J. Lo at 50

American actress, singer, dancer and producer defies sceptics, including herself, to rage on. P4-5
**USEFUL NUMBERS**

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

**USEFUL NUMBERS (续)**

- Humanitarian Services Office: 40233371, 40253372, 40253369
- Ministry of Health: 40233370, 40253364, 40253365
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253364, 40253365
- Qatar Airways: 40253374

**COMMUNITY**

**COMMUNITY ROUND & ABOUT**

**Community Editor**
Kamran Rehmat
E-mail: community@gulf-times.com
Telephone: 44466405
Fax: 44350474

**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr: 3.12am
- Shorooq (sunrise): 4.44am
- Zuhr (noon): 11.35am
- Asr (afternoon): 2.58pm
- Maghreb (sunset): 6.26pm
- Isha (night): 7.56pm

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**QUOTE UNQUOTE**

“Just living is not enough... one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.”

—Hans Christian Anderson

**THEATRES**

*John Wick: Chapter 3 Parabellum*
**DIRECTION:** Chad Stahelski
**CAST:** Keanu Reeves, Halle Berry, Ian McShane
**SYNOPSIS:** Super-assassin John Wick is on the run after killing a member of the international assassin’s guild, and with a $14 million price tag on his head – he is the target of hit men and women everywhere.
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

*The Secret Life of Pets 2*
**DIRECTION:** Chris Renaud, Jonathan del Val
**CAST:** Patton Oswalt, Kevin Hart, Harrison Ford
**SYNOPSIS:** Max the terrier must cope with some major life changes when his owner gets married and has a baby. When the family takes a trip to the countryside, nervous Max has numerous run-ins with canine-intolerant cows, hostile foxes and a scary turkey. Luckily for Max, he soon catches a break when he meets Rooster, a gruff farm dog who tries to cure the lovable pooch of his neuroses.
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza
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. 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 33003850.

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.

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, 55448839.

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.

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.

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

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.

ISCC Skipping Rope Open Championship
WHERE: Ashoka Hall, ICC
WHEN: June 15
TIME: 11.00am – 1:30pm
The Olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

Artistic Gymnastics Classes
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
WHEN: Ongoing
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.

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: gtlisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change
The legend of J. Lo

If you’re surprised to find a woman in show business happily flouting the industry’s ageist streak, you’re not alone, writes Mikael Wood on Jennifer Lopez turning 50.

Some of the people I work with are like, ‘Why are you doing this? Now everybody’s out there saying you’re 50’. I am 50. But I feel like I’m 28.

— Jennifer Lopez

Jennifer Lopez strode into a soundstage on the Universal Studios lot with the crisp forward momentum of someone you’d hate to disappoint.

Alas, that’s what was about to happen. Clutching a bedazzled water bottle with her nickname spelled out in rhinestones, the singer-dancer-actor known as J. Lo had arrived at a recent rehearsal for her upcoming arena tour and wanted to know whether a specialised nonstick substance had been applied to the stage overnight. People wearing headsets conferred quietly with one another; eventually, a crew member said he hadn’t been notified in time to allow the four or five hours the stage would need to dry.

“OK, Jen, no sliding today,” the tour’s director told Lopez, whose face crinkled briefly with irritation before smoothing out again. So she couldn’t slide. She could still spin, jump, twirl, shimmy and twerk — all of which she proceeded to do in an assured run through the two-hour song-and-dance spectacle.

Billed as the It’s My Party Tour, the production is meant to mark Lopez’s 50th birthday, which will fall on July 24, just days before the North American tour’s final date in Miami. And if you’re surprised to find a woman in show business happily flouting the industry’s ageist streak, you’re not alone.

“Some of the people I work with are like, ‘Why are you doing this? Now everybody’s out there saying you’re 50,’’ she said after the rehearsal. “I am 50. But I feel like I’m 28.’ With a laugh, she recalled a video clip from the concert in which a young Lopez predicts she’ll be in a wheelchair by this point in her life. “And I’m not. That’s to be celebrated. Just because you know my real age, it doesn’t matter. Can I pull it off?”

J. Lo can still pull it off. More than her physical stamina, though, what her performance really calls attention to is the unlikely musical endurance of this triple-threat entertainer who started out in the early 1990s as a so-called Fly Girl on television’s In Living Color. Nobody has seriously doubted Lopez’s abilities as
For all its razzle-dazzle, there is spontaneity to the Jennifer Lopez’s latest show that reminds you there’s a real person up there amid the feathers and sequins. She mostly sings live, which is hardly a given in her part of the pop world. “Listen, I may drop out here and there, but at the end of the day, they came to hear what you sound like and to feel that energy,” she says.

