The fastest Omani

Barakat Mubarak al-Harthi underpins an athlete’s calling and says it is all about self-belief. P4-5

DETERMINED: “My dream is to get a medal for my country at the Olympiad. I will put in my best,” says the 100-metre specialist.

QUIZ
The comedy extreme duo. Page 11

BACK PAGE
Zakir makes audience laugh with refreshing, relatable humour Page 16
**PRAYER TIME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prayer</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fajr</td>
<td>3.12am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shorooq (sunrise)</td>
<td>4.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zuhr (noon)</td>
<td>11.36am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asr (afternoon)</td>
<td>2.59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maghreb (sunset)</td>
<td>6.27pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isha (night)</td>
<td>7.57pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

- Emergency: 999
- Worldwide Emergency Number: 112
- Kahramaa – Electricity and Water: 991
- Local Directory: 180
- International Calls Enquiry: 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: 40253371, 40253372, 40253369
- Ministry of Health: 40253370, 40253364
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253364, 40253365
- Qatar Airways: 40253374

- **Quote Unquote**

> “In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact.”
>
> – Les Brown

---

**Game Over**

**DIRECTION:** Ashwin Saravanan

**CAST:** Taapsee Pannu, Parvathi T, Vinodhini Vaidynathan

**SYNOPSIS:** As the news of a serial killer on the loose sends the city into a tailspin, a young woman suffering from PTSD starts sensing a strange presence around her. Is there a dreadful fate awaiting her?

**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, The Mall

---

**Pokemon Detective Pikachu**

**DIRECTION:** Rob Letterman

**CAST:** Ryan Reynolds, Justice Smith, Kathryn Newton

**SYNOPSIS:** In a world where people collect Pokémon to do battle, a boy comes across an intelligent talking Pikachu who seeks to be a detective. Ace detective Harry Goodman goes mysteriously missing, prompting his 21-year-old son, Tim, to find out what happened. Aiding in the investigation is Harry's former Pokémon partner, wise-cracking, adorable super-sleuth Detective Pikachu. Finding that they are uniquely equipped to work together, as Tim is the only human who can talk with Pikachu, they join forces to unravel the tangled mystery.

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

---

**The Mall Cinema (1):**

- Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm
- Aladdin (2D) 4:45pm
- Aladdin (2D) 7pm
- John Wick 3: Parabellum (2D) 9:15pm
- Virus (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**The Mall Cinema (2):**

- Pokemon Detective Pikachu (2D) 2pm
- Pokemon Detective Pikachu (2D) 4pm
- Virus (Malayalam) 6pm
- Bharat (Hindi) 8:45pm
- Bharat (Hindi) 11:30pm

**The Mall Cinema (3):**

- Game Over (Telugu) 2pm
- X-Men: Dark Phoenix (2D) 3:45pm
- Godzilla II: King of the Monsters (2D) 5:45pm
- Godzilla II: King of the Monsters (2D) 8pm
- Casablanca (Arabic) 9:30pm
- Game Over (Tamil) 11:30pm

**Landmark Cinema (1):**

- Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm
- Aladdin (2D) 4:45pm
- Aladdin (2D) 7pm
- Godzilla II: King of the Monsters (2D) 9:15pm
- Game Over (Tamil) 11:30pm

**Landmark Cinema (2):**

- Game Over (Tamil) 2:15pm
- Pokemon Detective Pikachu (2D) 4:15pm
- Bharat (Hindi) 9:15pm
- X-Men: Dark Phoenix (2D) 9:15pm
- Bharat (Hindi) 9:15pm

**Landmark Cinema (3):**

- My Great Grandfather (Malayalam) 2:30pm
- The Secret Life of Pets 2 (2D) 5:30pm
- Sab’e Al Boromba (Arabic) 7:30pm
- Game Over (Hindi) 9:15pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):**

- Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm
- Aladdin (2D) 4:45pm
- Aladdin (2D) 7pm
- Godzillla II: King of the Monsters (2D) 9:15pm
- Game Over (Tamil) 11:30pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):**

- Game Over (Hindi) 2:30pm
- Aladdin (2D) 4:30pm
- Aladdin (2D) 7pm
- John Wick 3: Parabellum (2D) 9:15pm
- Game Over (Tamil) 11:30pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3):**

- Virus (Malayalam) 2:30pm
- Detective Conan: The Fist Of Blue Sapphire (Arabic) 5:30pm
- Casablanca (Arabic) 7:30pm
- Sab’e Al Boromba (Arabic) 9:30pm
- Virus (Malayalam) 11:15pm
**EVENTS**

**Summer Entertainment City**  
WHERE: DECC  
WHEN: Ongoing till July 13  
TIME: 1pm – 11pm  
The biggest indoor VR and Gaming zone, over 50+ new activities and 45 food options along with 114 retail shops, for the whole family under one roof. Entry fee QR15 per head.

**Fabric Painting**  
WHERE: Education City Club House  
WHEN: Today  
TIME: 5pm – 6pm  
Fabric painting for art lovers. Take part in the workshop to learn more about the art of fabric painting. For registration information, please contact, clubhousecommunity@qf.org.qa

**Creative Writing Workshop**  
WHERE: Café #999, 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, 5504920.

**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 pluralist approach to the divine and cosmic aspects of being, articulated through the myths, symbols and narratives of the world’s religions and philosophies. M. F. Husain: Horses of the Sun bears witness to a recurrent motif in his art, a personal symbol of self-renewal and vitality.

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

**Ballet Lessons**  
WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier  
WHEN: Ongoing  
TIME: 4pm – 8pm  
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003893.

