The last stand

Avicii’s final songs emerge on Tim, with help from many friends. P4-5

Cover Story

INTERVIEW
Meera unplugged.
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BACK PAGE
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PRAYER TIME
Fajr 3.12am
Shoroq (sunrise) 4.44am
Zuhr (noon) 11.35am
Ajr (afternoon) 2.58pm
Maghreb (sunset) 6.26pm
Isha (night) 7.56pm

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, 44406537
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888
Qatar Airways 44496000
Hamad Medical Corporation 44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44594050
Qatar News Agency 44450205, 44450333
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444

Humanitarian Services Office
(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)
Ministry of Interior 40253373, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health 40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation 40253368, 40253365
Qatar Airways 40253374

Quote Unquote
“Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.” — Helen Keller

Community Editor
Kamran Rehmat
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Telephone: 44466405
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Virus
DIRECTION: Ashiq Abu
CAST: Revathy, Kunchacko 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

Bharat
DIRECTION: Ali Abbas Zafar
CAST: Katrina Kaif, Salman Khan
SYNOPSIS: An 8-year-old boy makes a vow to his father that he will keep his family together no matter what, a promise that he works to keep over the next 60 years of his life.
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

The Mall Cinema (1): The Secret Life of Pets 2 (2D) 2:15pm; Bharat (Hindi) 4pm; Aladdin (2D) 7pm; Godzilla II: King of the Monsters (2D) 9:15pm; Virus (Malayalam) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (2): Bharat (Hindi) 2pm; Aladdin (2D) 5pm; Virus (Malayalam) 7:15pm; X-Men: Dark Phoenix (2D) 9:15pm; John Wick 3: Parabellum (2D) 11:15pm.
The Mall Cinema (3): Bharat (Hindi) 2pm; Aladdin (2D) 5pm; John Wick 3: Parabellum (2D) 7:15pm; Casablanca (Arabic) 9:30pm; Bharat (Hindi) 11:30pm.

Landmark Cinema (2): Bharat (Hindi) 3pm; X-Men: Dark Phoenix (2D) 6:15pm; Bharat (Hindi) 8:15pm; Bharat (Hindi) 11:15pm.
Landmark Cinema (3): Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 5pm; Casablanca (Arabic) 7:15pm; John Wick 3: Parabellum (2D) 9:15pm; Kolaigaran (Tamil) 11:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1): Bharat (Hindi) 2:30pm; Godzilla II: King of the Monsters (2D) 5:30pm; Bharat (Hindi) 8pm; Bharat (Hindi) 11pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2): Virus (Malayalam) 2:15pm; The Secret Life of Pets 2 (2D) 5:15pm; X-Men: Dark Phoenix (2D) 7pm; Godzilla II: King of the Monsters (2D) 9pm; Virus (Malayalam) 11:30pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3): Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 5pm; Casablanca (Arabic) 7:15pm; John Wick 3: Parabellum (2D) 9:15pm; Kolaigaran (Tamil) 11:30pm.
Indian Sports Centre under the patronage of Embassy of India is organizing 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. For further details, yoga.iscdoha@gmail.com or 55824104/55956008.

**Ballet Lessons**
**WHERE:** Music and Arts Atelier  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
**TIME:** 4pm – 6pm  
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003839.

**Indian 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.

**ISC skipping Rope Open Championship**
**WHERE:** Ashoka Hall, ICC  
**WHEN:** June 15  
**TIME:** 11:00am – 1:30pm

**MF Husain: The Horses Of The Sun Exhibition**
**WHERE:** Mataf: Arab Museum of Modern Art  
**WHEN:** Ongoing till July 31  
**TIME:** 9am – 7pm  
The exhibition presents Husain’s pluralistic 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.

**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.

**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

**Artistic Gymnastics Classes**
**WHERE:** TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building  
**WHEN:** Wednesday – Monday  
**TIME:** 3:15pm – 4:15pm  
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.

**Dance and Instrument 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 33807609.

**After School Activities**
**WHERE:** Atelier  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
**TIME:** 4pm – 8pm  
Music and Arts Atelier brings to you, an evening of creative writing. Discover your own weekly columnist, get one-on one time to display your material and gain recognition and appreciation between schools. For more details, yoga.iscdoha@gmail.com or call on 33807609.

**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

**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 33807609.

**Creative Writing Workshop**
**WHERE:** Café 8999, Fire Station Gallery, Wadi Al Sail, Doha  
**WHEN:** June 20  
**TIME:** 6pm – 9pm  
Sanation Education, in collaboration with Samana Art Movement, brings to you, an evening of creative writing. Discover your inner writer or performer as you learn to write poetry for the page and for the stage. Explore writing in new styles, writing in collaboration, and turning some of your written work into performance. Find your writing style, whether it is poetry, prose, performance, or a combination of them! With Gulf Time’s own weekly columnist, get one-on-one time to display your material and gain feedback from an expert. You can also bring any existing material you have and would like to work on. Fee is QR200 (includes one drink) and payable at venue. For further details, 55164920.