But as she rode in a chauffeured Escalade toward the Van Nuys Airport. After finishing the run-through, Lopez had quickly discussed the performance with her team; now she was headed to Miami, where her 11-year-old twins were due to graduate from middle school. “It’s almost like falling in love. After being with someone for a long time, you see somebody [else] and ... “ Lopez trailed off into laughter, an acknowledgement of her tabloid history of relationships with the likes of Ben Affleck, Puff Daddy and Marc Anthony, with whom she had her kids. (In March, Lopez announced she was engaged to Alex Rodriguez, the former New York Yankees star.)

“When you have something that’s new, it’s fun,” she said. “Whether it lasts a long time, that’s another story!”

Lopez’s tour grew out of her residency at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas, which closed last fall after taking in more than $100 million over nearly three years, according to Billboard. The singer’s longtime manager, Benny Medina, said the idea was to scale up the relatively intimate Vegas gig to suit rooms with 20,000 seats — but without losing what he called the “magical” connection J. Lo created with her audience.

Their success in that regard is debatable; the coldest moment in the new production arrives in an unnecessary rendition of a Sara Bareilles tune. But for all its razzle-dazzle, there is spontaneity to the show that reminds you there’s a real person up there amid the feathers and sequins. Lopez mostly sings live, which is hardly a given in her part of the pop world.

“Listen, I may drop out here and there, but at the end of the day, they came to hear what you sound like and to feel that energy,” she said. Dressed in stretchy athletic pants and a black warm-up jacket, she rubbed lotion into her hands but stopped when asked if she, like many performers, relies on a prompter. “There’s no prompter,” she replied in a friendly get-outta-here tone. “I know Marc uses a prompter. I don’t.” She laughed. “Sometimes you do forget your lyrics. You just have a brain fart: ‘Where am I right now? I’ve been out here for two hours. Is it over yet?’”

It was startling to hear Lopez use the F-word, which wasn’t at all in keeping with the fashion-icon vibe she puts across in her music videos and on Instagram. But as the car neared the airport, she said one reason people have remained interested in her for so long — even when a given movie or a given record flops — is that they relate to her. “They know where I come from, and I don’t hide my flaws,” said the artist, who recently wrapped production on the movie Hustlers with Cardi B and will start shooting a romantic comedy with Owen Wilson in October. Part of that is our fascination with her roller-coaster romantic life, which she says can be tiresome. “You’re like, ‘I wanna talk about my movie,’ and they’re like, ‘We’re much more interested in your boyfriend.’”

But there’s also something of a fan’s impulse in J. Lo’s savvy musical approach. In her records (and the ones she interpolates in her show), it’s easy to hear what excites her about music; she’s never too cool for the room, which means she’s never outstayed her welcome. “Are we here?” she asked in a broadly comic British accent as the SUV pulled onto the tarmac, where several planes were idling. “Is ours the one with the four-leaf clover on it?”

From the backseat, one of her dancers who was traveling with her asked, “Do we need the luck?” “No, we don’t need it,” Lopez replied. “Obviously, we don’t need it.” — Los Angeles Times/TNS
Pakistani, Nepali communities organise farewell event for two ambassadors

The representatives of Pakistani and Nepali communities recently organised a farewell for the outgoing ambassadors of The Netherlands and Nepal.

The farewell said goodbye to Dr Bhia Tahzib-Lee, Ambassador of The Netherlands, and Professor Dr Ramesh Prasad Koirala, Ambassador of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

The event was attended by notable personalities, including Fikret Ozer, Ambassador of Turkey; Air Marshal (Retd) Mohammad Sabri, Ambassador of Indonesia; Changmu Kim, Ambassador of Republic of Korea; Dr Ivvone Albaki, Ambassador of Ecuador; and a large number of Pakistani and Nepali community representatives and senior professionals.

Ashraf Siddiqui, a representative of Pakistani community, on behalf of the organising committee welcomed the guests. He highlighted some major contributions that were made by the outgoing ambassadors for their communities and for bilateral ties with Qatar. He thanked both the outgoing ambassadors for their valuable support towards strengthening inter-community relationship and harmony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Dutch envoy said, “It was a great honour to attend the farewell event. It was a joy for my husband and me to meet prominent members of the Pakistani community working in a variety of sectors in Qatar and to learn more about their work and contributions to Qatar. It was fascinating to hear that some Pakistani professionals have been living and working for half a century in this country and how they witnessed manifold developments. It was also a profound privilege that selected ambassadors from different parts of the world attended the festive occasion. We all enjoyed the delicious Pakistani food and warm hospitality.”

Ivvone Albaki, Ambassador of Ecuador, said, “Thoughtful and generous are the two words I think of when I think of Ashraf Siddiqui. I am thrilled to be attending this amazing gathering for the Pakistani community who are peacefully residing and fruitfully working in Qatar.

"From the bottom of my heart, I wish all the very best to my good friends Bahia Tahzib-Lee and Prof. Ramesh Koirala. I hope you will achieve all your dreams as you go. I will miss you so much.”

The ambassador of Indonesia said, “It was wonderful evening of gathering and dinner for the farewell of the two ambassadors. I also appreciate Pakistani community for having good ties with other communities in Qatar.”