**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, 54448839.

**Arabic Calligraphy Workshop**  
WHERE: Saturday – Wednesday  
TIME: 6pm  
Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the art 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 Gymnastic Classes**  
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb  
WHEN: Ongoing  
TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm  
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

**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 66523871/33897609.

**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.

**Creative Writing Workshop**  
WHERE: Cafe #999, 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, 5504920.
“Don’t listen to those who tell you that you cannot do it”

— Barakat Mubarak al-Harthi, Oman’s fastest man

Everybody thinks running is very easy. You have to follow a prescribed diet, get good training every day. You have to take care of vitamin intake, your sleep routine and it is not just training

— Mubarak al-Harthi
If you have belief in yourself, you can achieve anything you want in the world.
This is the spirit that keeps Oman's top sprinter Barakat Mubarak al-Harthi running.

The 30-year-old sprinter, whose forte is the 100 metres, won a bronze medal at the Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, in the same category. He is the fastest man of Oman even today.

He was born in Ibra, Oman. He competed at the 2009, 2013 and 2015 World Championships and the 2010 and 2014 World Indoor Championships without reaching the final.

Community recently interviewed Barakat in Muscat on the sidelines of a press conference about Al Mouj Muscat Marathon 2020. He along with other sportspersons of Oman was present in the press meet as an ambassador for the international marathon.

Barakat, who comes from a big family of 14 siblings, as a boy wanted to make his mark. “When I was a child, I had a dream of becoming someone very special. Always, I have been trying to be very special. I was very good footballer, but switched from football to running because in football, you have a team and in running or sprinting, you’re on your own. I have to achieve everything alone. It was in 2005 when I decided to be a professional runner. Since then, I have been training hard to raise the flag of my country high. “At my school, I was trained by my physical training teachers. In 2005, I won all schools Oman championship. Everyone in my village was happy. After my school, I was trained by a professional coach of national stature.

“I have competed twice at the Olympics — Rio and London, I have also taken part in world championships four times. I hold the record of 9.9 second in 100 metre sprint. I have made friends with many international sprinters with very good records, especially with Justin Gatlin, the American sprinter.”

“I have also taken part in many Asian Games and once I got third position for my country. In Oman, still I am the fastest man.”

Barakat is preparing hard and has regularly been attending a camp to be fit for upcoming race events. “After Eid, I will attend the camp to prepare for the next World Championship.”

The Omani sprinter believes that self-belief is necessary to be a successful athlete. “You have to believe in yourself. You can do what you want. Do not listen to those who tell you that you cannot do it. I always challenge myself. I have challenged all those who told me that I could not do it. I dreamt of breaking into 9th second from 10th second in 100 metres run. Now, my dream is to get an Olympic medal for my country because Oman has never got a medal at the Olympics. I will put in my best.”

The sprinter says that the running is a difficult sport. “Everybody just thinks that running is very easy. It is just to run. You have to take follow a prescribed diet, get good training every day. You have to take care of vitamin intake, your sleep routine and it is not just training.”

Barakat was in Qatar in April to take part in Asian Athletics Championship. “I took part in 100 metre sprint. I think I was not so bad. A month before the championship, I had a hamstring and could not generate full speed.

“It was very good to be in Doha. I saw the city and I loved it. I particularly liked Katara. I like the way they focus on sports. They have world class facilities. They respect sports so much. Qatar is the only country to have a National Sport Day.”

Barakat desires to see more sporting activities in Oman as well. He wants more and more people to get active. He feels proud to be an ambassador of the Al Mouj Muscat Marathon. “I am very pleased to be here as an ambassador for Al Mouj Muscat Marathon 2020, Oman’s largest athletics festival. I have made a career out of running and I hope I can inspire the young people of Oman to come forward and join me and the other ambassadors in January next year.”

The sprinter is chuffed to see an international marathon happening in Oman. “I am very excited. It is very important. Whenever I go out of the country, people ask me where I come from. When I tell them about Oman, they do not know much about the country. I have to tell them where Oman is located.

“About three months ago, I was in Spain. When I told some people that I am from Oman, they said that they had heard about the Oman marathon. I was so happy to hear that they knew about the country because of the marathon. Such healthy and sport events reflects very good image of my country.”

The sprinter sees the marathon as an inspiration for the Omani youth to have a healthy and active lifestyle. “In previous marathons, I have seen a lot of people coming from outside Oman to attend the event. There were very few Omanis taking part in the marathon. I hope to see more Omani taking part in the marathon in 2020. This time, there is much more awareness about the event. The Omanis now know that there is an international marathon taking place in Muscat next year. I really appreciate Oman Sails, the organisers of the marathon for their great work and initiative. I am lucky that I am a part of the activity that promotes sports and a healthy life style in Oman.”

Barakat appreciates friendly relations between Oman and Qatar. “I am happy that the two countries enjoy (good relations). I have many good friends from Qatar’s athletics community. I have very good acquaintance with Mutaz Essa Barshim (a national and Asian record-holding high jumper). We have been in one club in Qatar. I love being in Qatar.”
Nepali organisations mark Ubhauli festival

Kirár Rai Yayogkha (KRY), Kirat Yakthom Chumlung (KYC), and Sunuwar Service Society (SSS) recently organised an event to mark Ubhauli festival at Gulf Horizon Hotel. This festival marks the beginning of the farming season. The event was chaired by Bimal Rai, Chairman of KRY. Shiba Kumar Bhujel, Chairman of Non-Resident Nepalese Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NRNFIN), was the chief guest at the event. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Bimal Subedi, Binod Bhattarai and Ramji Khati.

Rajendra Samyankhyam and Shiba Kumar Bhujel welcomed the gathering, which was followed by ethnic dances, including Kelang, Shyadar Sheel and Sakela. The performers imitated the movements of different birds, animals, objects of nature and the work done by the farmers. Bimal Rai, Co-ordinator of the event, proposed a vote of thanks.

