As kids born in the year of 9/11 come of age, their parents dream of a better world. P4-5
Monday, June 17, 2019

GULF TIMES
COMMUNITY
ROUND & ABOUT

PRAYER TIME

Fajr 3.12am
Shorooq (sunrise) 4.45am
Zuhur (noon) 11.36am
Aqr (afternoon) 2.59pm
Maghreb (sunset) 6.28pm
Isha (night) 7.58pm

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
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

Friendship, romance also plays its part in the life of supposedly 40-something Michel who gets attracted to 28-year-old Delna. Keen to see him settle down, Micheal’s parents accept his relationship.

THEATRES: Landmark

Godzilla: King of the Monsters
DIRECTION: Michael Dougherty
CAST: Millie Bobby Brown, Lexi Rabe, Charles Dance
SYNOPSIS: Members of the crypto-zoological agency Monarch face off against a battery of giant-sized monsters, including the mighty Godzilla, who collides with Mothra, Rodan, and his ultimate nemesis, the three-headed King Ghidorah. When these ancient super-species—thought to be mere myths—rise again, they all vie for supremacy, leaving humanity’s very existence hanging in the balance.

THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall

My Great Grandfather
DIRECTION: Aneesh Anwar
CAST: Johny Antony, Asha Aravind, Baburaj
SYNOPSIS: The film revolves around the bond of friendship that bind three friends together. Apart from friendship, romance also plays its part in the life of supposedly 40-something Michel who gets attracted to 28-year-old Delna. Keen to see him settle down, Micheal’s parents accept his relationship.

THEATRES: Landmark

Quote Unquote
““All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honour, duty, mercy, hope.””
– Winston Churchill

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

Godzilla: King of the Monsters
DIRECTION: Michael Dougherty
CAST: Millie Bobby Brown, Lexi Rabe, Charles Dance
SYNOPSIS: Members of the crypto-zoological agency Monarch face off against a battery of giant-sized monsters, including the mighty Godzilla, who collides with Mothra, Rodan, and his ultimate nemesis, the three-headed King Ghidorah. When these ancient super-species—thought to be mere myths—rise again, they all vie for supremacy, leaving humanity’s very existence hanging in the balance.

THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall

My Great Grandfather
DIRECTION: Aneesh Anwar
CAST: Johny Antony, Asha Aravind, Baburaj
SYNOPSIS: The film revolves around the bond of friendship that bind three friends together. Apart from friendship, romance also plays its part in the life of supposedly 40-something Michel who gets attracted to 28-year-old Delna. Keen to see him settle down, Micheal’s parents accept his relationship.

THEATRES: Landmark
EVENTS

Creative Writing Workshop
WHERE: Café #999, Fire Station Gallery, Wadi Al Sall, Doha
WHEN: June 20
TIME: 6pm – 9pm
Sanama Art Movement, 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 per head.

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

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop
TIME: 6pm
Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier. The lessons will take place every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. For more information, contact registration@atelierqatar.com

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
Mamangam Performing Art Centre, is a holistic performing arts institution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip hop, Indian classical dance, music (Hindustani and Carnatic), arts and craft, karate, yoga, percussion (Chenda, Thimlia, Elathalam and Madhram), 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 33407609.

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, 5544835.

Summer Entertainment City
WHERE: DECC
WHEN: Ongoing till July 13
TIME: 1pm – 11pm
The biggest indoor VR and Gaming experience is right here! From the biggest hit movies to hit television serials, with over 300 games available on the entire lineup. Also, there is an extension of real-life experiences to the virtual, which is truly an immersive gaming experience.

Music and Arts Atelier
WHERE: Al matar, Al Sadd
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 8:00am – 5:00pm
During this time, all therapists and teachers will be working together, running individual, peer and group sessions within classes. The children will continue learning age-appropriate concepts, work on social skills, life skills training, arts and crafts, music, and fun activities such as water play.

Artistic Gymnastic Classes
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

Summer Entertainment City
WHERE: DECC
WHEN: Ongoing till July 13
TIME: 1pm – 11pm
The biggest indoor VR and Gaming experience is right here! From the biggest hit movies to hit television serials, with over 300 games available on the entire lineup. Also, there is an extension of real-life experiences to the virtual, which is truly an immersive gaming experience.

Sanation Education, in collaboration with 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.

Music and Arts Atelier
WHERE: Al matar, Al Sadd
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 8:00am – 5:00pm
During this time, all therapists and teachers will be working together, running individual, peer and group sessions within classes. The children will continue learning age-appropriate concepts, work on social skills, life skills training, arts and crafts, music, and fun activities such as water play.

Artistic Gymnastic Classes
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

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

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop
TIME: 6pm
Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier. The lessons will take place every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. For more information, contact registration@atelierqatar.com

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
Mamangam Performing Art Centre, is a holistic performing arts institution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip hop, Indian classical dance, music (Hindustani and Carnatic), arts and craft, karate, yoga, percussion (Chenda, Thimlia, Elathalam and Madhram), 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 33407609.

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, 5544835.

Summer Entertainment City
WHERE: DECC
WHEN: Ongoing till July 13
TIME: 1pm – 11pm
The biggest indoor VR and Gaming experience is right here! From the biggest hit movies to hit television serials, with over 300 games available on the entire lineup. Also, there is an extension of real-life experiences to the virtual, which is truly an immersive gaming experience.