**A Choral Kaleidoscope Concert**
**WHERE:** Swiss International School  
**WHEN:** Tomorrow  
**TIME:** 7pm onwards  
Featuring Qatar Youth Choir and Qatar Junior Choir – their last concert of the season. Qatar Youth Choir has recently returned from workshops and concerts with the Vienna Boys Choir in Austria. Qatar Junior Choir will perform their concert programme in September. Tickets are available from choir members or on the door for QR60.
Remembering Tim

A posthumous album from Bergling, released this week, captures some of the last ideas from a young superstar producer, expanding on his gifts for melody and genre twists, writes August Brown.

There’s so much blank space that’s unfilled and so many things left unsaid. I think it should be filled by music. You want to be remembered for what made you feel alive.

— Joe Janiak, singer and Tim's partner

At the top of the Bird Streets in West Hollywood, in front of a Modernist mansion with gobsmacking views of the Sunset Strip, Salem Al Fakir stepped out of his car and felt the loss all over again.

The Swedish producer and songwriter, 37, hadn’t been to this house, sheathed in blue glass and immaculate green hedges, in over a year. Not since he got the news of what happened last April to his friend Tim Bergling, the dance music artist known as Avicii.

Bergling lived and worked here until his suicide in Oman last spring at age 28. Al Fakir wrote and recorded with Bergling in this house. New owners had since moved in, but the memories of last year’s grieving welled up as soon as he saw it.

“I might need to take a step back,” Al Fakir said. “It’s a bit too much.”

Other friends and collaborators of Avicii’s pulled up: Al Fakir’s production partner Vincent Pontare; singers Aloe Blacc and Joe Janiak; Neil Jacobson, the president of Geffen Records, Avicii’s label. Jacobson hugged Blacc as he got out of his own car.

“Aloe, so good to see you,” Jacobson said. “This is nuts. It’s the first time we’ve been back here since.”

“I had created some sort of crust on the outside of my body,” he added. “You’re able to escape your own emotional moments. But this ... I’m having a hard time dealing with this.”

They’d gathered here to start talking about Tim, a posthumous album from Bergling, the star Swedish DJ, songwriter and musician, finished by these collaborators based on his production notes. The album, released this week, captures some of the last ideas from a young superstar producer, expanding on his gifts for melody and genre twists.
It would have an optimistic statement piece from Bergling, who had retired from touring after well documented struggles with substance abuse and mental health. But now it’s become an Avicii album for everyone left behind.

“We never expected what happened,” Janiak said. “I felt anxious, being a voice for that in some way. But there’s so much blank space that’s unfilled and so many things left unsaid. I think it should be filled by music. You want to be remembered for what made you feel alive.”

**Boundary pusher**

Bergling’s death was, in some ways, a valediction for the uplifting, industry-shaking EDM scene of the 2010s. With his breakout single “Levels” in 2011, Avicii helped define an era of mega-festivals like Electric Daisy Carnival, where DJs suddenly commanded mid-six-figures for gigs.

He was parodied by Andy Samberg as DJ Davesvince on SNL (Bergling reportedly loved the skit). But even in that heady era, Bergling stood out as a restless songwriter who pushed the boundaries of EDM placed around him. One of his biggest hits came in 2013 with the folk-tinged Wake Me Up, with soul singer Blacc on lead vocals.

“This guy is one of the best melody writers, naturally from his soul, I’ve ever met in my life,” Chic founder Nile Rodgers told The Times last year (high praise from a man who collaborated with David Bowie and Daft Punk).

Bergling was candid about his problems with heavy drinking and mental health. In 2016 he retired from his relentless touring to focus on recovery and studio work.

“The next stage will be all about my love of making music to you guys. It is the beginning of sleepless nights.”

Bergling was often leave detailed voice notes and sketches about his intentions for the tracks, which added some clarity. Many were almost complete productions. But even if it promised a final chance for new Avicii music, it was emotionally trying work.

“After Tim passed away, Tim’s father asked me, ‘Can you please go through Tim’s devices and see if you find any clues about the music?’” said Christopher Thorisdson, who managed Avicii after Bergling retired from touring.

“What happened, obviously, it’s so sad and tragic. I couldn’t listen to his demos for a couple of days after his passing. You’d just burst into tears listening to it. It’s been a lot of sleepless nights.”

Jacoebson said: “We all had a series of some of the hardest conversations one can have, talking to a father who buried his son about his family’s wishes. But we knew the facts. We knew Tim, and we knew there was music he wanted to share.”

Based on those notes and about 200 demos, a picture began to emerge for a coherent album. Some of Bergling’s ideas came as total surprises to his eventual collaborators.

“Tim hadn’t even mentioned [it] to me, but he had already started it and finished it and already had a demo and everything,” Blacc said, of “SOS,” their latest collaboration.

“Somewhere in there he had my name listed.”

**Toward a new sound**

Tim, the album gleaned from those sessions, showcases Avicii’s wide ambitions and pop songwriting prowess beyond EDM. Some singles like Janiak’s ‘Big Reputation’ have a heavy, humid dancehall lift; ‘Heart Upon My Sleeve’ returns to folk with alt-rockers Imagine Dragons taking lead on the vocals. Al Fakir and Pontare’s production team, Vargas & Lagola, helm some unexpected Indian string flourishes on Tough Love and eerie trip-hop on Excuse Me Mr. Sir.