– Text and photo by Usha Wagle Gautam

LIS organises workshop for faculty members

The Principal of Loyola International School (LIS) recently organised a workshop on ‘Learning Disability’ for the faculty members of LIS. Speaking on the occasion, the principal said, “It is important for the educators to know about Learning Disability, as they are the ones who must understand the child’s problem rather than pressurising the child for performance.

They need to know how the brain of a LD child works. It’s different from the brain function of a normal child/ non-LD child. Early discovery, observations and remedial measures from the age of 3 to 5 years, can help the child to reach great heights. Initially it’s difficult for the child’s parents to accept the fact. But with their support the teachers can do wonders.”

EID DIVA: The Qatar Social Women (QSW) recently organised ‘Eid Diva 2019’ at Warwick Hotel. Around 70 ladies from different Asian countries attended the event. Aayesha bagged the title of ‘Diva 2019’. The event also featured 25 lucky draw gifts. Sheeba Zameer, Samreen Zafar and Nazia Ziauddin, organisers of the event, thanked the sponsors and participants.

FELICITATION CEREMONY: Ideal Indian School (IIS) recently felicitated its teaching faculty for their contribution in producing excellent results in the CBSE Class X and XII examinations held in March 2019. Syed Shoukath Ali, Principal of IIS, presented the certificates of appreciation and congratulated them for keeping with the tradition of producing the best results in the region.
QSC organises felicitation ceremony

Qur'an Study Centre (QSC) – Rayyan Zone recently organised an event to felicitate the winners of Holy Qur’an Contest at CIC Rayyan Centre. The contest was conducted during Ramadan. Nineteen people bagged first position with full marks and fifteen people won second position with 29 marks out of 30. All 34 people were felicitated on the occasion. The prizes were distributed by Abdul Jaleel R S, Vice President of Centre for Indian Community; Mohamed Ali Shanthapuram, President of QSC – Rayyan Zone; Abdul Hameed and Ali Kunji Mannil, Vice Presidents of QSC – Rayyan Zone; Ahmed Shafi, General Secretary; and Siddique A, Sureen P, Haris K and Kavi Abdul Rahman.


The felicitation ceremony kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an by Aysha Minha. Ahmed Shafi welcomed the gathering. Abdul Hameed also spoke on the occasion. The event was compered by Abdul Jaleel.

GKPA-Qatar Chapter organises 3rd General Body meeting

Global Kerala Pravasi Association (GKPA) – Qatar Chapter recently organised its 3rd General Body meeting at Indian Cultural Centre (ICC). Around 125 members participated in the meeting. Abdul Kabeer, President of GKPA-Qatar Chapter, presided over the meeting. Seena Vaheb, Secretary at GKPA-Qatar Chapter, presented the annual report and Noorudheen, Treasurer, presented the budget and accounts summary. The General Body decided to extend the term of the current president, secretary and treasurer of GKPA-Qatar Chapter for another year. Under the guidance of Shaji Joseph, Core Secretary of GKPA Global, the new vice presidents, joint secretaries, joint treasurer and internal auditor were selected. The newly elected management committee, includes Shri Abdul Kabir, President; Seena Vaheb, Secretary; Noorudheen, Treasurer; Sheheem, Sijo and Afsar, Vice Presidents; Shihas, Martin, Najila Latif, Joint Secretaries; and Mubas, Joint Treasurer.

Pakistan Professional Community in Qatar marks Eid al-Fitr celebrations

Pakistan Professional Community in Qatar recently organised a family get-together as part of Eid al-Fitr celebrations at Salt n Pepper restaurant. More than 50 families attended the event. Rana Anwar Ali organised various games. Arshad Hussain Hashmi welcomed the gathering. Commodore Irfan Taj, Defence Attaché at the Embassy of Pakistan, and Hafiz Junaid Sial, Community Welfare Attaché at the embassy of Pakistan, was the chief guest at the event. The members of organising committee, included Javaid Izqal, President of Pakistan Engineering Forum; Anwar Shah, Qaisar Anwar, Fahad Imaan and Sarfaraz, Aliqur-Rehman, Anees Khan, Kifayat Shah and Suree. The event kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an by Abdul Salam Jaafar, Malaa Wasee welcomed the families.
Sparkling backlash with new Japanese America novel

A new edition of No-No Boy, published by Penguin Classics in May in honour of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, has recently brought the book’s complicated publication history into the spotlight and has raised questions regarding its ownership, writes Tracy Brown.

Widely recognised as the first Japanese American novel, John Okada’s No-No Boy, about a Japanese American man struggling to find his place in the US and in his community in the years after WWII, is a historic work of literature. But the book wasn’t always celebrated. A new edition of No-No Boy, published by Penguin Classics in May in honour of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, has recently brought the book’s complicated publication history into the spotlight and has raised questions regarding its ownership.

On May 31, University of Washington professor Shawn Wong took to Facebook to call out the publisher in a post that claimed he helped register the copyright of No-No Boy on behalf of Okada’s widow, Dorothy Okada, when publishing a 1976 edition of the novel. The post included a photo of the US copyright. Penguin says according to its research, No-No Boy is in the public domain in the United States.

“We fully investigate the copyright status of any work that is going into our classics programme,” Penguin’s Yuki Hirose, VP, associate general counsel, said in a statement. “According to US Copyright Office records, the 1957 edition was never registered and therefore is not afforded copyright protection in the US.”

Set in the aftermath of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, No-No Boy tells the story of Ichiro Yamada following his release from prison for refusing to serve in the US military.

When the novel was initially published in 1957, it was rejected by a Japanese American community that was still reeling from the social upheaval caused by internment and sensitive to how the community was portrayed. It wasn’t until the 1970s that Okada’s book was rediscovered thanks to a group of Asian American writers looking to shed light on forgotten and neglected Asian American works.