Music and Arts Atelier
WHERE: Al matar, Al Sadd
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 8:00am – 5:00pm
During this time, all therapists and teachers will be working together, running individual, peer and group sessions within classes. The children will continue learning age-appropriate concepts, work on social skills, life skills training, arts and crafts, music, and fun activities such as water play.

Artistic Gymnastic Classes
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

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

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop
TIME: 6pm
Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier. The lessons will take place every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. For more information, contact registration@atelierqatar.com

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
Mamangam Performing Art Centre, is a holistic performing arts institution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip hop, Indian classical dance, music (Hindustani and Carnatic), arts and craft, karate, yoga, percussion (Chenda, Thimlia, Elathalam and Madhram), 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 33407609.

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, 5544835.

After School Activities
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
For better tomorrows

The only world these children have known is a post-9/11 landscape. Many parents say they’ve worked overtime helping them cope and maybe compensate for the cruelty of their predecessors, writes Donna Vickroy.

One of the things I’ll never forget that my mom said was, ‘It was such a sad time and Michaela just brought happiness and light back into our lives that week’

— Hannah Hayes, mom of Michaela Dillon

The babies born in the year of the September 11 terrorist attacks are turning 18. They entered the world during one of America’s darkest chapters, bringing what their parents call “much-needed light.”

Of course the children born on or near September 11, 2001 don’t remember that fateful, tragic event when terrorists hijacked planes and crashed them into the Twin Towers in New York, part of the Pentagon in Washington, DC and a field in Pennsylvania. Yet they live the consequences.

The only world they’ve known is a post-9/11 landscape, often laden with fear, mistrust and tight security.

Because of this, many of their parents say they’ve worked overtime helping children cope and maybe compensate for the cruelty of their predecessors.

Their mothers say their children’s arrival brought hope and the reminder that even in the toughest of times, love can prevail. They say the fearful and angry nature of the time underscored their parental responsibility to nurture optimism and hope for a better world.

Fostering hope part of a parent’s job

Like her peers who also were born in the shadow of September 11, 2001, Michaela Dillon is entering adulthood.

Some, including the 17-year-old Oak Lawn, Illinois, resident, are graduating high school. Others are seniors who will graduate next year.
“None of us remember that day, but there are so many almost too many, recent shootings and terrorist events,” said Michaela, who graduated from Mother McAuley High School in May. “And my friends talk about shootings a lot actually. Our world is continually getting worse with those kinds of terrorist attacks.”

As fear grows, so do security measures, she said. Can’t imagine a world without checkpoints and metal detectors at concerts, sporting events, even schools.

“I’ve never known a world without the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) and extreme security. I’ve heard a lot of stories about how super easy it used to be to get to the airport and get on planes,” she said. “That’s weird to me.”

Michaela was due on September 11, 2001, her mother, Hannah Hayes, said. She arrived three days later.

“It was a scary time. It was a sad time,” Hayes said. “All week all we saw and all anyone talked about were the attacks. It was very hard. And then Friday morning we had this beautiful baby come into our lives and it changed us forever.”

Hayes said the birth brought balance.

“One of the things I’ll never forget that my mom said was, ‘It was such a sad time and Michaela just brought happiness and light back into our lives that week,’” Hayes recalled.

She reminds her daughter of that “all the time because she still does bring happiness and light into our lives.”

Nevertheless, Hayes said, “it’s a challenge to raise kids in this world of shootings and terrorism.”

Increasingly, she added, it is the job of parents to strive for balance by fostering optimism and kindness in their children.

“Parents need to create an atmosphere of hope,” she said. “We have to see that hope every day in our lives. And we have to really understand that these kids can change the world. They are smart and energetic. They know what’s going on. They understand what’s happening.

And they have the ability to “make life better in their own communities and on a larger scale,” she said.

This fall Michaela will head off to the University of Arizona to study design technology for costuming. She wants to tell stories through her design technology for costuming.

She arrived three days later.

“Tremendous memories being on the TV 24/7. I remember stories about all the volunteers who travelled to New York. And I remember President Bush going there,” she said.

“She told me that that day was a blessing for us because you were born and you were healthy and God gave us joy on the saddest day to remind us that there are still positive things in life.”

Alexis is a member of the JROTC. “I was in JROTC in high school,” her mother said. “I tell her, ‘Just remember, when you wear that uniform, wear it with pride. Because you represent the United States and freedom. Always remember that privilege you have.”

Breaking Stereotypes About Muslims

Rahaf Othman’s first born child, Ahmad Elsholi, turned 18 in May.

“September 11th completely changed the way we live,” said Othman, who is Muslim. Othman is currently a teacher at Richards High School in Oak Lawn, Illinois, but back in 2001, she was teaching at the private Universal School in Bridgeview.

“I remember listening to the radio as I drove to work. They said a plane crashed into one of the Twin Towers. They thought it was a fluke,” she said.

She was in the principal’s office, where the TV was on, when the second plane hit.

“I looked at him and said ‘That’s not a fluke,’ she said.

At that point, she said, parents started calling, wanting to pull their kids out of school.

“They were worried,” she said. “We were also worried that the fourth plane was going to hit the Sears Tower and we had students whose parents worked there. And my husband had a meeting in the Sears Tower that day.” Her husband didn’t want her driving for fear of backlash against Muslims, she said. So he sent her brother to drive her to the babysitter’s house around the corner to pick up her son and then over to her parents’ house.

“Once my husband came home, I went home,” she said. “I didn’t leave my house for two weeks.”

The school also stayed closed for weeks because teachers were afraid to leave their homes, she said.

“There was so much fear because people were angry, they were upset,” she said.