The Korean ambassador said, “It was a well-organised outreach event. I enjoyed not only delicious food but excellent company with lovely people from different communities. I am sure for the leaving ambassadors, it will remain long as an unforgettable memory.”

The ambassador of Nepal said, “It was a nice gathering. The best part of the event was community interaction. Such interaction will definitely help improve Nepal and Pakistan friendship.”

Nasser Al Ali Enterprises felicitates hard working employees

Nasser Al Ali Enterprises, an IOS certified company, yesterday awarded its 15 employees of various nationalities, including Nepali, Indian and Bangladeshi with 5 gram gold coin each. The employees were felicitated for their performance on the work site. Mohammad Sayad, one of the employees at Nasser Al Ali Enterprises, said, “I came here to work as a helper but I was later promoted to the position of trade worker. With my salary now, I am able to afford a better lifestyle for my family members. My boss is like my guardian, he never makes me feel that I am in a foreign country.”

Speaking on the occasion, Nasser Al Ali, CEO of Nasser Al Ali Enterprises, said, “My workers share their stories and problems with me whenever I mingle with them. I can even sense their needs and requirements myself. I have an open-door policy. I have instructed all my workers to come and talk to me if there’s something bothering them. I’m not their boss, I’m their guardian. More than revenue, I valorise the satisfaction of my workers.”

– Text and photos by Usha Wagle Gautam
APO Qatar organises beach cleaning drive

As part of Eid-al Fitr celebrations, Alpha Phi Omega Qatar Alumni Association (APO Qatar) recently organised a beach cleaning drive at Dukhan Beach. Dozens of garbage bags containing plastics and non-biodegradable materials were collected on the occasion. Dukhan Beach is one of the leading tourist destinations in Qatar especially during the Eid break where families gather to take a dip in the beach. Speaking on the occasion, AJ Fernandez, President of APO Qatar, highlighted the significance of the beach cleaning drive and said that events like these provide an opportunity to showcase the dedication to protect the healthy marine life and rich biodiversity of Dukhan coastline. The event was organised and planned by Bro Kenver Libre and Marvin Espiritu.

LLC-Doha to organise ‘Lanka Lions Nite’

Lanka Lions Club - Doha (LLC-Doha), the pioneer Sri Lankan Community Club conducting social and sporting activities in Qatar since 1983, is all set to host its flagship event ‘Lanka Lions Nite’ on June 21 at Radisson Blu Hotel. Misty, Sri Lankan dance band, will be performing on the occasion, which will be followed by a dinner dance. The event is also embedded with several fun-filled entertaining activities. Misty features band leader Rajitha Rupasinghe, the key singer, along with Dinusha Lakmali. Other than the front line singer Rajitha, the guitarist and musician Sudath Munaweera is the other male vocalist of the band. Dennis Alwis will be on Drums, Udaya Welikala on Keyboards, Sanjeewa Hettige on Bass, Sudath Munaweera and Sanithasiri Perera will be on guitar along with the band. Joanna Adams, compere and television show host, will also be attending the event. The event has been sponsored by Prime Lands Group, AIA Insurance and Srilankan Airlines.

RUNNERS-UP: Tooba Tasneem, a student of Grade II at Shantiniketan Indian School (SIS), recently bagged the runners-up title in Qatar National Poison Prevention Inter School Art Contest 2019 sponsored by the Qatar Poison Centre. Tooba Tasneem’s entry was unanimously chosen as the second best out of thousands of entries. The winning artwork will be displayed at the Qatar Poison Centre and will be featured in Arabic and English newspapers as well as on social media.

BRONZE WINNER: Himani Roa, a student of Grade-VI at Shantiniketan Indian School, recently bagged the Bronze medal in Karate Championship, 8-10 Age Category, organised by Indian Cultural Centre and Indian Sports Centre at Simaisma Youth Centre.
Texas A&M at Qatar students volunteer to build eco-bungalow in Laos

Eighteen engineering students at Texas A&M at Qatar recently spent 9 days this summer volunteering in Laos as part of the annual Aggie Service-Learning Experience. The programme gives students the opportunity to practice their engineering skills as they worked with local villagers to build an eco-bungalow with all profits going to the village once completed. They cut straws, sifted sand, made mud bricks and plastered and shaved the bricks to build a wall. What makes the programme distinct is that each year a community with an expressed need is empowered by the volunteer work done by the students and not exploited or used. Even before the trip, the group participated in various service activities in Doha, including hosting a blood drive, participating in an autism walk, organising beach clean-ups and volunteering at the Qatar Animal Welfare Society.

In Laos, the participants also developed their own soft skills by staying with hoststays, learning some of the local language, visiting religious sites and participating in written and verbal reflections. One of the participants and student leader, Abdulkarim Mohamed, said, "I wanted to help guide the students through this trip in a way they can gain culturally as well as personally. But I found that at the same time I can learn so much from the participants and that was a rewarding experience. Seeing how much the participants have developed on this trip is amazing at the physical part of it!"