In 1971, “My friends and I found a used copy of No-No Boy for 50 cents at a used book store,” Wong told The Times. “No one knew anything about it. Nobody had ever heard about it.” Still a college student at the time, Wong and his friends sought out Okada to interview him about the book, only to discover the Japanese American author had died of a heart attack just months before, his book still lost in obscurity.

Because of this, Wong, Jeffery Paul Chan, Frank Chin and Lawson Fusao Inada tried to bring the book into the limelight. And when they could not find a publisher willing to reissue No-No Boy when it went out of print, they worked to publish it themselves under the Combined Asian-American Resources Project banner in 1976.

In an interview, Wong explained that the only reason CARP was able to pay for the cost of printing was because all 3,000 copies of the first printing sold out through pre-orders by mail, thanks to a column in The Pacific Citizen, a Japanese American newspaper. Ninety-nine percent of these buyers were Japanese American, according to Wong.

The publishing rights, Wong says, were transferred in 1979 to the University of Washington Press and all other media rights, which we did not reproduce in our introduction by Lawson Fusao Inada, related to No-No Boy is for the 1976 introduction by Lawson Fusao Inada, which we did not reproduce in our edition,” said Hirose.

Frank Abe, one of the editors of John Okada: The Life and Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy, explained in a blog post that the copyright situation is complicated because the 1957 edition of No-No Boy was published by Charles Tuttle, based in Japan. Only the US publishing rights are in question. According to Wong and Abe, UW Press owns the worldwide publishing rights and all other media rights.

According to readings of the laws that govern international copyright, the Charles Tuttle edition of the book was never under US copyright. And despite Wong’s understanding that he was registering the copyright for the full text of the book on behalf of Okada’s family, some attorneys say that, because of a loophole, he didn’t.

Penguin’s edition not only tramples on my copyright for the Okadas but also sidesteps paying royalties to the Okadas because they claim the book is in the public domain, which is so, so morally wrong,” said Wong.

Penguin denies Wong’s claim. “The only copyright registration on file with the Copyright Office related to No-No Boy is for the 1976 introduction by Lawson Fusao Inada, which we did not reproduce in our edition,” said Hirose.

According to Wong and Abe, the post that the copyright situation is complicated because the 1957 edition of No-No Boy was published by Charles Tuttle, based in Japan. Only the US publishing rights are in question. According to Wong and Abe, UW Press owns the worldwide publishing rights and all other media rights.

CONTROVERSY: Wong, University of Washington professor, says the publication history behind No-No Boy is an important part of Asian American history and that Penguin has disregarded that part of its legacy. He also is disappointed that the publisher had not consulted Okada’s family before releasing its edition.

Okada’s novel, Abe says, was “very disappointed in [Penguin] for appropriating John Okada’s No-No Boy and encouraged people to keep seeking out the UW Press version of the novel.

“John Okada is part of my history,” said Wong. “It’s part of my career. I worked as hard to get that book published as I worked to get my own book published.”

 réal TIME: Set in the aftermath of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the book tells the story of Ichiro Yamada following his release from prison for refusing to serve in the US military.

John Okada
No-No Boy

BOOK REVIEW

Sunday, June 16, 2019
GULF TIMES | COMMUNITY

PENGUIN CLASSICS

THE LIFE AND

John Okada
No-No Boy

REAL TIME:

CONTROVERSY:

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But according to the New York Times, other legal experts believe the Okadas have a case for ownership over the novel.

For Wong and other members of the Asian American community, the pushback is not just about whether Penguin had legal clearance to publish a new edition of the book. Wong says the publication history behind No-No Boy is an important part of Asian American history and that Penguin has disregarded that part of its legacy. He also is disappointed that the publisher had not consulted Okada’s family before releasing its edition.

“Whether or not the largest publisher in the US has a legal right to now bring out an unauthorised edition of No-No Boy, you can judge for yourself whether it has a moral right,” wrote Abe in a blog post about the situation.

Similarly, author Viet Thanh Nguyen took to Twitter and said he was “very disappointed in [Penguin] for appropriating John Okada’s No-No Boy and encouraged people to keep seeking out the UW Press version of the novel.

“John Okada is part of my history,” said Wong. “It’s part of my career. I worked as hard to get that book published as I worked to get my own book published.”

– Los Angeles Times/TNS
If you pass by Eugenio Morrone’s ice cream shop in Malatesta, a nondescript Rome district far from the tourist trail, there is little to distinguish it from the nearly 20,000 other gelaterias that dot almost every Italian town and village.

In fact, Cannolo Siciliano is home to the world’s best ice cream, according to a ranking released in February by Gelato Festival, an association trying to establish a Michelin-style points system for Italian artisanal gelato makers.

“The only thing that is special about my gelato is its simplicity,” Morrone says, explaining that he sources top quality produce, preferably seasonal and local, and avoids any mass-produced ingredients.

“A good ice cream does not have many ingredients – milk, cream, sugar, egg yolk, pistachio, hazelnut or fresh fruit if you make sorbets – it’s simple and there should not be any colourants or additives,” the 35-year-old insists.

Morrone follows the seasons, so you’ll find him offering strawberry ice cream only in May–June, not in January, and melon during the summer. Likewise, his chestnut gelato is only available in the autumn – he says it is a big success.

There are also a few evergreens – chocolate, hazelnut, zabagione (an egg-yolk-based cream), fiordilatte (cream) or stracciatella (cream with chocolate chips) – and a few unique flavours that go a bit beyond Morrone’s self-declared simplicity.

His prize-winning creation is ‘late mandarin’ – a distinctively tangy creation that includes hints of mint and ginger. He also experiments with savoury flavours, like ‘carbonara,’ ‘buffalo mozzarella’ and ‘mushroom’ and sundried tomato.