She said some had gathered at night to throw rocks at the Bridgeview mosque.

September 11, she said, “completely changed the way we lived. Before the attacks, everybody minded their own business. Afterwards, in stores, everywhere you went, people looked at you funny, sometimes they screamed at you.”

Othman recalled wondering what the future might hold for her newborn son.

“I remember saying to my husband, ‘What are we going to do? This is the environment he is going to be raised in.’”

In many ways, she said, “we’re still dealing with backlash from 9/11. I don’t think it’s going away any time soon. With things currently happening in our government, it’s not getting any better.”

She said and her husband decided to raise all of their children to be cognizant of current events but at the same time encourage them to live life to the fullest.

Growing up in the Orland Hills/Tinley Park, Illinois area, her kids have been involved in just about every sport, with her son playing football for the Andrew High School team, she said.

“We’re very active and involved in school,” she said. “Because he’s our first-born and because of 9/11, we always told our son, ‘You have to be cognizant of who you are, your background, where you are and how you act.’ We’ve told all our kids there are stereotypes out there right now, about all of us and our religion. We tell them, ‘break those stereotypes through your actions. Change people’s perceptions of you. Show them what Islam truly is about.”

Rahaf Othman, whose son Ahmad Elsholi, was born months before 9/11, said she and her husband encouraged their children to break stereotypes about Muslims.

“We’ve told all our kids there are stereotypes out there right now. We tell them, ’break those stereotypes through your actions. Change people’s perceptions of you. Show them what Islam truly is about’”

— Rahaf Othman, mom of Ahmad Elsholi
ACS Doha organises graduation ceremony

ACS Doha International School recently organised graduation ceremony for its high school students at Ritz-Carlton hotel. Thirty-nine students graduated from ACS Doha International School who will now set out to broaden their horizons into further education. The ceremony was attended by parents, teachers, students, and members of the ACS Board from the UK. Dr Aisha al-Obaidly, Director of Capacity Building at the Qatar National Research Fund, was the guest speaker on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Al-Obaidly said, "Motivation in any and every form is essential as it helps us maintain our focus and realise the true value of our aims. Your graduation today is a significant event and it has made you one step closer to the responsibilities and challenges of adulthood. From your school, many of you will go to unfamiliar surroundings, many of you will travel abroad and will have to integrate in different cultures, study new things, meet new people, and face new challenges." She added, "Dealing with all this on your own can be a bit overwhelming as you adjust, however always remember why you are there in the first place and always look back to where you have come from." From my experience in the UK, I learned: 'A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor.' The way we deal with challenges outside our comfort zone is a reflection of our skills and abilities, hence I urge all of you to embrace the challenges you'll face and tackle them with courage." Robert Cody, Head of ACS Doha, welcomed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "For the graduating class of 2019, think about the next significant moment in your life, do you know the time and place of that moment? Maybe? Maybe not. Many moments of dramatic change in your life will happen with minimal warning. So, you will need to be ready. Ready for whatever comes your way. Ready for happiness. Ready for challenges. Ready for the life you have always dreamed of." Tim Cagney, Chief Executive of ACS International Schools, presented the Founders’ Award on the occasion. The Founders’ Award is presented to a high school graduate who has demonstrated excellent academic achievement. Commenting on the sidelines of the graduation, Cagney said, "ACS is one of the superior premium schools in Doha, our approach to learning and ethos is unrivalled, and around the world, many schools are asking us how we do it? We say that we've got the right people, the right development, and most importantly we have the right DNA. It's about quality, quality of staff internationalism and that we're a big community. And that, as far as ACS is concerned is what everybody is trying to copy." Trevor Furness, ACS Doha High School Principal, said, "Over the last 50 years the following trends have become clear. Those who earn college or post school credentials are seldom without a job, live in stable and prosperous relationships, are adaptable and flexible in the workplace. For those without skills, the story is far less favourable. Statistics indicate they have more chance of erratic employment, are inclined to be socially inept, do not always maintain family relationships and struggle to live productive, happy lives. There would seem to be a very strong connection between further education and productivity."
BFQ marks its first founding anniversary

Bangladesh Forum Qatar (BFQ) recently organised an event to mark its first founding anniversary ‘Partners of Bangladesh’ at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Ashud Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh, was the chief guest at the event. The event aimed at honouring the commercial enterprises that have been playing an important role in improving the overall development of Bangladesh and Bangladeshis living in Qatar. The event was attended by notable personalities, including businessmen, senior officials of the commercial firms, chief executives and scholars.

The event was anchored by Professor Dr Kazi, member of BFQ, and Tasmeen Priyanka. Seven establishments and entrepreneurs were honoured in different categories. In its first criteria, BFQ awarded the Qatari establishments that have employed more than one thousand Bangladeshi workers in their respective establishments. The award winners, included Al Jaber Group, QDVC, QD-SBG Construction, Muntajat, and Power Holding. Arabian Exchanges, Qatar Chemical and Petrochemical Marketing and Distribution Company (Muntajat) were also honoured for playing an important role in the economic development of Bangladesh through import and export. Jalal Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer of Golden Marine Company, received the award of the successful entrepreneur. Ambassador Ashud Ahmed and Iftekhar Ahmed, President of BFQ, presented the awards.

The event kicked off with the presentation by Shaheed Ahmed about Bangladesh and its diversified opportunism for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and 100% ownership facilities levied by current government towards foreign investors. Israt Ara Yunus, Managing Director of Richmond Consultant and member of BFQ, announced about the first ever Bangladeshi trade and investment fair ‘Made in Bangladesh’ to be held in the month of December 2019. Speaking on the occasion, the ambassador thanked BFQ for all creative activities and working for the development of relations between Qatar and Bangladesh at different levels. Besides, he congratulated all the members of BFQ on the occasion of celebrating its first anniversary.