Are you trying to build a respectful connection with the people? Our participants this year just as important as the service itself. For example, do you listen and engage respectfully? Erin Wehrenberg, the programme co-ordinator, said, "How you show up to do the service is just as important as the service itself. For example, do you listen and engage respectfully? Are you trying to build a respectful connection with the people? Our participants this year did an amazing job of opening themselves up to these concepts and more and also did amazing at the physical part of it!"

CISD appoints new principal

Compass International School Doha (CISD) has recently announced the appointment of Paul Holyome as their new Principal. This news follows the promotion of Dr Terry Creissen OBE to Managing Director at Nord Anglia Education India. Holyome will start his new position over the summer of 2019 in anticipation of the 2019/20 academic year. Holyome began his teaching career in England and went on to become Headteacher at Swanmore Middle School and Vice Principal of Ryde Academy both on the Isle of Wight. In 2007, he was awarded the National Professional Qualification for Headship. He joins Compass International School from a successful role as Principal at The British School Yangon, which is also within the Nord Anglia Education family of schools. Prior to that, he was Principal at Nord Anglia’s British Vietnamese International School, Ho Chi Minh City, which he led to become one of the most successful bilingual schools in the city.

Student leaders were participants in the programme while also having added responsibilities. They acted as a bridge between students and the programme co-ordinator, were responsible for a small group of students, planned and facilitated reflection sessions, helped manage the work site and provided emotional support to participants. Asha al-Naeem said, "I wanted to become a leader to improve my communication skills and enhance my problem-solving abilities. In this experience I gained lessons in both intercultural connection and compassion. I’ve learned that leading by example can give guidance.”

One faculty and one staff member from Texas A&M at Qatar also participated in the programme. They do not act as chaperones or coordinators; they participate in all aspects of the programme just like student participants. The staff participant, Abir Raslan, said she was “very blessed to be a member of this amazing team and inspiring leadership.”

InterContinental Doha appoints new Food and Beverage Director

The InterContinental Doha Hotel and Residences has recently announced the appointment of Michael Frydas as the new Food and Beverage Director, stated a press release. With Michael’s great deal of professional and life experience, he will provide strategic leadership and oversee the hotel’s diverse food and beverage operation, spanning across thirteen restaurants, banqueting, and catering services. Alongside this, Michael also brings his invaluable experience from global luxury brands, including Marriott, Starwood, and Kempinski prior to joining the InterContinental family. He has spent the past one year and eleven months as the Cluster Director of Food and Beverage at the Kempinski Residences in Marsa Malaz and Kempinski Residences in Doha, Qatar.

“Michael’s passion for luxury, strategic leadership and understanding of operational excellence will make him a key player in the continuous success of InterContinental Doha’s restaurants and bars,” says Andreas Pflister, Director of Operations for IHG Northern Gulf and General Manager of InterContinental Doha. Michael hails from Cyprus, an island country in the Eastern Mediterranean. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Hotel Management and Tourism from Glion Institute of Higher Education in Montreux, Switzerland and started his hospitality career in Hotel Principi di Savoia as an F&B Trainee in Milan, Italy.
Unbeatable beach read from the author of *Eat, Pray, Love*

Elizabeth Gilbert’s *City of Girls* is loaded with humour and insight, writes Stephan Lee

At the start of Elizabeth Gilbert’s much-anticipated new novel, *City of Girls*, the year is 1940, and Vivian Morris is a Vassar dropout shipped off by her well-to-do family to live with her offbeat Aunt Peg in Manhattan. To a pretty 19-year-old with no discernible ambition but an eye for all that’s beautiful, sensuous and frivolous “a girl so freshly hatched there was practically yolk in my hair” her arrival in the big city practically shocks her into consciousness, propelling her into a life worth telling about.

Vivian’s Aunt Peg owns the Lily Playhouse Theatre, a ‘grandiose’ yet ‘crumbling’ old palace that puts on schlock for its working-class neighbourhood audience. Still, this world dazzles Vivian. The Lily attracts a wondrous hodgepodge of misfits: a tough-as-nails stunner of a showgirl named Celia; a cantankerous playwright who greets each day with doom and gloom; and a friend of Peg’s, Edna Parker Watson, an esteemed stage actress with impeccable style, who finds refuge at the Lily with her handsome lout of a husband after their London home is reduced to rubble during the Blitz.

Living above the theatre in a fully furnished apartment, the stuff of fairy tales for young people moving to New York now, Vivian embarks on a series of wanton adventures glued to the side of fast-living Celia, soaking up gin and male attention in one swanky nightclub after another.

Months after Vivian’s arrival, the Lily puts on a play that’s worthy of Edna Parker Watson’s star power. That play *City of Girls* reverses the fortunes of the shambling theatre and turns it into a destination for New York’s elite. Gilbert unfurls the premiere of the play in rapturous, breathless chapters that, in a tour de force of literary mimicry, are punctuated with reviews by Brooks Atkinson from *The New York Times* and Walter Winchell for the now-defunct *New York Daily Mirror*.