The savoury ice creams are served on Tuesday evenings, when Morrone matches them with finger food – typically bruschettas or fresh tomatoes – as an aperitivo.

“At first people laughed at me, now they come rushing,” he says.

Morrone has other innovative ideas. He says he is striving to find a way to improve gelato’s healthiness by lowering its sugar content, without losing sweetness. “We must use less sugar because it is bad for you,” he says.

People may not see ice cream as a particularly sophisticated food, but Morrone claims that a lot goes into it. “To make a good gelato you need to control a lot of complicated physical and chemical reactions,” he says.

For example, if you use too much water, the ice cream freezes too early and comes out harder. You can spot this defect, Morrone says, when gelato is served in solid, round scoops, rather than the loose lumps commonly seen in Italy. “You don’t want your gelato to be wet on top, but soft and creamy – and you need know-how to make it that way. For me, gelato is the hardest food: it’s harder to be a good gelato maker than a good chef in a restaurant.”

For those who are just interested in eating rather than making ice cream, Morrone has a few tips: read the ingredients, don’t pick too many flavours, be prepared to pay a bit more, and stick to tradition – no Nutella or Oreo ice cream, please.

He’s not a fan either of those who drink a coke with their gelato, but he accepts that Italians are more fastidious than others with their food etiquette. “I’ve seen a few odd things, but personal taste is personal taste and it’s no scandal for me,” he says with a smile. – DPA

**TOP RANKED**: The ice cream shop Cannolo Siciliano in Rome is home to the world’s best ice cream, according to a ranking released in February by Gelato Festival, an association trying to establish a Michelin-style points system for Italian artisanal gelato makers.

**Italy’s ice cream king shares the secrets of a great gelato**

Eugenio Morrone, who has been voted Italy’s best ice cream maker, makes a wide range of flavours at his shop in Rome, from classics like strawberry and pistachio to adventurous savoury creations. But he says the key to a good gelato is keeping it simple, writes Alvise Armellini.

Eugenio Morrone is the owner of the award-winning ice cream shop Cannolo Siciliano in Rome.

Winner: Eugenio Morrone is the owner of the award-winning ice cream shop Cannolo Siciliano in Rome.
Cats are about compassion, connection

Cats are a common phenomenon in Qatar. In fact, in the recent past, there were worries from the residents about the increasing population of stray cats around Doha. That’s a story for perhaps, another day.

It is an open secret that man and cat, since time immemorial, have shared an ingrained bond and it is universal.

Here in Qatar, a house is just a mere structure, and only the presence of a cat doing gymnastics and wrestling with towel tassels and dolls makes it a complete home. The unflinching loyalty, affection and compassion of cats further cement its relationship with man. A previous study has shown that having a cat in your home will make your life ten times better in terms of lifting your mood, reducing stress and anxiety as well as enhancing sociability and boosting your bodies’ immune system. No feeling beats coming home to your little cute cat running to you and closely circling around your legs, sometimes making you have a misstep, and if you’re not so lucky, tripping you up to the ground, and falling with a thud!

The relationship between a domestic cat and man is symbiotic, more so with children. While cats benefit by being sheltered in our homes, they, in return, help instil virtues of being responsible and empathetic.

Growing up with cats, kids learn to put the interests of others before their own; through ensuring that cats are fed and their litter nest is spotlessly clean. Children develop and cultivate positive energy, and learn how far their acts of compassion and empathy can go as far as impacting other people’s lives is concerned.

Cats will always bring out the innate social being in each one of us. For the antisocial and introvert people, owning a cat would be the way out. More often, we run dry and find it hard to strike a good rapport with newly found acquaintances.

However, cats can neutralise this situation by providing a fertile ground and an ample opportunity to start a conversation which will see sociability improved.

— Text by Polycarp Maina, photos by Dennis Macharia
The comedy extreme duo

The comedy extreme duo

Retirement: In the Great Depression, the works of the derby-wearing duo bypassed the pathos of Charlie Chaplin and went straight for slapstick laughs every time. Atoll K was the title of the last movie of Laurel and Hardy in 1950 before the duo retired from industry.

As much as they were inseparable friends and ‘partners in crime’ in all of their mischiefs on the big screen, they were just as close in real life. In 1957, when Oliver Hardy passed away, Laurel, devastated by his best friend’s death, never fully recovered and so, refusing to perform on stage or act in another film without his best pal. In 1960 Laurel was awarded an honorary Oscar for his contributions to film comedy. Laurel was appreciative, but wistful that the honor had not come in time to be shared with Hardy. It doesn’t matter that their films are old. They’re about power struggles in relationships, and everyone can relate to that. Laurel and Hardy will never not be funny because people will always be bickering with their partners or friends or colleagues. With the pitfalls and pratfalls of twentieth-century urban living, Laurel & Hardy will continue entertaining a world in need of laughter.

Welcome to ‘Nutty’s’ infotainment, YAYS! As we celebrate Father’s Day today, I am reminded of what Mark Twain said of his father, “When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant that I could hardly stand by his side.” Laurel & Hardy, who stand together, remain the most endearing cinematic partnerships.

Putting Pants on Philip is the first film to feature the legendary comedy duo Laurel and Hardy as a pair. However, it was not the first time that Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy were paired up. Name the 1921 silent short in which they were first cast as separate performers.

The Lucky Dog

What is the origin of the popular ‘The Simpsons’ catchphrase, ‘D’oh’? Laurel and Hardy films. Scottish actor James Finlayson, who appeared in 33 of their films, would utter the now famous line in all his appearances.

What connects Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly to Laurel and Hardy? Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly play Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy respectively in Stan & Ollie, a 2018 biographical comedy-drama film which is considered a fictionalised take on the comedian duo’s British tour in 1953-54.