PICPA Doha announces successful scholarship beneficiaries for 2019

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) Doha LLC(G) has recently announced the names of the thirty two beneficiaries for this year’s CPA Review Scholarship Programme. The programme was launched during its 11th Year Anniversary last December 2018. The said scholarship programme is one of the PICPA Doha LLC(G)’s flagship projects as part of Community Social Responsibility.

This programme aims to support BS-Accountancy graduates in the Philippines aspiring to become Certified Public Accountants, by providing financial assistance for the 6-month review before they finally sit for the licensure examinations to be conducted by the Philippine Professional Regulations Commission in October 2019. Since the programme’s inception in year 2014, the Institution has helped a total of 54 successful beneficiaries to obtain their CPA licenses as of the last May 2019 CPA Board Examination. Five out of 54, including Placido JP Cruz, Jessa Mae Iturong, John Alden Natividad, Eunice Macagba and Kesha Lei Juan recently passed the May 2019 CPALE.

The 2019 PICPA Doha LLC(G)’s Scholarship Programme grantees, including Rouella Marie R Agonoy, from Isabela State University - Echague; Rizale I Cabonce, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Venezuela, Richard L. Cortez, Divine World College; Cathy E Cuarto, Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology; Eliz Rose M. Dening, UP - Visayas Tadloban College; Joenel G Diaz, Sorsogon State College - Bulan Campus; Dianne Mae R. Dionisio, Divine World College; Jeanie B Estrada, University of Nueva Caceres; Gabrielle D Pullante, University of Nueva Caceres; Syriel Jay T. Gabarin, Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology; Leynette A. Leopaopao, Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology; Jv C. Libera, Divine World College; Mary Grace S Libian, University of Nueva Caceres; Genevieve L. Magbuui, Mariano Marcos State University - CBEA; Michael Jay C. Motol, UP - Visayas Tadloban College; Van Richard P. Mendoza, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila; Angel Mae M. Mendoza, Divine World College; Juke Ann M. Molina, Mariano Marcos State University - CBEA; Jerome C. Montoya, Tarlac State University; Nico A. Ojarte, University of Nueva Caceres; Regine C. Rabino, Sorsogon State College - Bulan Campus; Carlo M. Baculo, Divine World College - Bulan Campus; Jiv C. Libera, Divine World College; Maryvil O. Rebancos, University of Nueva Caceres; Darijun M. Saldaña, UP - Visayas Tadloban College; Angel Mae M. Mendoza, Divine World College; Julie Ann M. Molina, Mariano Marcos State University - CBEA; Michael Jay C. Motol, UP - Visayas Tadloban College; Van Richard P. Mendoza, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila; Angel Mae M. Mendoza, Divine World College; Juke Ann M. Molina, Mariano Marcos State University - CBEA; Jerome C. Montoya, Tarlac State University; Nico A. Ojarte, University of Nueva Caceres; Regine C. Rabino, Sorsogon State College - Bulan Campus; Dawn Maneli B. Ramones, Mariano Marcos State University - CBEA; John Wilford Ranay, Mariano Marcos State University - CBEA; Mary Lil O. Relanzon, University of Nueva Caceres; Karin M. Saldaña, UP - Visayas Tadloban College; Regine B. Sales, Tarlac State University; John Luis L. Santos, Tarlac State University; Sherwin Paul L. Tambo, Mariano Marcos State University - CBEA; and Chelsea L. Valdevanos, Mariano Marcos State University - CBEA.
The Westin Doha Hotel & Spa marks Global Running Day

The Westin Doha Hotel and Spa, in collaboration with Liz McColgan, the renowned Olympic athlete as well as the founder of Doha Athletic Club, recently organised a community run race as part of Global Running Day celebrations, stated a press release.

This year, Westin has brought the activation in conjunction with unveiling the new Eat Well culinary programme it also focused on three main brand pillars – Eat Well, Move Well, Sleep Well throughout the whole activity.

The event took place at Al Sadd Running Track and gathered around 150 participants from different nationalities which consisted of children from 8 to 16 years old, adults, hotel staff, Heavenly Spa members and members of Doha Athletic Club.

The hotel offered attendees a selection of healthy snacks, including avocado hummus with pita chips, smoothies, quinoa-pumpkin salad, homemade oat and peanut butter granola bars. The selection of the food has been carefully crafted in order to focus on the new Eat Well menu which aims to promote good nutrition and better eating habits. Additionally, the winners were recognised with personalised medals and certificates to thank them for their participation.

Ammar Samad, Hotel Manager at The Westin Doha Hotel & Spa, said, “Global Running Day is such a great activation for Westin Hotels around the world. We are truly happy to organise in collaboration with Liz this important activity because the well-being of our guests and community is our utmost priority.” He added, “The launch of the new Eat Well programme and incorporating it with this event is the best opportunity to highlight the importance of healthy nutrition, its positive effects on exercise routines and sleeping patterns.”

Liz McColgan said, “Doha Athletic Club is proud to collaborate with The Westin Doha Hotel & Spa to celebrate the Global Running Day and we do encourage the community in Doha to get active by running.”