It would have been a major reset of Avicii’s sound, one that could have cemented him in the upper tier of contemporary pop producers. EDM’s high-energy, four-on-the-floor beat has fallen out of fashion in pop, and this album would have fully left it behind.

But it’s also hard not to hear a dark undercurrent in many of the lyrics.

Can you hear me? S.O.S.
Help me put my mind to rest

Two times clean, I’m acting low
A pound of weed and a bag of blow
— Blacc on SOS

On Bad Reputation, Janiak channels the anxiety around Bergling’s public perception as a hard-partying embodiment of EDM decadence.

Those songs, though dark and self-critical, were written at a moment of relative peace for Bergling, at least as his collaborators saw them. Under different circumstances, they might have been praised for their candour about his struggles. Now, their singers admit that they’ve taken on heavier meanings. They felt that weight performing them.

“Singing those lyrics really shook me,” Blacc said. “But it made me humble and I felt the gravity of what I was doing.”

Knowing that he was crafting the words, and hearing this call for help and hope, this affirmation of ‘I don’t need my drugs; that all was really tough to take.”

They also reminded everyone in Bergling’s circle that no-one can really know what someone’s going through. His management and label admit that his death has changed the ways they prioritise artists’ health. “That’s something I’ve been thinking very much about,”

Thordson said.

“Mental health has been overlooked in the industry. It’s the industry’s responsibility to provide a safe work environment. You need to have some boundaries when it comes to touring. For some people, it’s completely fine to handle the stress that comes with that. But not everyone.”

For fans, the range on Tim will remind them of the talent and expansive vision underneath Avicii’s EDM ascent. For the industry, it’s also a stark reminder of the pressures and pain behind the jet-set Instagrams that drive this new era of hyper-visible life as an artist.

And for those who combed his Dropbox files and did their best to finish what Bergling started, it’s a sense of closure. One last session in that house in the Bird Streets.

“All of our friends are under so much pressure,” Janiak said.

“You forget to just be a human. I remember Tim asked me, ‘What do you do? ‘Well, I write songs!’ ‘No, what do you actually do?’ I said, ‘Well, I like digging holes and gardening and stuff.’ And he was like, ‘Yeah! Yeah!’ He was still trying to figure that out. If you can’t exist as a human, it doesn’t mean anything.”

— Los Angeles Times/TNS
BPS students excel in CBSE Board Exam

Pragati Biswal, a student of Grade X at Birla Public School (BPS), recently bagged sixth position in CBSE Board Exam in India and Foreign level. She scored 494 marks out of 500. She topped all the Indian Schools in Qatar. Likewise, Sarthak Behal, a student of Grade XII at BPS, topped in Commerce stream with 96.8% among all Indian schools in Qatar, and Erin Susan Thomas, also a student of Grade XII, in Science Stream with 96.2%. The management of BPS along with the parents of the students appreciated the achievements of the students.

PISQ organises Spelling Bee Competition 2019

Pakistan International School Qatar (PISQ) recently organised Spelling Bee Competition 2019 for the students of Senior Boys and Girls Wings. Students of Grade V-VIII from both the wings participated in the contest. The competition was organised under the guidance of Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of PISQ.

The competition kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an. Students of Grade V-VI participated in the first segment of the competition. First segment included three rounds, giving each student four words to spell by the end of which ‘Win the Bee Round’ was played to break the tie among students who had successfully spelled all the words. In Grade V, Eman Ejaz and Khalilullah, bagged first position, which was followed by Aruba Asif and Nawal Muhammad, second, and Abubaker Qureshi, third position.

In Grade VI, Mansoor Farhan and Eshal Ali, first position; Laiba Hina and Husna Khan, second; and Anas Faisal, third.

In the second and last segment of the competition, the students of Grade VII and VIII participated, respectively. The winners in Grade VII, included Mehmooda Shah and Sair Raza, first position, Maheen Saghir, second, and Shaan Ahmad, third. The winners in Grade VIII, included Areeba Khalid, first position, Haleema Azhar, second, and Hannan Tahir, third.

IIS observes World Environment Day

Ideal Indian School (IIS) recently marked World Environment Day. In the Junior Section, the Eco Club was inaugurated to create awareness about saving environment to the students. An exhibition was set up featuring decorative and usable things made out of newspaper, ice cream sticks and other waste products. Creative and innovative models made out of clay, including garden scenery and underwater creatures were also displayed. Varieties of plants, including medicinal plants, flowering and non-flowering plants, desert plants and climbers were put on display.

A group song ‘Count on Trees’ and a skit on Global Warming was also presented on the occasion. The Eco Club Exhibition was inaugurated by Syed Shoukath Ali, Principal of IIS. Shobana Menon, Vice Principal of IIS, along with Sheikh Shamim, Headmaster, and Riyaz K.R, Head of the Department of Science, also attended the exhibition. Various activities were also organised on the occasion.
Doha College organises award ceremony

Doha College recently organised an award ceremony to celebrate its most successful sports year to date. Doha College presented over 400 medals to over 350 students who represented the school in 58 teams that competed in regional and national tournaments, in over 300 matches.