‘The Sons of the Desert’ was founded in New York in 1915 by the comedy duo’s biographers, John McCabe, Orson Bean, Al Kilgore, Chuck McCann and John Mumford with the sanction of Stan Laurel. What is it?

It is the official Laurel and Hardy appreciation society. The organization was named after a fraternal society in a 1933 Laurel and Hardy film of the same name. It has over 150 chapters across North America, Europe and Australia.

Norvell’s father died less than a year after his birth in 1962. In tribute, he later adopted his father’s first name and the world knows him by that name. His first onscreen appearance was in the 1941 comedy film, ‘Outwitting Dad.’ Name him.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan always held Laurel and Hardy fame. Oliver Hardy was the name of his father.

Father’s Day, being celebrated today, the third Sunday of June, was invented by American Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd whose father, a widowed Civil War veteran had raised his six children. What is the official flower for Father’s Day? Rose. Wearing a red rose signifies a loving father, while a white one represents deceased father.

1. Which weekday is ‘domingo’ in Spanish and ‘dimanche’ in French?

Sunday

2. Name the two families in Romeo and Juliet?

Montague and Capulet.

(Marina Jaso, Al Muftah, Doha)

Do you have some interesting bytes to share? And, does your vibe attract you to the ‘Tribe NL.yays!’ Every week two of your best questions will be featured here. Please do write to us at nl.yays@zooh.com.

What’s the Good Word?

1. Abhijatwada: fear of (a) dictionary (b) running out of reading material (c) pronunciation (d) books

2. Sprook: (a) departure (b) baby eagles (c) keenness (d) external

3. Winkelpecken: (a) corupted (b) adonscend (c) d of shoe with pointed toe

4. Churhun: (a) chin chin (b) resembling a fort (c) rude (d) monstrous

5. Eystima: (a) divine (b) bugocuous (c) least (d) succulent

6. Metanoxia: (a) twilight (b) short- sighted (c) chaos (d) spiritual transformation

7. Abrate: (a) homeless (b) resolution (c) dressed in black (d) unusually severe

8. Misaurk: (a) shred (b) nonsense (c) late (d) idiot

9. Pilargico: (a) symbol (b) a bald head (c) gawish (d) obsolete

10. Rausher: (a) thin slice of bacon (b) impulsive (c) role-model (d) sleepwalker

Amer for CB (a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5 (a) 6 (d) 7 (c) 8 (b) 9 (b) 10 (a)
**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.

**Codeword**

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 block is repeated.

**Adam**

**Pooch Cafe**

**Garfield**

**Bound And Gagged**
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Baseball player reverses cap (8)
2 Shrink any salt shaker? (7)
3 Family taking part (3)
4 Sleeves coat provided, thanks to poet (6)
5 Blunt, to no avail (9)
6 Hit on the head with old coin (5)
7 Small school raised paper money (5)
8 Copper has last word about shrewdness (6)
9 Length of series (5)
10 Rescue Ali knocked out in fight (4,3)
11 Just seen after month in part of London (7)
12 Coats need woven yarns (9)
13 Units deployed in an African capital (5)
14 Trapper holding broken toy? Wait for it! (3,3)
15 Dancing bear is somewhere in the Balkans (6)
16 Major report reveals theory of origin (3,4)
17 The man composing a song (6)
18 In Arctic ice, Roman consul renowned for eloquence (6)
19 Poles suffer under slowcoach (5)
20 An opening, we hear, for worship (5)
21 Obscure thing is made visible (2,5)
22 Missionary getting a position with the French (7)
23 Open wide to swallow a bit of ripe fruit (5)
24 Shelter for backward swimmer (3)
25 Tea’s gone off - but that was a long time ago (5,3)

Down
2 Shrink any salt shaker? (7)
3 Family taking part (3)
4 Sleeveless coat provided, thanks to poet (6)
5 Blunt, to no avail (9)
6 Hit on the head with old coin (5)
7 Small school raised paper money (5)
8 Copper has last word about shrewdness (6)
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Colouring

Answers

Codeword

Wordsearch

Yesterday’s Solutions

PUZZLES

COMMUNITY PUZZLES

GULF TIMES

Sunday, June 16, 2019
Key to good health, well-being: two hours a week with nature

If you are looking for that elusive secret to good health and well-being, your search may stop now as a new large-scale study has found that spending just two hours a week in the neighbourhood park may do wonders for your mind and body. People who spend at least 120 minutes a week with nature are significantly more likely to report good health and higher psychological well-being than those who do not visit nature at all during an average week, said the study published in the journal Scientific Reports.

“It’s well known that getting outdoors in nature can be good for people’s health and well-being but until now we’ve not been able to say how much is enough,” said lead researcher Mat White of the University of Exeter Medical School in Britain.

“The majority of nature visits in this research took place within just two miles of home so even visiting local urban green spaces seems to be a good thing,” White said. However, no such benefits were found for people who visited natural settings such as town parks, woodlands, country parks and beaches for less than 120 minutes a week.

The study used data from nearly 20,000 people in England and found that it didn’t matter whether the 120 minutes was achieved in a single visit or over several shorter visits. It also found that the 120 minute threshold applied to both men and women, to older and younger adults, across different occupational and ethnic groups, among those living in both rich and poor areas, and even among people with long-term illnesses or disabilities.

“There are many reasons why spending time in nature may be good for health and well-being, including getting perspective on life circumstances, reducing stress, and enjoying quality time with friends and family,” said study co-author Terry Hartig of Uppsala University in Sweden.

“The current findings offer valuable support to health practitioners in making recommendations about spending time in nature to promote basic health and well-being,” Hartig said. - IANS

ARIES
March 21 – April 19

Your self-confidence will get you out of any sort of pickle you might be in today, Aries. Try not to get too emotional about any issue. Make sure that you keep things light and energetic. If you seem to be stuck in the mud, don’t just sit there calling for help. Take the initiative to dig yourself out and move to higher ground.