Dusit International appoints new GM at Dusit Doha Hotel

Dusit International, one of Thailand’s leading hotel and property development companies, has recently announced the appointment of Gerhard Stutz as the General Manager of Dusit Doha Hotel and Dusit Doha Hotel & Suites – the first Dusit-branded properties in Qatar, stated a press release.

Stutz, a German national, brings to the role more than 30 years of experience gained from leadership positions in five-star hotels and restaurants across Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

Prior to joining Dusit International, he was Pre-Opening General Manager of the Hotel Salsabil by Warwick. He also spent more than 15 years working for Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts in senior management positions, including Executive Chef, Director of Food and Beverage, Hotel Manager, and General Manager.

He joined Dusit Doha Hotel in the pre-opening stage of the property in July 2018, and subsequently played an instrumental role in leading the hotel towards a successful opening in April this year. He is now tasked with establishing the hotel as one of the market leaders in Qatar, as well as preparing Dusit Doha Hotel and Suites for opening soon.

On his appointment, Stutz said, “It has been a great opportunity for me to steer the project right from the start and finally bring it to life for the people of Qatar. I am overwhelmed with the trust and confidence the executive board members of Al Majed Group and Dusit International have bestowed upon me to make it happen. I am confident that our experienced team at Dusit Doha Hotel will deliver exceptional results for the brand and will provide guests with the ultimate in luxury and comfort, uniquely delivering Dusit’s unique brand of Thai-inspired gracious hospitality while capturing the true essence of Qatari hospitality inspired by the rich heritage and culture of the country.”

FELICITATION: Centre for Indian Community (CIC) – Rayyan zone recently felicitated the toppers of various examinations. Felicitation ceremony was chaired by Mohamed Ali Shanthapuram, President of CIC Rayyan Zone. Ahmed Shaif, Secretary of CIC, welcomed the gathering and Abdul Jaleel, also the Secretary of CIC, proposed a vote of thanks. The toppers, included Amar Hamdan, Mishal Haris and Mohammed Arshad, Majlis Public Examination; Hana Abulaize, and Wajid Ajmal, Secondary Madrasa; Safwan Abdulrahman Kavil, Ridha Fathima and Hisham Ahmed Anwar, Grade X CBSE examination.
The disappearing garden of Istanbul

Control of Istanbul’s Alfred Heilbronn Botanical Garden has been transferred from university botanists to a religious body that plans to build on it. The botanists fear a priceless piece of the city’s horticultural history will be lost, writes Christine Felice Roehrs and Linda Say.

The roots of an old ginkgo tree already lie exposed, due to the trenches that are being dug through the garden. Stones and sand lie strewn across a pavement. It looks like a construction site. Right in the heart of Istanbul, a piece of nature steeped in history is quietly disappearing from the public eye: the first botanical garden of the Republic of Turkey, founded in 1839.

The garden is still home to some 3,500 plant species. The botanists say they have seen plans for the gardens. The front garden, which has already been torn open, will surely be lost, together with the adjacent institute building, which was emptied in 2018. The garden contains primeval African plants and a Sequoia sempervirens, which can live to be many hundreds of years old. Only it probably won’t last that long here in Istanbul.

Kurt Heilbronn says, however, that the larger back garden is supposed to be preserved even after the new building work – at least that’s what a member of the Directorate of Religious Affairs has told him. This does little to reassure the botanists. They fear that the construction work alone, with all the dirt and vehicles, will kill many plants.

The German Ambassador to Turkey, Martin Erdmann, has become involved in the matter and personally wrote a letter to the Minister of Culture. The garden is a special sign of German-Turkish solidarity, he wrote. One would regret the loss very much. He never got a reply. “Ultimately, this is an internal Turkish affair,” Erdmann has said. “Unfortunately, we can’t do any more.”

The garden already seems neglected. There are weeds everywhere, old leaves form rustling carpets along paths, the information plaques are broken. Alfred Heilbronn had some of the old ones made of porcelain that was imported from Germany.

What saddens me is that Turkey is so neglectful of its scientific heritage,” says his son.

The ‘old professor’ was the founder of the garden and also co-founder of the entire Botanical Institute. In 1933, Alfred Heilbronn, a botany professor from Muenster, fled Nazi Germany. ‘Alfred Heilbronn Botanik Bahces’ was the name of the garden until recently. Now, the sign above the gate has been removed, leaving just a piece of rusty metal with holes, where the screws once attached the sign. A piece of German-Turkish history has been lost.

In the 1930s, under the secular and Western-oriented founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the country took in many Jewish academics fleeing Germany and recruited them for its major university reform.

“My father was suspended by the Nazis in Muenster in 1933,” his 67-year-old son, Kurt Heilbronn, said during a visit to Istanbul in April. Alfred Heilbronn first went to Switzerland. There, the Emergency Association of German Science helped him to find a job in Turkey. “He received four times his salary and an apartment – at a time when Jews were being persecuted in Europe,” his son explains.

Heilbronn’s garden is located in the middle of Istanbul: a prime location just behind the famous 16th-century Suleymaniye Mosque and above the Bosporus. It is terraced and so there are multiple views of the blue water, the Golden Horn and the Galat Tower down below. Perhaps this knock-out view is the real reason for the ‘expropriation,’ as the botanists bitterly call what has happened. “Who doesn’t want this here?” says one of them, pointing to the Bosporus.

For our botanist, what is happening to the garden is a metaphor for the wider developments in the country. “I describe it as a kind of counterrevolution,” he says. The reform-minded founder of the state made the land available for education at the time. Now the garden is being taken away from an educational institution and given to the religious authorities, he says. “Everything Ataturk did will be reversed.”