The good days last just a little bit longer. When reflecting upon her adventures in show business, Vivian is so prone to hyperbole she can appear to be hooked on hallucinogens; to her, everyone and everything in her new life is cranked up to impossible extremes: New York City is a synapse-frying wonderland with handsome men, Celia is a once-in-a-generation beauty, Aunt Peg is a larger-than-life bon vivant, Edna Parker Watson possesses unlimited stores of otherworldly charisma, while her husband is the most dolish human to ever live.

This isn’t a criticism, a first move to the big city is an extreme experience for a young person, especially a beautiful, moneyed 19-year-old starting out in pre-WWII Manhattan. But just as the endless nights of waking up in makeup-streaked sheets start to become monotonous, both to Vivian and to the reader, the fantasy comes to an abrupt end, when Vivian is mixed up in a ruinous scandal splashed all over the gossip rags.

The city spits Vivian out, temporarily, at least, thus setting off a surprising, more sober second half to her story, as World War II transforms the city and the world.

It’s no spoiler to say this isn’t a novel about an indecorous woman’s descent into disgrace, Vivian harbours no shame in her chequered past; it’s her taste for adventure, independence and rebellion, that makes her life worth following over seven decades.

For fans of Gilbert’s best-known work, *Eat, Pray, Love*, there are no concrete similarities with her juggernaut memoir. Yet *City of Girls* embraces some of the same themes: the power of a woman breaking from a traditional path, and the wisdom of taking true, two-handed joy in the pleasures that life offers up.

**Drawing Parallel:** *City of Girls* embraces some of the same themes of *Eat, Pray, Love*: the power of a woman breaking from a traditional path, and the wisdom of taking true, two-handed joy in the pleasures that life offers up.
A breathtaking view and an interesting moment to be alive!

It’s a late evening, atop Saraya Corniche Hotel. The oblique view of the surrounding from the penthouse of this building, and at such a particular time of the day, reveals scenery that is not only stupendous but also one that is rare to catch a glimpse of. I can’t find it in my heart to deny myself the pleasure to pause, observe and admire what just a fraction of the entire Doha can offer to a keen explorer and nature lover.

Although I am physically confined by the four walls of this building, my soul experiences a limitless freedom as it is given a free flight by my sense of sight to explore and hover over the area possibly viewable. The blurriness of the horizon alone in the midst of darkness cannot in itself deter the strong urge to take a shot as a way of not only experiencing this breathtaking moment but also for recording history for future reference.

As eyes roll from one feature to another, my mind cannot help wandering with awe. Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center, being the centre of focus in the foreground, illuminates the whole atmosphere, creating dominance and sending the glowing yellow light to all directions. The iconic architecture, at night, resembles a lit lamp resting up on a hill, casting light to every corner of the plain, thus giving life to the entire terrain and enabling human activities. The linear formation of the street light poles and random, but changing colours of traffic lights decorate the area with eye-catching candlelight, and beaming fluorescence that would make one think that stars had fallen down from the sky.

Consequently, there is an ambiance of tranquility that in turn evokes a sense of safety within this great city. The smooth flow of traffic embodies the order and organisation of every sector of the economy, a trait every expat can bear witness.

In the same breath, every now and then, one finds himself busy after the eyes get glued at something but staring at nothing. At this juncture, the mind pays homage to the world of fantasy where everything is possible. When the visit is over, reality is inevitable. Human intelligence is manifested in everything the eye catches from this same position; technology in the beautification of roads, the architecture of modern buildings spread all over the field of vision just to mention a few. What an interesting moment to be alive!

— Text by Polycarp Maina, Photos by Dennis Macharia
Researchers have found that fathers who spend lots of time helping out with childcare-related tasks on holidays develop stronger relationships with their kids.

The study published in the Journal of Family Psychology, reveals that both types of involvement – caregiving versus play – and the timing – workday versus non-workday – have an impact on the quality of the early father-child relationship.

“Fathers who make the choice to devote their time on non–workdays to engaging with their children directly seem to be developing the best relationships,” said Geoffrey Brown, Assistant Professor in the University of Georgia in the US.

“And on those non–workdays, pursuing activities that are child–centered, or fun for the child, seems to be the best predictor of a good father–child relationship,” Brown said.

For this study, the research team worked with 80 father-child pairs when the children were about 3 years old and conducted interviews and observed father-child interaction in the home, shooting video that was evaluated off-site and assigned a score indicating attachment security.

The researchers found that fathers who choose to spend time with their children on non–workdays are developing a stronger relationship with them.

However, fathers who spend lots of time helping out with childcare-related tasks on workdays are developing the best relationships with their children. Men who engage in high levels of play with their children on workdays actually have a slightly less secure attachment relationship with them, said the study.

According to the researchers, in early childhood, the most common way to conceptualise the parent-child relationship is the attachment relationship.