The school awarded the 2019 Sports Man and Sports Woman of the Year titles to Dillon Laubscher and Sakshi Mani, respectively, for their contribution and supporting the school with coaching clubs and assisting with event organisation. Throughout her years at Doha College, Sakshi represented the school 157 times in 10 sports, proving herself an all-rounded, high-performance athlete. “Winning the Sports Woman of the Year not only is one of my biggest personal achievements here at Doha College, but also an absolute honour to receive,” Sakshi said. “Following the footsteps of girls before me is motivating me to carry on this level of enthusiasm and commitment into my adult life at university. Representing DC since Year 7 has moulded me into the sportswoman I am today, and I feel privileged to receive it at the end of my school career.”

Dillon Laubscher said, “I am extremely honoured and privileged to be receiving this award from the college. Sport at Doha College has provided opportunities for many students and has taught us to work hard, respect all and most importantly, to have fun. Sport has been prominent in my life and will continue to be so in university and beyond.”

The ceremony awarded 35 trophies to Dominic Jason, who recently captained Qatar’s U18 team at the West Asia Rugby Championship. The school also felicitated 23 students who were selected to compete internationally in rugby and fencing. The 2019 Team of the Year title was given to U14 netball team (girls) and the U13 basketball team (boys).
Meera unplugged

The MeeraJee as she is known on Twitter and hence in real life is indomitable. She talks to Muhammad Asad Ullah about the new Pakistani film scene, its players and her new upcoming film Baaji.
Directed by celebrated Saqib Malik, Baaji has yesteryear’s star Meera playing a fading actress who is now referred to as Baaji, and whose existence is threatened by a young and scheming aspirant.

“I just say what I feel strongly about. I don’t need to act, I don’t know how to do drama. I’ve been blessed with everything - fame, money, what have you... I’ve seen everything. Why would I lie? People love me. I’m the Meera Jee. That’s enough.”

“Meera made her film debut with Kanta in 1995. She particularly feels that local cinema’s young crop of actors refuse to show respect. “Today’s young actors haven’t done much work but they still consider themselves to be superstars,” she continues. “They may have strong followings on social media or they may have acted in a few movies but they are yet to build a body of work for themselves.”

Why did she agree to work in Baaji then, co-starring young actors like Osman Khalid Butt and model-turned-actress Amina Ilyas, in the lead role? “I signed Baaji because of its big production size, script, director and everything in short. From stylists to their DOP and team, everything was top-notch and I wanted to be a part of such a special significance, as she has all action. For Meera, the film holds a special significance, as she has reached a stage in her career where she can understand the dynamics and motivations of the character she’s playing even better.

“I’m the biggest movie star in the film and I’m playing the biggest movie star in the film. So yes, there’s a lot of similarity between Baaji and me in real life. I started working when I was extremely young, I was merely 12, I wasn’t even an adult,” says Meera.

It is said that a heroine’s shelf life is short. However harsh this might sound, the fact remains that the entertainment industry anywhere in the world thrives on youth, and this is especially true of the ladies. There are no takers for an ageing actress, no matter how great she is. This isn’t quite the case with men who are known to set the cash registers ringing even when they hit their fifties — think Tom Cruise or Brad Pitt or George Clooney or, closer to home, Salman Khan and Aamir Khan. But an actress past her prime isn’t considered worth putting your money on. Meera responds, “I love my age. I don’t think age is anything. I’m playing a role of 10-year-old in another upcoming film, and you’ll see what acting is. Hollywood and Bollywood has surpassed this age dilemma, it’s only in Pakistan now. As an example, look at Madhuri Dixit and Rekha Jee, they’re still performing exceptionally well. Age is just a number. Amir, Salman and Shahrukh Khan in their 50s play a role of school boy who’s merely 22 years old. If they can, so can we.”

Meera Jee is known for her unashamed statements and tweets. Is it all part of a planned act, or that’s just how she is? Meera clarifies, “I just say what I feel strongly about. I don’t need to act, I don’t know how to do drama. I’ve been blessed with everything - fame, money, what have you... I’ve seen everything. Why would I act and lie. Why would I lie? I’m the most beautiful and richest woman. People love me, I’m the Meera Jee. That’s enough.”

Meera has word for her fans and followers worldwide. “Please go and support Baaji. I need to raise funds for a hospital and support Pakistan film industry. I need to raise around PKR200 crores. Also, as a message to people, they’re not going to get Meera again. Meera is just one in Pakistan. If you’ll stand beside me, then the destiny of Pakistan film industry will change for good. Follow my footsteps. Also, I am just not saying it randomly but I mean it; stand with me and I’ll take this industry beyond success. I’ve sacrificed a lot for this country, so if you’ve finally found the right person (me), then follow her and avoid all other liars and posers. I left Hollywood, Bollywood and foreign nationalities for Pakistan. Next, I’m also going to run for prime minister elections. I’m going to join politics soon just to take forward our film industry.”
**Iconic outskirts of Doha - II**

Being mostly in the city where the main population lives and works, we tend to forget that there are good places to visit outside Doha whether you are a local resident of the country or a tourist.

