows.’ Although the birds do eat seeds, she concedes, their meals largely consist of insects and grubs that are harmful to crops, so on balance they can benefit farmers.

The German Farmers' Association (DBV) doesn’t regard rooks as a significant agricultural problem. Corvid experts point out that the birds are very intelligent and aren’t easily scared off anyway.

Although arguments about rooks have increased steadily in recent years, they’re hardly new. In the 1980s, the Baden-Wuerttemberg State Institute for Environmental Protection tried to mediate the conflict between the birds' defenders and foes. Baden-Wuerttemberg, a state in southwestern Germany, shares a border with Bavaria.

"Many scientists have endeavoured to demonstrate the usefulness of rooks, and just as many have sought to show that rooks do inflict damage," the institute wrote at the time.

in guidelines aimed at fostering peaceful coexistence between people and the controversial corvids.

According to observations by the Bavarian Environment Agency (Lfu), rooks are unevenly distributed in the state, preferring to settle especially in the administrative district of Swabia in south-western Bavaria. The agency says the number of breeding pairs in Bavaria rose from only about 600 in 1953 to 8,500 by 2013.

The sharp increase is misleading, however, because the rook population had been almost wiped out. More rooks lived in Bavaria at the end of the 19th century than do now.

Their numbers are said to have recovered to a similar extent in other German states as well, since they were placed under protection several decades ago. NABU estimates that some 80,000 to 89,000 pairs now live throughout Germany. A further sharp rise isn't likely, Juergens says, because a 'saturation' point has nearly been reached.

But the birds are increasingly moving into urban areas, probably due to a dearth of suitable habitats in the countryside, leading to complaints when they roost in parks or playgrounds.

A number of German cities have tried to disperse them, using various different methods. They’ve felled trees that could serve as roost sites, had the fire department hose their nests out of treetops before breeding season, employed noisemakers such as 'acoustic scarecrows' or firecrackers, and released falcons in the area.

Many municipalities eventually gave up, though, when they found their measures brought no long-term relief.

"On the contrary, in many communities the rookeries multiplied," says an Lfu concept paper on rooks, noting that harassment caused the bird groups to break up.

"As a result, problems that were concentrated at one rookery are spread to several sites, often accompanied by an increase in the total number of breeding pairs." – DPA
The Eid holidays provided a good diversion from the humdrum of daily life. One of the days, I traversed through Souq Waqif on what was — believe it or not — a maiden visit even though I've been in Doha for the past two and half years.

It was a humid night and even though I wasn't feeling well, the prospect of indulging photography even if only to show friends back home what kind of place and life is here in Qatar was irresistible on an occasion like this.

And what better than to be at the much happening souq! Predictably, people from all walks of life, most with families, could be seen bonding whether walking around or just having meals or beverages in the multiple restaurants and cafes. Children could be seen playing and just having fun.

You couldn't but be impressed by the milieu with the rich tapestry of Qatari culture and hospitality in evidence: tradition, handicraft, food and feel-good socialising. And of course, there was plenty on offer in terms of artefacts and memorabilia.

The place reminded me so much of home, where people gather and bring their families and kids together, spending hours in a relaxing setting to converse and bond with each other. In a nutshell, just a home away from home.

— Text and photos by Allan Villafuerte (@amS2190)
Researchers have found that spending more time standing up and eating for even a few minutes prompts physical stress, muting taste buds.

The study, published in the Journal of Consumer Research finds posture impacts taste perception, with food tasting better when you are sitting down. The researchers looked specifically at how the vestibular system, which is responsible for balance, posture and spatial orientation, interacts with the gustatory sensory system, which impacts taste and flavour.

“This finding suggests that parents might be able to make unpleasant-tasting, healthy foods seem more palatable to reluctant children by having them eat standing up (vs. sitting down). In a similar vein, it might be beneficial to maintain a standing posture when consuming pharmaceutical products that have unpleasant tastes,” said study lead author Dipayan Biswas, Professor at the University of South Florida in the US.

The research team found that the force of gravity pushes blood to the lower parts of the body, causing the heart to work harder to pump blood back up to the top of the body, accelerating heart rate. This activates the hypothalamic-pituitary adrenal (HPA) axis and leads to increased concentrations of the stress hormone cortisol.