Children form an emotional bond with their caregivers, and it serves a purpose by keeping them safe, providing comfort and security, and modelling how relationships should work.

“Ultimately, fathers who engage in a variety of parenting behaviours and adjust their parenting to suit the demands and circumstances of each individual day are probably most likely to develop secure relationships with their children,” said Brown.

-- 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.

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The goal is to fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Codeword

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. You are given a selection of values and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Across
1 Terribly evil! (4)
3 Organising thousand charitable gifts (4-4)
9 Girl’s first with simply tailored tunic (7)
10 In the forest wee things chirp (5)
11 Employed in nightclub as solo singer (5)
12 Oscar’s wild for clues like this (6)
14 Child coming back to embrace crazy wanderers (6)
16 Female was unwell and didn’t succeed (6)
19 Beast about ninety in American wagon (6)
21 Short acknowledgement outside university for scoundrel (5)
24 Girl seen in Milan, Italy? (5)
25 Wrong grid one disregarded (7)
26 Fish certainly from the right island (6)
27 Hard wood needed for rudder (4)

Down
1 Wanderer in Virginia and Georgia - secret agent (8)
2 Psalm about lights (5)
3 Please ask for umpire’s decision (6)
4 Bit of kitchen equipment just being still at regular intervals (7)
5 Where badger may be failing test (4)
6 Old man cracking a nut (6)
13 Mend a dud mobile that wasn’t there originally (8)
15 Making fast call after beastly sound (7)
17 Garments from the centre of Belarus for Poles (6)
18 Rubies, if not set properly, can result in injury (6)
20 The case presented by Socrates? (5)
21 Wolf in ravine (5)

Yesterday’s Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
Sienna Miller lives her role in a powerful tale

By Rick Bentley

The general nature of a feature film often makes it difficult for an actor to show growth in a character. They might have a couple of moments of clarity along the way, but the confines of time create walls that are difficult to breach. But it’s not impossible for the right actor and script. This is the case with American Woman, starring Sienna Miller, who faces extreme highs and lows through a broad spectrum of emotions to play. The growth Miller gets to display is so extended it’s the kind that’s usually reserved for multiple seasons of a television show.

Deb Callahan (Miller) is an emotionally mangled mother and grandmother whose life wanders between bad choices and decisions. That changes when Deb’s teenage daughter mysteriously disappears and Deb must face the harsh realities of having to raise her young grandson while coping with her own pain, anger and fears.

It might sound like the disappearance would be the heart of the film, but it’s just a spark to the wildfire Miller gets to play. She does an Oscar-worthy job of taking the character from a neurotic mess to a mature soul without any steps feeling forced or false. This is all accomplished without having broad elements to play such as Deb suddenly becoming a sleuth to find her missing child. This is a real and relatable character from start to finish.

Miller’s playing a woman who is compelling to watch because she resonates with truth. That she creates a character who feels more like a neighbour than the typical film figure is what makes the performance all the more outstanding.

Miller’s work is elevated by a superb supporting cast, which includes Aaron Paul, Amy Madigan, Christina Hendricks and Will Sasso.

Each gives Miller’s character a different sounding post, allowing her to play everything from a brokenhearted woman to a loyal sister. It’s always nice to see Sasso in a drama, as his strong acting skills often get overshadowed by his work in comedy. Miller also got help from director Jake Scott, who, despite being better known for directing music videos, shows a great ability to recognise that real life can be complicated and painfully simple. He never pushes the film into overly dramatic moments.

This old house tells a story

By Michael Phillips

A llow me to introduce The Last Black Man in San Francisco, a movie about real estate, unreal gentrification cycles and what it means to rage against and embrace the place you call home.

It’s focused on a particular part of the world. But it deals with historical truths that Chicago, among other cities, is breaking half of its citizens’ hearts with every new generation in the housing market, understands as well as anywhere.

There’s a line that comes late in the movie, already quoted extensively since director Joe Talbot’s film premiered in January at the Sundance Film Festival. The actor Jimmie Fails, playing a version of himself, is riding the Muni, listening to two young women complain about the cost of living, the hassles, everything wrong with America’s most stunningly situated city.

Then he interrupts. Do you love it here? he asks. Well, kind of, sort of, they reply, in half truths and pieces. And then he says: “You don’t get to hate it unless you love it.”

In the opening scenes of The Last Black Man in San Francisco, love and hate act as opposing forces, like Radio Raheem’s fists in Do the Right Thing, or Rev. Harry Powell’s tattooed fingers in The Night of the Hunter. We’re in the Bayview–Hunters Point community, just above San Francisco Bay.

This is where countless African-Americans worked the shipyards once upon a time. The camera follows a schoolgirl skipping down a sidewalk; it’s the picture of charm and optimism. Then she passes by a man in hazmat suits, cleaning up the toxic water in the background.