For people who already know and have visited places on the outskirts of Doha, you probably know what I am talking about and let us agree here. Not all will be iconic in terms of the photo opportunity and nice to know facts.

To give you a better idea, I have selected some places which in my opinion can truly be iconic when you visit Qatar. Our starting point will be Hamad International Airport which will be your gateway to Qatar. I will be providing an estimated travel time for each location from the airport.

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**Inland Sea at Khawr Al Udayd:** Khawr Al Udayd is a settlement and inlet of the Arabian Gulf located in the Al Wakrah Municipality in southeast Qatar. People call this the “Inland Sea” and in the past, it accommodated a small town. The travel time from the airport is around two hours via the Sealine Beach road.

It has breathtaking views which include deep blue beach and sandy white dunes all around the area.

This place is popular for dune bashing, swimming, fishing to catch some barracudas and picnic or camping. The site is a must when it comes to photo opportunity places when you visit Qatar as it consists of nicely shaped desert dunes. You can even climb to the top and enjoy the scenic view from above.

If you are too tired to return down, give yourself a few minutes to enjoy the sunset. Yes, you are right! One of the best time to go to this place is before the sun sets to experience the most peaceful sunset gazing of your life.

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**East-West/West-East steel sculptures in Zekreet:** If you do not want to see the ruins and film city in Zekreet and just want to visit the famous art installation of Richard Serra, then head directly to East-West/West-East steel sculptures. Travel time from the airport is around an hour and forty minutes via Dukhan highway.

This breathtaking sculpture in the Brouq nature reserve spans over a kilometre and comprises four steel plates, each over fourteen metres in height.

To guarantee perfect alignment, Serra examined the topography of the land and beautifully enhanced the vast, desolate space in the heart of the desert. The result is spectacular and although modern, timeless.

The steel plates that were installed are around 15 metres long precisely at all levels with each other. They were all assembled in Germany and transported to one of Qatar’s deserts. I can imagine how serious are the people involved here in making things possible.

As mentioned by Qatar Museums, “Serra’s public art has always been driven by a desire to take sculpture off the pedestal and on to the street – which perfectly aligns with our philosophy at Qatar Museums.

To him, the content of the work derives from interaction with the viewer, meaning he always has pedestrians in mind. He acknowledges that he can’t predetermine what people will make of it.”
Dietary supplements could harm your health

Researchers have found that consumption of dietary supplements for weight loss, muscle building and energy leads to death, disability and hospitalisation in kids and young adults, compared to vitamins. The study, published in the Journal of Adolescent Health, found that these types of supplements were linked to nearly three times as many severe medical outcomes in young people.

“The FDA has issued countless warnings about supplements sold for weight loss, muscle building or sport performance, sexual function, and energy, and we know these products are widely marketed to and used by young people. So what are the consequences for their health? That's the question we wanted to answer,” said lead author Flora Or from Harvard University.

For the study, the researchers looked at adverse event reports between January 2004 and April 2015 in the US and analysed the relative risk for severe medical events such as death, disability and hospitalisation in individuals aged zero to 25 years that were linked with the use of dietary supplements sold for weight loss, muscle building, or energy compared to vitamins.

They found that there were 977 single-supplement-related adverse event reports for the target age group. Of those, approximately 40 per cent involved severe medical outcomes, including death and hospitalisation.

Supplements sold for weight loss, muscle building and energy were associated with almost three times the risk for severe medical outcomes compared to vitamins, said the study.

“Many of these products have been found to be adulterated with prescription pharmaceuticals, banned substances, heavy metals, pesticides and other dangerous chemicals” said S. Bryn Austin, Professor at Harvard University. – IANS

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LIFESTYLE/HOROSCOPE

ARIES
March 21 — April 19

Your heart should feel quite generous today, Aries. You're most likely feeling the need to keep everyone smiling. Spread your radiant sunshine everywhere – it will be appreciated on a day like this. You can't go wrong with compliments and positive encouragement. Focus on the good in all people and you will find that this attitude helps bring out the best in you.

CANCER
June 21 — July 22

You're terrific at following through with projects, Cancer, but perhaps not so great at starting them. Today is the perfect time for you to prove this theory wrong. There's a great deal of force out there to help you boost your rocket off the launching pad. Take advantage of this energy and get to work on things you've been meaning to start but haven't gotten around to yet.

LIBRA
September 23 – October 22

There may be tension in your heart today that could be difficult to shake, Libra. You might find it hard to relate to people or that others aren't hearing you very well. Keep in mind that you may have to translate your thoughts in order to get your message across. Keep an open mind as you deal with others on a one-to-one basis.