This chain reaction reduces sensory sensitivity, which impacts food and beverage taste evaluation, food temperature perception and overall consumption volume. When people experience discomfort, foods that normally taste good do not appear as pleasant to the palate, said the study. The research team confirmed their hypothesis by having 350 participants rate the tastiness of a pita chip. Those who were standing gave it a less favourable rating than those who were sitting in a padded chair. They expanded the study by inducing additional stress and asked participants to try fruit snacks while carrying a shopping bag. Both sitting and standing participants reported the additional weight made the food item taste even worse. – IANS
Wordsearch

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

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Codeword

Sudoku

Bound And Gagged
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Sweet police found in a ditch (4,4)
6 Time to get some sausages (3)
9 Odd bits of brass in bowl (5)
10 Different sort of saviour (7)
11 A group on leave (7)
13 Nobleman meeting youth leader ahead of time (5)
14 First-born of Israel destined for central role? (6)
15 Sweet smell - and something annoying (6)
19 Wrongful acts for children? That’s about right (5)
21 Quandary for dreadful dim male (7)
22 Have faith in cover held back by worker (7)
23 In a labyrinth I found corn (5)
24 Half of Sicily is like this (3)
25 Animal skin to be treated (8)

Down
2 Something chewed, filled with brilliant yellow sauce (7)
3 Mafia boss found in river (3)
4 Birds talk wildly to Poles (6)
5 Everlasting variety for Peter and Paul (9)
6 Love affair for one like Othello, we hear (5)
7 Written work from Midwest, for example (5)
8 Burning a baker’s first loaf (6)
9 Sister involved with sad calamities (9)
16 Disney film turning on Italian child (7)
17 Burial places depicted by a poet (6)
18 Redhead almost breaking stick (6)
19 Container, as provided for instruments (5)
20 Surviving custom that’s a bit more licentious (3)
23 A chap from Romania (3)

Colouring

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword
Taapsee says she is a happy outsider in the film industry

By Arundhuti Banerjee

Taapsee Pannu started her journey from the south Indian film industry, and has cemented her space in the Hindi film industry with multiple releases and commercial success. The actress considers it her strength that she is an ‘outsider’ in the industry. Asked how she dealt with the ‘outsider’ tag, Taapsee said: “Yes, I am an outsider and I don’t see it as a bad thing. I am a happy outsider. I am not popular among the creme of our fraternity, and when I am not shooting, I travel and observe people who have a regular life, out of the film world. I think it is my strength that I am an outsider who can bring a lot of real elements in the performance because of a normal life. Also, I go to bed early and wake up early, so partying late night does not suit my lifestyle... I am in a happy space, really.”

Last year, Taapsee had four Bollywood releases including Mulk, Momongaaj and one Telugu film Neeevaro. This year, after Game Over, she has Mission Mangal and Saand Ki Aankh. Recently, she gifted herself a new apartment in Mumbai. How does she look at the success?

“It was on my bucket list that I want my own car, an apartment and a steady career by the time I am 30 years old. So thankfully I have managed to fulfil all of it. Now, I have a bigger milestone to achieve in which producers will not stop themselves to invest money in my films thinking it is an ‘unconventional’ and ‘female-centric’ film,” shared the Pink actor.

“I know I am a success-driven industry but I also know that if I keep delivering content-driven films that are commercially successful, change is bound to happen... it will happen and I can see it,” Taapsee asserted.

Directed by Ashwin Saravanar, Game Over is releasing on June 14 in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi. Explaining the need to release the film in multiple languages, Taapsee said: “If we look at the story, it is a journey of a girl who is a rape victim... It is a universal story and that incident can happen to anyone, in any part of the world. So the makers thought that the film deserved to be shown nationwide. Of course, it was my wish too.”

Taapsee’s last release Badlu had done well commercially, but it did not have enough buzz on social media, especially among the film fraternity. It is also something that megastar Amitabh Bachchan had pointed out.

Asked if such things affect her, Taapsee said, “Look, you are talking about the Twitter buzz from the verified account. The fact of the matter is, they are not the people who will make my film earn money at the box office. If a film is running in the theatre for weeks, that means people are watching it and word of mouth works as the best buzz. Then why should I complain?