What exactly will remain of the work of the German professor is unclear. The Directorate of Religious Affairs did not respond to requests for comments.

The botanists say they have seen plans for the gardens. The front garden, which has already been torn open, will surely be lost, together with the adjacent institute building, which was emptied in 2018. The garden contains primeval African plants and a Sequoia sempervirens, which can live to be many hundreds of years old. Only it probably won’t last that long here in Istanbul.

“The man is over 60,” says an employee of the institute. Quiet panic creeps into his voice as he thinks of the 178 trees, potted plants, bushes and shrubs on the more than 10,000-square-metre site, which all need to be watered and cared for.

The garden is still home to around 3,500 plant species. The botanist, who doesn’t want to be
Street photography — also sometimes referred to as candid photography — is defined as a genre of photography conducted for art or enquiry that features unmediated chance encounters and random incidents within public places. Street photographers are often also writers or artists as they come up with finished products that tell a story. There are many places in Qatar for street photography such as Souq Waqif, Katara, but it can be hard to do street photography in Qatar due to the hot weather.

Qatar is a place that has different and unique scenes and places which offer great photography opportunities. There are different types of photography as well, such as astrophotography, architectural photography, sports photography which are easy to capture in and around Doha.

— Photos and text by Arjun Chhabra
Smart ways to style bottom wear

If you want to up your style game, just wearing trendy bottoms like boyfriend jeans and culottes is not the answer. Styling them ensures you stand out and look like a diva, say experts.

Abhishek Yadav, Design Head, Spykar Lifestyle, and Nelson Jaffery, Head of Design, Liva, have a few suggestions:

- **Boyfriend jeans**: These jeans channel the 'laid-back chic' vibe infused with boyish charm, courtesy of the boyfriend. They have a relaxed, slouchy fit but are also available in tapered and slimmer versions. For a grungy, subversive look, opt for a pair of distressed, washed out boyfriend jeans. Pair it with a plain white tee and an oversized denim shirt. Accessorise with white sneakers and cowboy belt.

- **High waist skinny jeans**: They have become something of a wardrobe classic. They are universally stylish and everyone owns a pair. They are the go to jeans for low-key days. For a chic and stylish look, pair your high waist skinny jeans with a bustier top or a fitted crop top. Layer them with a smart casual blazer and stilettos for a santee or a fancy evening.

- **Culottes**: Culottes epitomise the versatility and stylishness of the modern city girl. With a wider silhouette and mid-calf length, denim culottes are the ‘street style stopper’ of the season. Style them with crop top to break the monotony of the culottes. Keep in mind the fabric of your culottes to ensure the fall flatters you. Fabrics like viscose are ideal for such looks. Style them with a jacket to add some spunk to your outfit.

- **Palazzo**: Wearing solid or printed palazzos can make you look like a showstopper. They help you in standing out and achieving a picture-perfect look for some casuals as well as elegant occasions. It’s not surprising since very few garments can match the level of comfort and elegance packed in the outfits designed using viscose, which is comfortable, soft, 100 per cent natural, and eco-friendly at the same time. Pair your palazzos with a bralette for a casual party look and add a blazer to transform your look and take it to the next level. — IANS
Wordsearch

Z V X F O E B E R K C I L C Z
C I T T H E B E E E E A L H F K
U R X A C A S S I R J J E E L
U U C T P W I K R C U R A U O
D S E O X P Q B P T V R R B
O F E R L O G S K N I L C I T
W W B A C K G R O U N D G F S
N M C D R O W S S A P C M Y E
L O M Y I C L I C O U O I M U
O D S I T E H M E B C T A J G
A E X A P U H E V T H I T A L
D M I O T P J I O T L H S V M
Y A W H G I H D T O H M U A T
H O M E P A G E A S L F T P H
E G W S V L C N O J B G K D M

BACKGROUND
FETCH
LINKS
BROWSER
FTP
MODEM
CGI
GUEST BOOK
PASSWORD

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

2 5 7 4
1 6
2 4 9 3 7
6 4
9 7 6 4 1
9
8 6 4 7
6 2

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. The numbers on the grid give you clues to help you solve the puzzle.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Indian instrument is taken back by sailor (5)
4 Turn away from lifesaver tearfully (5)
7 Somewhere in Oz small outlaw tucked into cheese (8)
8 Only turning to one instrument (4)
9 Look sulky when up to no good? (4)
10 It loves wild flowers (7)
12 Is it an end to wandering? (11)
14 Go in front of piano and go back (7)
16 Some food I never eat (4)
19 Branch openings for leader in merchant banking (4)
20 Popeye’s girl is going round with chaps - that’s a bad sign (4,4)
21 Group appearing in Copenhagen usually (5)
22 Irritable Jury’s conclusion after trial (5)

Down
1 Abandon the fight (5)
2 Thriller’s first editions? They’re disposable (7)
3 Horse, perhaps, making Nora batty! (4)
4 US snap in camera? (8)
5 Praise former road charge? Not entirely! (5)
6 Asian giant holding empty bottle (7)
11 They’s not straight with trio summoned by old king (8)
12 Labrador’s lead concealed by audacious pet (7)
13 First person taken by northern clubs as a prisoner? (2,5)
15 Murderer outside second-class compartment (5)
17 Sad poem, for example, in cathedral city (5)
18 Suggestion from monarch in trouble (4)

Colouring

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword
I keep my political views aside as an actor, says Mohit

Mohit Raina, who is gearing up for the premiere of his first web series Kaafir that is set in Kashmir, says as a professional actor he keeps his political views aside.