CANCER
June 21 – July 22

As much as you try to explain things, Cancer, others simply aren’t going to see them with your same intensity and do-or-die urgency. Be careful that you don’t continue a series of far-out stories that only partially reflect the truth. Make sure the picture you paint is accurate or else others may lose faith in your judgment.

LIBRA
September 23 – October 22

Your enthusiasm is contagious, Libra, and you should do what you can to share this feeling with others. In matters of the heart, have confidence that you know exactly where you stand. You also have the map of the surrounding area and beyond. You have the ability to get to any place you want to go. Accept the power that comes from strong connections in you and with people around you.

CAPRICORN
December 22 – January 19

Be open and communicative about your feelings today, Capricorn. Most people find it easy to share facts or concrete information. The challenge is to share something from your heart. Don’t think that feelings always need to be kept secret. Just the opposite is true. Make sure you leave the channels open for emotional expression.

TAURUS
April 20 – May 20

Try not to get too worked up over other people’s actions that don’t concern you. Taurus. Recent events may have triggered responses from others that now have a serious effect on you. Take some time to really think about what part you wish to play in this drama. Is it in your best interests to get involved? It’s undoubtedly time to distance yourself from the situation.

SCORPIO
October 23 – November 21

You may be at a high point right now and feeling very excited about things to come, Scorpio. You probably anticipate but have only a vague notion of what’s just over the horizon. You may have a strong desire to rise high so you can see farther. In fact, you probably think that any place is better than your current spot. The white-hot fire within you is ready to blaze.

GEMINI
May 21 – June 20

Emotionally, you should feel good today, Gemini, so don’t let this confidence go to waste. Your inner light is shining brightly, so know that you can use this to illuminate the path for others. Offer a sympathetic ear and comforting shoulder for someone to cry on tonight. People will be drawn to you like steel to a magnet.

LEO
July 23 – August 22

Feel free to ignite your passion with the help of the people around you. Leo. Join with those who share similar dreams and make a plan for accomplishing whatever you choose. The more creative you can be with your planning, data collecting, and execution, the better off you will be. The white-hot fire within you is ready to blaze.

SAGITTARIUS
November 22 – December 21

Let your heart be the reassuring force in your life today if difficult emotional issues come to the surface. Sagittarius. Your feelings are apt to be at a climactic point in your month. Your general sensitivity toward the world is heightened. Try not to get too weighed down by these inner stirrings.

AQUARIUS
January 20 – February 18

When you enter a room, Aquarius, the dynamic suddenly changes. Your presence has a powerful impact on other people. Don’t take it lightly. People may hang on your words like they’re listening to the queen address to her kingdom. Make sure the content of your speech reflects the gravity of the situation. Make every word count.

PISCES
February 19 – March 20

When it comes to issues of relationship, you’re likely to be in a tough situation. Pisces. The problem is that it may seem like there’s an element of detachment developing. Your partner may be moving away from you instead of toward you. Either that, or you feel that he or she simply isn’t relating to you as much as you’d like.
Rishi Kapoor looks fitter, better

Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor, in a latest picture, looks fitter and better.

In a photograph posted on social media, he wrote: “Such a joy to meet my old dear friend Amit Khanna. We at the King Cole Bar at St. Regis Hotel New York.”

Dressed in a blue shirt and a coat, Rishi looked dapper and in better health after being in New York for months for medical treatment.

In April, his brother Randhir Kapoor had said Rishi will be back home in a few months, amid reports that he was now “cancer free.”

The actor has had a huge pillar of support in wife Neetu Singh, and he has been getting a steady stream of his film fraternity friends — Karan Johar, Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Anupam Kher among others — ensuring they meet the couple on a visit to the Big Apple. – IANS

Dia's slams 'prejudice' against Pak artistes

Actress Dia Mirza, who plays a Pakistani woman in the web series Kaafir, says art suffers at the hands of fear.

At the show’s launch here, Dia was asked about her opinion on Pakistani artists being barred from working in India by the All India Cine Workers Association (AICWA) after an attack in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, in February in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

She said: “Art always suffers at the hands of fear... but also art is also rekindled and re-fuelled because of fear. I believe that these prejudices that have been imposed on us, not just take us away from our neighbours, it takes us away from ourselves. And then we deny ourselves the opportunity to communicate and exchange... we are only expressing to the world how fearful we are.”

Directed by Sonam Nair and written by Bhavani Iyer, the story of Kaafir is set in Kashmir. It is about a Pakistani woman and her child who are held as prisoners and how a journalist tries to get justice for them. Dia plays the prisoner named Kainaz Akhtar.

As her role was very intense, the actress said she still carries the hangover of the character in her mind. “There were times during the shooting when the shot was over, the camera was off and I was still in the character and broke down crying. My director would come, hug me and we would cry together.”

“At times, Mohit (co-actor Mohit Raina) would look at me and say ‘Don’t get into the character so much, you won’t be able to come out!’ I think I had no choice...this character was pulling me to go deeper,” shared Dia.

Mohit, who essays the journalist, said: “It was very challenging for me and at the same time easy because I had such a well-written story and each character was so clear. We always knew what Sonam wanted that it was easy that way.

“But the challenge was to deliver that. As actors, our vision is limited at times because I am only thinking about my character, but Sonam had a broader view as a director and that really helped.”

The meaning of the word ‘kaafir’ is non-believer.

Since the story of the show emphasises the fact that all the characters are believers in humanity, asked about the thought behind naming the show Kaafir, its writer said: “While traditionally the meaning of kaafir is non-believer which means a person does not believe in God or religion, I wanted to use it because these people who are non-believers in God, but believers in humanity, which is much higher and goes beyond the religious boundary?”