This is the neighbourhood where Jimmie (Fails) has been crushing with his best friend, the aspiring playwright Montgomery, played with a plaintive assurance by Jonathan Majors. Montgomery’s father (Danny Glover) is blind; as the three sit on the couch, watching the 1949 San Francisco-set film noir classic D.O.A. on TV, Montgomery quietly narrates the action for his father’s benefit.

Across town, meanwhile, Jimmie’s stern, dismissive father (Rob Morgan) ekes out a living assembling bootleg DVDs in his Single Room Occupancy studio apartment. These two fathers figure like wise versus opposing types: warmth and understanding versus regret and recrimination.

The regrets in Jimmie’s family have to do with a grand old Victorian house located in the historically black Fillmore district, now crawling with wealthy white homeowners. It’s Jimmie’s defining family story: In 1946, as he has been told all his life, Jimmie’s grandfather built the house himself, and for a time Jimmie grew up there, playing by pipe organ, scampering through its many gorgeous hallways.

Now the house is owned by an older white couple, haggling over its ownership with family members.

But Jimmie visits the house daily, touching up the paint trim on the exterior, not giving a damn if the owners think he’s nuts.

And then, as if in a dream, Jimmie and Montgomery repossess the place for their own, and move right in. There’s a deadpan comic element to this plot development, and indeed in many corners of The Last Black Man in San Francisco, co-written by director Talbot and Rob Richert, from a story by Talbot and Fails. (Talbot, for the record, is a fifth-generation white San Francisco resident; Richert is also white; Fails is African-American.)

But is this a comedy? Calling it a comedy doesn’t really get at the peculiar, sometimes perplexing, often wondrous tone of the picture. Visually it’s a remarkable first feature; Talbot blends slow-motion montage images of varying speeds, and the direct-to-the-camera compositions dominating the film recall strategies long established by, among others, Barry Jenkins and Spike Lee. Director Talbot is a magpie, pulling ideas from all over, effectively.

The film asks questions of ownership and familial and cultural legacy recalling such meat-and-potatoes stage works as August Wilson’s The Piano Lesson or, further out, the stage works of Suzan-Lori Parks. The movie’s narrative engine is small, and quiet. It takes some time to get the hang of it, and it’s sometimes more pictorially impressive than cinematically alive.

But The Last Black Man in San Francisco has a playful streak, too, pausing for an odd detail or amusing side riff. Look at them look at you!” Jimmie says in a astonished voiceover, pointing out the upper-level windows that resemble eyes on a human face, like the sight gag in Jacques Tati’s Mon Oncle. The musical score by Emile Mosseri of the band The Dig, is very fine stuff, supple and surprising in its blend of classical, jazz and pop strains. It adds to the otherworldly quality established and sustained so well by Talbot, and by the actors.

– Chicago Tribune/TNS
Former prosecutor slams *When They See Us* as an ‘outright fabrication’

By Peter Sblendorio

Former city prosecutor Linda Fairstein is giving two thumbs down to Ava DuVernay’s new miniseries about the Central Park Five case.

Fairstein, who’s been hit with a wave of criticism for her handling of that case, slammed DuVernay’s *When They See Us* as an “outright fabrication” that is “full of distortions and falsehoods” in a biting op-ed published by The Wall Street Journal.

“I was one of the supervisors who oversaw the team that prosecuted the teenagers apprehended after that horrific night of violence,” Fairstein wrote. “Ms. DuVernay’s film attempts to portray me as an overzealous prosecutor and a bigot, the police as incompetent or worse, and the five suspects as innocent of all charges against them. None of this is true.”

The highly publicised Central Park Five case of 1989 centred on five teenagers – Yusef Salaam, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, Antron McCray and Korey Wise – who were wrongfully convicted for the assault of a woman who was jogging in Central Park. Their convictions were dropped in 2002 after another man confessed to the crime and DNA backed up his admission.

Fairstein, 72, wrote in her op-ed that DuVernay’s Netflix series depicts the teens as “being held without food, deprived of their parents’ company and advice, and not even allowed to use the bathroom” – all of which she says is not true.

She noted that while she agrees with the rape charges being dropped against them, she contends other charges shouldn’t have been.

“And there was certainly more than enough evidence to support those convictions of first-degree assault, robbery, riot and other charges,” Fairstein wrote.

Fairstein, who is played by Felicity Huffman in the miniseries, began her piece for *The Journal* by writing that there were more than 30 rioters on the night of the incident, and that the jogger was not the only person attacked.

The op-ed comes days after Fairstein’s relationship with book-publishing company Dutton came to a sudden end without much of an explanation.

Last Sunday, the men at the centre of the Central Park Five case – who are now described as The Exonerated Five – spoke to Oprah Winfrey and blamed Fairstein for what transpired against them, according to Variety. That sit-down was broadcast on Netflix and on Oprah’s OWN network on Wednesday.

– New York Daily News/TNS

**KJo’s films have real emotions: Bhumi**

For actress Bhumi Pednekar, working in *Takht*, a Karan Johar directorial, is nothing short of a dream as she has grown up watching and loving his movies which she feels are high on real emotions.