Born and brought up in Jammu, Mohit is well-versed with the socio-political situation in Kashmir.

Asked if the knowledge helped him to understand the story better, Mohit said: “Yes, it is true that I am well aware of the situation there in Kashmir… therefore, people’s mind… I would understand the loss and prayers that they believe… but that did not help me in understanding the character really, I followed the narration.”

“Being a professional actor, I am supposed to keep my political views aside. I did that.”

“My character should not depict my individual belief; rather subtly deliver the message of the story. As an actor, I must not forget that I am working on a very impressionable and influential medium of entertainment,” he explained.

The story of the show revolves around a woman named Kainaaz Akhtar (actress Dia Mirza) who is a Pakistani imprisoned in Kashmir and is accused of being a militant. She also delivers a girl in the jail. Mohit, on the other hand, is playing the character of an Indian journalist, Vedant.

“Despite all the conflicts over there, every morning people wake up with a hope to have a beautiful day. People in the valley believe in the power of prayer, the only factor drives them, or perhaps all of us, is that ‘ek din sab kuch theek ho jayega’ (one day things will be fine),” Mohit shared.

He had shot to fame by playing Mahadev in the TV show Devon Ke Dev… Mahadev. He also appeared in shows like Chakravartin Ashoka Samrat and 21 Sarfarosh – Saragarhi 1897. His performance in the film Uri – The Surgical Strike alongside Vicky Kaushal got appreciation.

“I started as a model and went on to acting on television. Since I managed to make my mark there as an actor, for me, the natural progression was to try my luck in films. Of course, I am doing that but at the same time, I will explore this platform of digital entertainment that did not exist 10 years ago,” he said.

“For an actor, more than proving versatility, what excites are stories and characters that are unexplored.

“When I heard the story of Kaafir, I got excited not because it is a web series and will reach out to so many countries at the same time… I did the story because the character is layered and very interesting, something I have never done,” added Mohit.

Written by Bhavani Iyer and directed by Sonam Nair, Kaafir started streaming on ZEE5 from June 15.

What is the biggest takeaway for the audience from Kaafir?

The actor said: “I think one of the most important things that will happen to the audience after watching the story is, they will build back faith in humanity, which is beyond religion.

“People will walk up to a stranger and start talking...perhaps to build people to people friendship, that is the very essence of humanity and that is what the story depicts.”

NEW PROJECT: Mohit Raina is playing a journalist in his first web series Kaafir.

Criticism pinches, says Katrina

Bharat actress Katrina Kaif, who has been lauded for her evolution as an artiste, believes in being detached from the end result and to keep working on her craft to be better with every film.

“If I am too attached to the end result, the focus is not on the process. If the focus is not on the process, the end result cannot be achieved. Of course, praises make me feel good and criticism pinches, but that law cannot be changed,” said the actress.

After last year’s Zero in which Katrina’s work in which Katrina’s work was applauded, Bharat has elicited a positive word for her acting skills.

Talking about the new phase of her career where she is doing the balancing act of keeping everyone – audience and critics – happy, Katrina said, “I have been hearing this for some time, especially during the promotion of Bharat.

“Thus, I went online and looked at the reviews of my initial days. I actually got some positive reviews for films like Namastey London, New York and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara. In between some films didn’t do well, which made people start talking about that bad phase.”

Katrina, 35, was appreciated for the film Sarkar in 2005 and bagged awards for movies like Raajneeti, Jab Tak Hai Jaan, Ek Tha Tiger, Raajneeti and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara.

“That’s when I realised I have to continuously do well to maintain that good phase. Of course, there will be bad phases and that are only natural. There is no actor who can claim that all his/her films are doing well. It comes for everyone, we all have our highs and lows.

“When we have lows, they stick for a while. When we have highs, they stick for a while too. In lows, I have to have the tough skin, introspect what am I doing, how to make it better. When the great phase comes, people acknowledge my performance. Then also I have to see what have I done right, without getting too attached to the end result.” – IANS

Parineeti ready for comparisons with Emily Blunt

Actor Parineeti Chopra, set to start the official remake of The Girl on the Train, knows comparisons with Emily Blunt who essayed the protagonist in the Hollywood thriller, are inevitable. Parineeti says she found Blunt’s performance in the movie mind-blowing.

“It is a privilege for me to play the character that she has essayed so brilliantly on screen. The restrain and range she showed as an actor while playing a girl who is troubled and battling herself in the film showed what a brilliant actor she is, ” Parineeti said in a statement.

“When any actor does a remake of a loved film, there are expectations to match the original, if not better. So, I realise that audience will look at our film and draw comparisons to the original as well as compare my portrayal of the protagonist versus Emily’s,” she added.

She said the best way to deal with it is to “embrace the fact that parallels will be drawn”.

“Since the original film was so well-received by people, I’m hoping my film will also receive equal acclaim. I’m not thinking too much about the comparisons because I want to do my best to bring this character to life for Indian audiences,” Parineeti said.

Based on the 2015 bestseller by Paula Hawkins, the film narrates the story of a divorcee woman who gets entangled in a missing persons investigation that throws her life to the brink. For Parineeti, watching Emily’s version of the story is a great reference point, and said: “I have always wanted to challenge myself to be produced by Reliance Entertainment, the film will be directed by Ribhu Dasgupta. – IANS
The face of the format
15 reasons Carrie Underwood rules modern country music

By Jon Bream

Carrie Underwood is the undisputed queen of modern country music. She has scored 15 No. 1 country singles, sold more than 55 million albums and captured seven Grammys, 14 Academy of Country Music Awards and seven Country Music Association (CMA) awards. As radio programmers say: “She is the face of the format.”