CAPRICORN
December 22 — January 19

Be careful that you don't put your foot in your mouth today, Capricorn. You may have a tendency to jump the gun, so be conscious of how you use your energy. A false start is likely to get you disqualified. Orient yourself to your surroundings before you make any major upheaval. It's important to have a good, solid footing on the day before you proceed.

TAURUS
April 20 — May 20

You may feel the urge to get up and go today, Taurus. Follow this instinct and get to work. You're anxious to get the ball rolling on certain projects. The key for you now is to make sure that the ones that are already started get done before you tackle the others. Don't let people stand in the way of your progress. Grab hold of the reins if you need to.

LEO
July 23 – August 22

Your self-esteem is apt to be quite high today, Leo, and you may feel an extra bit of fire helping you throughout the day. Take the lead on projects that seem to be going nowhere. If you want the job done right, you may have to do it yourself. Don't be shy. This is the time to step up and make use of your talent and skills.

SCORPIO
October 23 – November 21

Try not to be impatient today, Scorpio. This could be one day in which you feel restless, and everything seems to take much longer than you'd like. Try your best to go with the flow. Don't get so wrapped up in making sure things happen by a certain time. Quality is more important than speed, and a peaceful mind is more efficient and productive than a stressed one.

AQUARIUS
January 20 – February 18

This could be a highly productive day for you if you approach it in the right way. You will find that you have an added burst of energy that could help you conquer just about any task you set your mind to, Aquarius. You may feel more aggressive than usual, so use this to your advantage by delegating tasks and moving forward on projects that you'd like to see done.

GEMINI
May 21 – June 20

You may find that there is some opposition from other people today, Gemini, especially concerning emotions. You may feel threatened in some way. An aggressive attitude could be making you feel inferior or unworthy of certain attention. Wanting peace, justice, and harmony doesn't make you wimpy or inferior, as some people may suggest. These qualities are your strengths, not your weaknesses.

VIRGO
August 23 – September 22

There may be a bit of tension and conflict in your world today, Virgo. Be prepared for mild contention that could turn into an all-out war if you aren't careful. Don't take things too personally. Think of these disputes as challenges that will only make you stronger when you overcome them. Don't get disgruntled or evasive. Running away won't do any good.

SAGITTARIUS
November 22 – December 21

To fight or not to fight may be the question of the day, Sagittarius. Your sensitive, feminine side is likely to say one thing while your masculine, combative side says another. The key is to not act hastily in any situation. Make sure you proceed from a neutral platform instead of reacting from a point of aggression caused by someone else.

PISCES
February 19 – March 20

You may feel a bit anxious today, Pisces. And it may be hard to settle down. You probably have many irons in the fire right now, and they're all starting to heat up at once. Unfortunately, other people may not be especially sensitive to your needs, so beware. It might be best to put up some sort of psychic shield to protect yourself from other people's moods.
Wordsearch

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

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also 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 column, every row and every 3x3 box contains each of the digits 1 to 9.

Codeword

Adam

Pooch Cafe

Garfield

Bound And Gagged
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Old transformer St Michael transformed (9)
8 Insulting language from American imprisoned by Lincoln (5)
9 Group of soldiers ordered to store kit (7)
10 Current account ideally included (4)
11 Everyone understood air raid warden’s signal (3,5)
13 Making better copper band (6)
14 Leave bit of audio kit after last month (6)
17 Rehabilitated con tried paying later (2,6)
19 Lie about endless money (4)
21 Be unable to contain one’s rage - trudge in river (7)
22 People from Basra? (5)
23 Flat on top? He puts one out (9)

Down
2 Clean round in Arundel (7)
3 Lean part of the foot (4)
4 Phone city in Alabama (6)
5 Saint has restless desire, rolling in the aisles in these? (8)
6 Infant oddly seen in brambles (4)
7 Big city training more pilots (10)
8 Heroic task: cooking vegetables (10)
12 Animal making insect run away (8)
15 Those with a boring interest in clothing? (7)
16 Mum ordered tinsel (6)
18 Garment initially covering primate (4)
20 Part of a royal seaport in Portugal (4)

Yesterday’s Solution

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword
High-class perks of premium travel

Even above the clouds, not all airline passengers are equal: Customer who pays the most receives the best service. Are these high-class perks dying out?

By Christian Ebner

Travelling first class means always being able to expect the extraordinary": Lufthansa isn’t afraid to be bold when advertising its first-class seats. Whether on board or on the ground, the German airline strictly separates its four booking classes. The same is true for its rivals.

While economy-class passengers sit in cramped rows at the back of the plane, in the front, it’s all about individualised luxury for the best-paying clientele. In between comes premium economy and business.

With Lufthansa, anyone who travels often can accumulate “status miles” to earn the rank of Frequent Traveller or Senator, or they become a member of the “Honorary Circle,” or “HON.” These valued customers can use the facilities on the ground that Lufthansa maintains for its first-class passengers in various cities. But in the air, only first-class ticket holders get that level of service.

In Frankfurt Airport’s first-class terminal, passengers can avail of Michelin-star cuisine, the finest cigars and a variety of drinks. In addition, there are facilities for working, day beds and bathrooms, all discreet and luxurious.