Kaafir premiered on OTT platform ZEE5 on June 15 (yesterday). – IANS

Akshay urges fans not to start 'negative trends' online

Actor Akshay Kumar has urged his fans not to indulge in any negative practice on social media regarding his upcoming film Sooryavanshi.

A few days ago, the release date of Rohit Shetty directorial Sooryavanshi, featuring Akshay Kumar, was advanced to March 27, 2020, to avoid clash with Salman Khan's Inshallah.

The change in the release date did not go down well with a section of social media users as they started using hashtags like “boycott ‘Sooryvanshi’” on Twitter.

Responding to such “negative trends”, Akshay took to Twitter on Friday and wrote: “Since the past few days I have noticed certain negative trends being done by people dearest to me... You guys. I can see and understand your angst, all I can do is request you all with folded hands not to start/participate in such trends.”

Akshay even appealed to netizens to maintain a positive outlook towards the film.

“I took up Sooryavanshi with a very positive outlook, let’s continue making and realising it in the same way,” he added.

Sooryavanshi is the fourth film of Rohit’s cop drama universe in which Akshay is essaying the role of Veer Suryavanshi, a character that was introduced as an anti-terrorist squad officer in the Ranveer Singh-starrer 2018 film Simmba.

The movie also stars Katrina Kaif, Gulshan Grover and Sikander Kher. – IANS

21 Savage donates $25K to Southern Poverty Law Center

Rapper 21 Savage has donated $25,000 to the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights group that helped him when he was arrested by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement earlier this year.

The Grammy-nominated artiste, whose real name is Shéyaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, was taken into custody in DeKalb County February 3 on charges that he is from the United Kingdom and overstayed his visa. He has long been considered a local Atlanta act and called DeKalb his home.

His attorney Charles Kuck said in a statement that Abraham-Joseph is making the SPLC donation public “because everyday Americans need to know that ICE is using civil immigration detention as a weapon against immigrants, many of whom, like 21 Savage, have relief from deportation and are able to fix their immigration status.”

After the rapper was arrested, the SPLC was one of several national organizations that called for his release. He was freed from a federal immigration detention centre in Irwin County and granted bond 10 days after his arrest.

“Creating oppressively adverse conditions of detention, like those in Irwin County, Georgia, far away from family and legal counsel, causes despair and hopelessness, and forces these men and women to give up on their immigration claims,” said Kuck, a managing partner at the Atlanta-based firm Kuck Baxter Immigration LLC. – The Atlanta Journal-Constitution/TNS
Zakir makes audience laugh with refreshing, relatable humour

By Mudassir Raja

It was an act of comedy packed with the most refreshing and relatable jokes. The humour in the stories was so entertaining that the audience remained glued to their seats for over two hours of the show.

Whether it was a short conversation between a father and his son about the future plans of the son or a couple discussing each other’s friends, the humorous way Zakir Khan, a famous stand-up comedian from India, described all the scenes was very engaging. It was a packed audience at Al Mayassa Theater at Qatar National Convention Centre on Thursday night. The expatriates from South Asian countries, particularity Indians, thronged the venue to listen to the funny and satirical quips by Zakir, who rose to popularity by winning Comedy Central’s India’s third best stand-up comedian competition in 2012.

The programme named ‘Desi Comedy Nights’ was organised by Millennium Entertainment, an event management company. This was the third stand-up comedy show by the organisers this year.

The show started with the performance by Nishant Suri, an emerging stand-up comedian. His appearance was a surprise for the audience. Nishant opens the show by making jokes about childhood friends feel for each other after one gets success and the other who is not so successful in practical life.

The much awaited comic acts of Zakir started with how a teenage son reacts to his bossy father. The artiste actually satirises the father’s attitude towards the young son. He highlighted how the father expects his son to be a brilliant student and a successful professional.

Zakir goes on to highlight husband and wife relations as he tells their feelings for each other’s friends in a funny and comic way. All and sundry, present in the theatre seemed to enjoy the jokes and comments of the comedians.

Priya Denny, a member of the organising team, said: “Zakir was born and raised in Madhya Pradesh, India. He comes from a humble background and credits his father with being supportive of his talent. Khan has a diploma in sitar and is a college dropout.

“Besides performing at many stand-up comedy shows, he has also done ghostwriting and produced radio shows. He is known for his punchline “Sakht launda”, which means a guy with immense self-control who would not be easily manipulated by pretty, cunning girls.

“With over 3 million subscribers on YouTube, Zakir is India’s biggest stand-up comic who has performed to sold-out audiences all over the world.”

Charmi Nagaria is a housewife. She has been living in Doha with her husband for over three years. She was present in the theatre with her husband to enjoy the show. She said: “It was fantastic to attend the show and listen to the comedy of Zakir who is famous for his refreshing quips. I like his comedy because it is very relatable. One can relate to his remarks about son and father and husband and wife relationships. His comedy is very native for us as Indians. He talks about household issues and highlights follies and whims of certain people in the society. You can see everyday happenings in his comic acts.

“In Doha, we have many things happening as far as art or cultural activities are concerned. When it comes to stand-up comedy, the events are few. The indoor stand-up comedy shows are very refreshing during the summer in Doha.”

Parag Kohli is a sales manager. He has also been living in Qatar a little over three years. He also cherished the comedy of Zakir.

“The show was amazingly amusing. He is a very good storyteller. His style keeps you hooked and glued to your seats. His stories are very relatable and presented in a funny way.

“Nishant was also a real surprise. He is also well known in India. He started the show very well and set the tone for Zakir.

“It was really nice of the organisers to bring Zakir to Doha. We miss Indian stand-up comedy here. The company has already done two comedy shows here. I also attended their earlier shows and enjoyed the events with my family. I hope they will keep bringing talented comedians in the future as well to entertain the expatriates who are away from their home country.”