With the 36-year-old Oklahoman on a national tour, we offer 15 reasons why Underwood rules.

Idolised: While winning American Idol in 2005, she built a tremendous fan base who knew her small-town back story, girl-next-door personality and big, versatile voice. America was rooting for her. Underwood’s label, UMG Nashville, now, said Cindy Mabe, president of Underwood’s label, UMG Nashville. “They don’t build TV shows in this format, or outside this format, without her,” Mabe told Pollstar. To wit: Since 2013, she has belted the opening theme song for the NFL’s Sunday Night Football telecast.

Attractive: PETA has named Underwood the most attractive vegetarian more than once. She’s not afraid to get sexy in dress or song. Said Gleason: “When she’s in black Swarovski crystals-encrusted hot pants and 6-inch heels, people still see her as uber Barbie.”

Community: Fifteen years into her recording career, Underwood is still going strong. Country radio programmer Phelan doesn’t underestimate the sonic vibe of her songs. “Whether they’re power ballads or rockin’ out like Moomin Away, there’s momentum to them,” he said. “People subconsciously crave momentum. It’s hard to take a break in today’s society!”

And it’s hard for country music to take a break from Carrie Underwood. – Star Tribune (Minneapolis)/TNS

DJ Snake, J Balvin, Tyga join hands for summer anthem

DJ Snake, J Balvin and rapper Tyga have shared a new summer anthem called Loco Contigo.

“Loco Contigo official video out now,” DJ Snake tweeted last Thursday.

The video has been directed by Colin Tilley, known for his work with artists like Kendrick Lamar, Rihanna and Nicki Minaj.

With its attractive rhythms, otherworldly beats and undeniable melodies, Loco Contigo finds DJ Snake and his collaborators redefining Latin music for today’s pop landscape, read a statement. Latin Grammy Award-winner J Balvin graces the track with his smooth vocals and the magnetic presence that has made him one of the world’s most-streamed artists.

Meanwhile, Tyga brings the supreme flow shown on his just-released seventh album Legendary, featuring the hit song Taste.

Loco Contigo is the latest in DJ Snake’s series of powerhouse singles, including the all-star hip-hop anthem Enzo – a collaboration with Sheek Wes, and featuring Offset, 21 Savage and Gucci Mane, and the smash hit Tiki Tiki, featuring Selena Gomez, Ozuna and Cardi B. – IANS

OTHERWORLDLY: With its attractive rhythms, otherworldly beats and undeniable melodies, Loco Contigo finds DJ Snake and his collaborators redefining Latin music.
I was a double treat for Indonesian children from Mesaieed at Summer Entertainment City (SEC) as they first got to perform cultural shows and then enjoyed different amusement activities at the facility.

A troupe of young students from Mesaieed, mostly the students of Mesaieed International School (MIS), recently displayed amazing entertaining musical performances at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center.

There were families and children present at the facility in large numbers and they really appreciated the performance of the group named Sanggar Seni (Art Club) Mesaieed. The young children clad in traditional Indonesian clothes lightened up the stage enchanting the audience with their charming dance movements.

The SEC organisers have set up a stage on the right corner of DEC to hold different cultural performances by different community artiste groups. The cultural shows have proven to be a big entertainment activity for those who visit the SEC with their families.

Felisia Ika Ristiani is a housewife and one of the six people who trained the young children. She was seemingly overjoyed by the performance of the kids and the response they got from the audience. Talking to Community, Ika said: “I am the teacher for dance class and angklung class. We are six moms running the club, Sanggar Seni Mesaieed. The others are namely; Anita Prabawa, Tri Rusitiansingrum, Neny Qorouriati, Nanik Mawarti, and Diana Pratiwi. We also have full support from all parents who help us in having many arrangements to keep this club going. And important thing is that we have full support from Mesaieed International School (one of QP schools), which accommodates us in providing place for practicing every week.”

She added: “The kids are always excited when there comes the time to perform in SEC. They actually have so many entertainment facilities at SEC after they finished their cultural performance. Even today, they will not be ready to leave for home till late at night as they will enjoy different rides and swings that SEC offers. They want to enjoy all the rides, games, and other performances as well.

“Further, it is very great to have full support from our embassy in Doha. Our performance today was also witnessed by our ambassador Muhammad Basri Sidehabi and our staff of the embassy.”

When asked to explain the performances that the children presented, she said: “The first performance was called ‘Dance Gemufamire’. It is originated from Maumere, East of Nusa Tenggara. It represents Indonesian motto, ‘Bhinneka Tunggal Ika’ – meaning unity in diversity.”

Muhammad Basri Sidehabi, who enjoyed the dances with other Indonesian community members, said: “Every year, there is SEC in Doha and every year there is an Indonesian cultural performance at the facility. We support the SEC organisers in having culturally diverse activities at the stage. You have seen that our talented children have brought forth different cultural performances.

“We have a strong Indonesian community in Qatar. The Indonesian expatriates are mostly professionals working in different walks of life here. As an ambassador, I am very proud to see our cultural performance here.

“I believe such opportunities as offering cultural performances at the SEC will further promote the Indonesian culture. People all over the world live and work in Qatar. The SEC is a place where all people like to come with families. Our performance here introduces our culture to the people of diverse backgrounds. I think it also helps us in furthering our ties with different communities in Qatar.”