Frequent flyer Torsten Gruender enjoys the advantages of his HON status, especially in crisis situations or when there’s very little time between connections. Gates that were already closed have been reopened several times for him, or the connecting plane has waited until he reaches it by limousine shuttle before taking off.

Exclusive snacks, fresh exotic fruits or the almost endless choice of drinks in the lounges are just minor perks.

“While many things are no longer possible for everyone else, for us those things are still possible,” he says.

The HON customer appreciates the attention paid to his concerns and things like the convenience of a shower after a long-haul flight.

On the other hand, the IT outsourcing expert is increasingly dissatisfied with the performance of the Lufthansa booking software, which collapses more and more frequently following a recent update.

His biggest gripe is that he would like to see Bundesliga football on his flights; at the moment, he can only watch Premier League. The German league is not offered by programme providers, says Lufthansa.

Premium guests are very valued by the airlines. According to analyses by the airline association IATA, ticket prices in the premium classes, including business, have come under significantly less pressure than the cheaper tickets since 2011.

Although premium customers account for only 5.2 per cent of all passengers globally, they account for 30 per cent of revenues. Airlines won’t reveal the exact price ratio between the individual booking classes. Aviation consultant

FIRST CLASS: A Lufthansa flight attendant prepares a plane for boarding in first class on a Boeing 747-800.

Pontius believes that first class will survive in some niche markets. But things are certainly shifting: “The competition for quality is being held in business class. This is where the biggest investment is taking place by individualising the product and increasing comfort.”

“Queuing won’t happen in first class, because today good business class seats feel almost the same，“ Schellenberg says.

Qatar is heading in the right direction with its flexible offer of combining two or four business seats into small cabins, he says.

“More privacy is something that people in business class are certainly willing to pay for.“ – DPA
De Shields wins first Tony at 73

By Makeda Easter

André De Shields capped a 50-year acting career by scoring his first Tony Award last Sunday, winning best featured actor in a musical for his role as Hermes in Hadestown.

It’s been a long time coming. The 73-year-old performer has worked on Broadway, off-Broadway, in regional theatre and on film and television.

In accepting his award, De Shields shared his three cardinal rules for longevity: One, surround yourself with people whose eyes light up when they see you coming. Two, slowly is the fastest way to get where you want to be. And three, the top of one mountain is the bottom of the next, so keep climbing, he said.

De Shields’ two prior Tony nominations were in 1997 for Play On! and in 2001 for The Full Monty. In 2007, De Shields won an Obie Award for sustained excellence in performance.

But there’s much, much more to De Shields’ storied career. Some highlights.

His break came with the wiz
De Shields grew up in Baltimore, the ninth of 11 children. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he made his professional debut in the 1969 Chicago production of Hutz." In 1975, De Shields starred in his breakout role: the title character in The Wiz, the Broadway black retelling of L. Frank Baum’s The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. The Wiz ran for more than 1,600 performances and won seven Tony Awards, including best musical. De Shields’ role was later reprised by Richard Pryor in the 1978 film and Queen Latifah in the live NBC TV special in 2015.

His work on Broadway spans five decades
De Shields starred in the original cast of the Fats Waller musical Ain’t Misbehavin’, a tribute to black musicians of the Harlem Renaissance, which premiered on Broadway in 1978. It’s a role he revived in 1988, and in 2018 De Shields directed and choreographed the show for a 30th anniversary run in New Jersey.

The performer’s first Tony nomination was for Play On! – a musical adaptation of Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night featuring Duke Ellington’s music. He received another Tony nomination in 2001 for The Full Monty, the musical adapted from the British film about unemployed steel workers who make money with an unlikely strip-tease act. Among his co-stars: Patrick Wilson.

De Shields’ other Broadway credits include 2009’s Impressionism and the short-lived Prymate in 2004.

He’s worked off-broadway and in regional theatres too
De Shields’ other New York-area shows have included a Melting Pot Theatre production of Neil Simon’s The Good Doctor and Let Me Sing at the George Street Playhouse. His regional theatre work includes The Fortress of Solitude in Dallas and King Hedley II in Washington, DC.

He does more than act
De Shields is a director, choreographer and educator. He choreographed two Bette Midler musicals in New York – her Christmas show in 1973 and 1975’s Clams on the Half Shell Revue.

During the 1970s, De Shields was also something of a cabaret king, creating six theatrical concerts including Have You Ever Been Kissed by Lightning? and Black by Popular Demand, a show he brought back in 2012. He has taught at New York University, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor and Southern Methodist University in Texas.

He also has an Emmy award
In 1982 De Shields picked up an Emmy for his performance as the Viper in the NBC special Ain’t Misbehavin’.

Other TV and movie appearances include the NBC comedy Lipstick Jungle in 2008, HBO’s Sex and the City in 2002 and the Michael Apted film Extreme Measures in 1996.

But it will be his Tony and his work in theatre for which De Shields likely will always be best known. In an interview with the Daily Beast, De Shields described the subtle yet rampant racism he faced as a black performer in the industry.

“Broadway has come around to diversity, equity, and inclusion, but it’s come around after we dragged them screaming and kicking,” he said.