“I want appreciation from the audience and by making the film survive in the theatre for weeks, they have given me validation. It was a silent success.”

Is working with Bollywood’s Khans on her wish-list?

“As an actress, I would love to do so... As a kid, I have grown up watching their films, but I cannot choose one favourite. I loved watching Salman Khan because of his larger than life persona, Shah Rukh Khan and romance... Any young girl would dream to have a boyfriend like Rahul. I love watching Aamir Khan because he is a very interesting actor.

“I initially waited for long to get an offer opposite any one of them, but since I did not get a chance, I explored the opportunities that came my way so that I can make my space here in the film industry.”
By Jon Bream

When Prince showed up at his favorite Los Angeles recording studio, engineer Peggy McCreary never knew what was going to happen.

"It wasn't like you could ask him," she recalled. "He was very quiet. I got in his face: 'You're gonna have to talk to me. I can't work if you're just going to mumble instructions.'"

They worked together for six years, beginning in 1981, at Sunset Sound, recording Controversy, 1999, Purple Rain and other projects.

That's where he cut many of the tracks on Originals, a new posthumous album featuring his versions of songs he wrote for others. It was released last Friday, on what would have been his 61st birthday, by the Tidal streaming service (it will be available elsewhere June 21).

Ten of the 15 songs were written for women, including Sheila E., the Bangles, Martika, Jill Jones, Taja Sevelle and Apollonia 6. Others were for the Time, Mazarati and Kenny Rogers (yes, that Gambler guy).

"You never knew what he was working on or who it was for," said McCreary.

Some days, he'd walk in with lyrics handwritten on hotel stationery. Sometimes he'd scribble lyrics on the back of recording track sheets in the studio.

Only once did he explain a song – Manic Monday, which the Bangles turned into a smash in 1986 (peaking at No. 2 behind Prince's own Kiss).

Prince and McCreary had worked at Sunset Sound until 4 or 5 am and were planning to return at 6 that evening.

"I got a call from the studio at 10 am and they said he'd be in at 12 noon," McCreary remembered. "He waved some papers in my face and he said, 'If I dreamed another verse, I remembered. '"

"I said: 'You dream your songs?' He said, 'Sometimes.'"

"I couldn't be mad at him even though I had only four hours of sleep. "

They completed the song in one day.

Didn't Make Demos

Prince never recorded traditional demos, with his voice accompanied by just guitar or piano. Hearing the arrangements in his head, he cut fully produced songs that would become guides for the other singers to record them.

On Originals, when Prince sings Jungle Love and Gigolos Get Lonely, Too, you can appreciate how Morris Day tried to replicate Prince's phrasing on the Time's recordings, you can appreciate how Morris Day tried to replicate.

The latter tune stands out because it's Kenny Rogers tune. Prince sings in his deeper voice. The latter tune stands out because it's so un-Princeley – a conventional romantic pop ballad with a Brazilian undertone and a very committed vocal.

At times on Originals, Prince seems experimental, especially on Make-Up For Vanity 6.

In the end, these studio recordings offer insight into the hyper-prolific, hyper-creative mind of Prince in the 1980s. (The only non-'80s number was Martika's Love… Thy Will Be Done, from 1991).

Relentless In The Studio

In the studio, he was "kind of scary," opined McCreary, a self-taught engineer who has worked with Elton John, Van Halen, Toto, Tom Waits and others.

Sessions stretching 12 to 15 hours were the norm. Prince, a coffee drinker, wouldn't eat for fear it would make him tired. Once, he and McCreary recorded for 24 hours straight.

When Does Cry, Prince's first big hit from 1984's Purple Rain, was cut in 35 to 40 hours over two days.

McCreary worked with Prince the morning in 1981 after he was boosed off the stage in Los Angeles opening for the Rolling Stones.

She was there late one night after a 1985 concert at the L.A. Forum that Madonna attended. She joined him only a couple times in Minneapolis, at a concert and a party.

"He said, 'What's your middle name?' I said 'Colleen.' He said 'Name it Colleen.' The song never got finished, it never had lyrics."

"I got a call from the studio at 10 am and they said he'd be in at 12 noon," McCreary remembered. "He waved some papers in my face and he said, 'If I dreamed another verse, I remembered.'"

"I said: 'You dream your songs?' He said, 'Sometimes.'"