“I think Karan’s films are larger than life and aspirational yet at the same time, where the emotions are concerned, they are very real. You feel Karan’s films and the emotions linger on. I’m honoured and privileged that I have the opportunity to be directed by him and I will give it my all for him,” Bhumi said in a statement.

Apart from the magnum opus *Takht*, Bhumi will also star in his production, the newly announced horror franchise film titled *Booct: Part One – The Haunted Ship* in which she will share screen space with Vicky Kaushal.

What are her favourite KJo movies?

*Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* has a special place in her heart.

She said: “I loved and enjoyed *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*. The film released when I was in school. I was literary 10 and it had such a big impact on me growing up because it honestly defined pop culture at that time. So, I went through that entire phase when I would dress up like Kajol with head bands, sweat bands and some days I would dress up as Kajol ma’am too, like in short skirts and try to act like her.”

Bhumi says she even had a necklace that said ‘cool’ – what Shah Rukh Khan flaunted in the film.

“I remember dancing to Koi mil gaya at every birthday party or family get-together. I was borderline obsessed with the movie and made the kids in our building compete as Team Tina and Team Anjali at get-togethers. That was the level of impact the movie had.

“After seeing this movie, I also went for a summer camp which was very close to the one shown in the movie. Basically, I tried to do everything that Karan showed in *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* and wanted to live it.”

Another of Karan’s films that touched her was *Dil Hai Hindustani*. “It speaks of a relationship where two friends are confused about their feelings. It was such a beautiful, mature love story that really moved me,” she said.

**DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE: Linda Fairstein speaks at the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach, Florida last year.**
Noted Pakistani media personality holds meet-up with compatriots

By Mudassir Raja

He is a well-known face of the television and media in Pakistan. He carries the reputation of a brave and risk-taking journalist in his country.

Iqrar Ul Hassan, a television presenter and journalist, spearheads a TV programme called Sar-e-Aam that is aired on ARY News. The show is famous for exposing corrupt and unauthentic products and public services such as fake spiritual healers (amils), poorly manufactured products disguised under famous company names.

The general idea of the programme is to show the public whatever is happening so that they are aware of those guilty of the crimes.

The famous personality of the Pakistani broadcast media was recently in Qatar for a visit with his family. His presence in Doha spurred the Pakistani community to set up a meet-up with him and discuss different social issues in their country.

Iqrar met with the Pakistani community in Marsa Malaz Kempinski where he was staying. The meet-up was attended by the expatriates in large numbers mostly comprising of young boys and girls.

The event actually turned into a question and answer session with the media presenter as the young people pushed him for his views on different social and political issues in Pakistan.

Iqrar, a young and dynamic journalist, patiently elaborated upon different issues in response to many searching questions from the youth in attendance. "As a media person, our job is to highlight social issues and problems. We work to raise awareness among the public. Media cannot provide solutions to different problems. It is the duty of the concerned authorities to take notes of the media reports and address the highlighted social issues."

The TV anchor agreed with the opinion of the youth regarding the unsavoury picture of the media in Pakistan. "The media is also a part of the larger sociality. It reflects the society. There are serious issues in the media industry that need to be addressed. However, I am convinced that the Pakistani media has a promising future. With the passage of time, it will become more effective and constructive in its approach towards different issues."

"Why I say that the future of media is bright is that it is very vibrant. Now, we have started getting really trained and educated journalists in the field of film, TV and radio. Initially, the broadcast media had to accommodate people with less professional background and experience."

In response to a question on the role and impact of the media on the society in general, Iqrar said: "Well, personally, I believe we cannot and we should not try to change something. Media can only highlight different issues and raise more and more awareness."

"Though I see there has not been much positive effect on the society. I have experienced that generally people tend to be involved in illegal or immoral activities despite they are exposed and prosecuted. I think I cannot bring about major change. But, what I believe is to continue with little effort that I can make as an individual and professional."

Regarding his experience in Qatar, he said: "I am here with my family for a visit. I got advantage of the facility of on arrival visa. This is a beautiful place to visit. People told me that it would be very hot here but I find it quite tolerable, especially with the facilities available here. I loved visiting Souq Waqif and Katara."

"I can see from whatever I have heard about Qatar that the country is all set to gain a lot from the FIFA World Cup 2022 that it is going to host. The event can be a game changer for the whole region."

Muhammad Irfan, a longtime resident of Qatar, said that he had arranged the job for a man who was victim to social injustice in Sindh by some feudal lords. He said that he learnt about the man after his story was highlighted by Iqrar in his programme. "It was very nice and informative to be with Iqrar. We should appreciate what he has been doing to raise awareness regarding different social ills in our country."

"As a media person, our job is to highlight social issues and problems. We work to raise awareness among the public. Media cannot provide solutions to different problems. It is the duty of the concerned authorities to take notes of the media reports and address the highlighted social issues."

– Iqrar Ul Hassan, popular Pakistani television presenter and journalist