“The Great White Way is not called that for racial reasons, but because many years ago it was electrified and it appeared as if it were daylight all the time.

But it’s a marvellous metaphor if you want to discuss racism, because for so many generations we of colour have been taught this is an inhospitable environment.” – Los Angeles Times/TPNS

Akhtar, however, said the accused shouldn’t walk out free after two or three years after being sentenced to life imprisonment.

“I have no idea whether they should have been given capital punishment or life imprisonment is good enough, but at the same time, I must express my apprehension that we have seen many times in our society that somebody who has committed a heinous crime gets life imprisonment after two or three years, you realise the person has been released on one ground or the other and then he or she lives happily ever after.

“So, I hope life imprisonment is good enough but they shouldn’t be having these privileges where the same person will be walking out freely after two or three years.” – IANS

CANDID: Javed Akhtar was reacting to the decision where six people were convicted for the assault and murder of an eight-year-old girl.

RECOGNITION: Tony Award winner for Best Featured Actor in a musical Andre De Shields attends the 2019 Tony Awards in New York on Sunday.
By Mudassir Raja

Eid is always a time of celebrations. In Qatar, different Muslim communities organise different festivities to celebrate Eid.

The number of Urdu speaking expatriates from India and Pakistan are very strong in Qatar. The Urdu speaking community is known for organising poetic symposiums (mushaira) for a long time.

There are a good number of literary groups that regularly organise Urdu related activities. Anjuman Muhibban-e-Urdu Hind (AMUH) is one such group that has been involved in different activities to promote Urdu in Qatar since 2005.

Most recently, AMUH organised a poetic symposium called “Eid Millan Mushaira” where poets from India, Pakistan and Qatar recited their fresh poetry and cheered those who attended the gathering.

The poets who participated and recited their poetry in the gathering were namely; Shafeeq Akhtar, Shakeel Ahmad, Ateeq Anwar, Shaukat Ali Naz, Aziz Nabeel, Nadeem Mahir, Ahmad Ashfaqe, Asif Shafi, Syed Zawar husain, Reyaz Hussain, Athar Armil, Saadat Ali Sadat, Sanwul Abbasi, Mushfiq Raza Naqvi, Shahid Sultan Azmi, Abdulwaeel Noor, and Ittifaq Annoor.

Shafeeq Akhtar was sadr-e-nashish (president of mushaira) and Shakeel Ahmad was guest of honour. Aziz Nabeel was the compere.

Before the start of the mushaira, Nadeem Mahir, an active member of AMUH, and a poet, while talking to Community, said: “AMUH was established in 2005. We aim at organising poetic and literary meetings. We also work towards publishing different books in Urdu. We also hold programmes to honour men of letter visiting Qatar from both in India and Pakistan.

“Every year, we organise two major events – one in February and the other in August or September. Today we are having our Eid Millan mushaira. This is an auspicious occasion to have a get-together for the Urdu lovers. We have a great variety of poets coming from India and Pakistan. We want to convey a message to the world that the literature has no boundaries or countries. We are doing all this only to promote Urdu.”

Muhammad Ibrahim Khan Kamal is from Hyderabad Deccan in India has been in Qatar for 32 years. He is one of the founders of the organisation.

“Actually in Doha, we have many people who take interest in writing Urdu poetry and prose. We have been trying to provide a good platform to these writers. We want to highlight their works and encourage other Urdu speakers. Such kinds of settings also provide an opportunity to those who love to listen to Urdu poetry,” he said.

“One among the many achievements of AMUH is that there are many people who started listening to the poetry at our gatherings and now they have started writing poetry themselves. Many of them have got their anthologies published. We try to motivate the dormant talents. Our organisation provides a convenient platform to the young writers,” he added.

Ibrahim, however, does not agree that only holding of Urdu poetic symposiums are enough to promote the language.

“I think that teaching of Urdu in schools is the main process of promoting and keeping the language alive. We need to have more and more efforts to improve quality of Urdu teaching at schools.”

Nonetheless, one should do what one can to help promote the cause of Urdu. I try my best in my capacity to keep the Urdu poetry alive in Qatar. There are serious questions about the existence of Urdu. An overwhelming majority of Urdu-speaking people use too many words of English in their daily discourse. The real pain is that they feel pride in using English phrases or words.”

Ibrahim lays more stress on enhancement of Urdu vocabulary, particularly in connection with the modern technologies. He said: “The Nizams of Hyderabad had set up a department called Darul Tarjama for translating modern technological terminology into Urdu. The department has done a great work but the common people are not ready to use the Urdu terms for different technologies."

He added: “It is also the responsibility of mainstream news media to use and propagate the Urdu terminologies. We need to do a lot of work and the responsible people need to give a serious thought to it. We need to keep alive the values, traditions and culture associated with Urdu language. A language is not simply a way of communication. It is a way of lifestyle also.”

“Urdu lovers get taste of fresh poetry on Eid”

- Muhammad Ibrahim Khan Kamal, one of the founders of Anjuman Muhibban-e-Urdu Hind (AMUH)