"I couldn't be mad at him even though I had only four hours of sleep.'"

They completed the song in one day.

Birthday Present

On Jan. 11, 1982, it was McCreary's birthday, and she wasn't happy about spending it at Sunset Sound with Prince.

Usually dressed in his customarily stylish manner, Prince showed up this time with a completely different look: Blue jeans, white T-shirt, black leather motorcycle jacket, black leather boots.

He cut a rockabilly song called You're All I Want.

"It made sense because of the way he was dressed," said McCreary.

"After working 12 hours, I made him a cassette. He was standing at the door and he tossed me the cassette and said: 'Happy birthday.'"

"I have an unreleased Prince song, " she said. "For him, that was one of the greatest gifts he could have ever given me. At the time, I wanted my birthday off. "

"That was him."

"McCreary's assessment of the Purple One was similar to that of others who worked with him in his heyday. "

"He was hard to work for. He was demanding. He was relentless," she said.

"You had to be ready at any time for anything that inspired him. It was tough. I was on call whenever he was in California."

"He never gave McCreary feedback. Never ever offered hello, goodbye or thank you. "

"I said: 'Do you like my work?' 'You're here, aren't you?'" said McCreary.

"With one sentence, he could rip you to the bone."

Prince never bounced ideas off McCreary or anyone else. He never asked her opinion on anything musical.

"Once, he caught her moving to the music and he laughed at her. Thereafter, she didn't react. "

"We collaborated fairly nicely without much conversation about music," McCreary said. "I got to have him at a really productive, prolific time. I got to watch him develop. He always knew who he was. Everybody else just needed to figure it out." -- Star Tribune (Minneapolis) / TNS
A unique act of comedy

Popular Indian stand-up comedian Zakir Khan to perform at QNCC on June 13

By Mudassir Raja

They say laughter is the best therapy. Some people believe it is contagious. In a world today where there is a lot of mental stress, laughter is nothing less than a blessing in one’s life.

Doha is a place that repeatedly offers opportunities where residents can laugh, enjoy and relax.

One such opportunity is fast approaching as a well-known stand-up comedian from India is all set to perform in Al Mayassa Theater, Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) on Thursday, June 13, starting at 6:30 pm.

Millennium Entertainment, an event management company, is going to present ‘Desi Comedy Nights’ with Zakir Khan, who has fast gained popularity as one of the leading Indian stand-up comedians.

The event is scheduled as part of the ‘Summer in Qatar’ by Visit Qatar.

The team of organisers consists of Asif Hasan Chougule, Managing Partner; Najib Chougule, Managing Partner; Priya Denny, Head Sales & Marketing; Siju Kaliyath, Head Operations & Service Delivery; Imran Khan, Managing Partner; and Alique Ajmeri, Celebrity Management at The Final Touch Entertainment.

Zakir is a stand-up comedian, writer, presenter and actor. In 2012, he rose to popularity by his hard-to-resist rustic humour that will have you nodding and clapping as you relate to everything he says.

One of the few comedians to consistently sell out venues with his hard-to-resist rustic humour, Zakir’s phenomenal rise as one of the most popular comedians in the country is nothing short of extraordinary.

Over the last year, he has sold 50,000 tickets with over 100 shows in clubs, colleges and arenas. Called a pioneer of storytelling in Indian comedy, his take on modern India will have you nodding and clapping repeatedly.

One of the few comics in India to do stand-up almost entirely in Hindi, Zakir is indeed a unique act, and it’s easy to see why.

Priya Denny said: “Millennium Entertainment is proud and ecstatic to bring Zakir back to Doha. He has a massive following within the Asian diaspora and also a widespread fame in other communities in Qatar. As a team and our sponsors are happy to be associated working for the event in making it a huge success”.

Asif Chougule said: “We as a team are happy to associate and be a part of the ‘Summer in Qatar’ by Visit Qatar for Zakir’s show. Indeed we are happy to host Zakir and provide him a stage like QNCC to perform for audiences and give them an unlimited dose of laughter and story-telling. We are looking forward to a grand success for the show.

We also thank all our sponsors for being associated with this event.”

STORYTELLER: Dubbed as the pioneer of storytelling in Indian comedy, Zakir’s take on modern India will have you nodding and clapping repeatedly.