British filmmaker Jamie Riordan hails the rise of Qatar’s film industry. P4-5

Progress at pace

FERTILE ENVIRONMENT: “We are very lucky to be working in an ambitious, fertile market with bold, dynamic people from all over the world,” says Jamie Riordan, Head of Production for The Edge Picture Company in Qatar.

YOUR PAGE, YOUR STAGE!

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

— PHOTO ESSAY, Page 10

GULF TIMES COMMUNITY

QUIZ

Time for celebration.

Page 11

BACK PAGE

Uganda expat believes Ramadan is a time to re-examine.

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**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr: 3.14am
- Shoroon (sunrise): 4.45am
- Zuhur (noon): 11.33am
- Asr (afternoon): 2.57pm
- Maghreb (sunset): 6.22pm
- Isha (night): 7.52pm

**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 General Electricity and Water Corporation: 44845555, 44845464
- Primary Health Care Corporation: 44593333
- Qatar Assistive Technology Centre: 44593363
- Qatar News Agency: 44450205, 44450333
- Humanitarian Services Office (Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies):
  - Ministry of Interior: 40253372, 40253372
  - Ministry of Health: 40253364, 40253364
  - Qatar Airways: 40253374

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**NGK**

**DIRECTOR:** K Selvaraghavan  
**CAST:** Suriya, Rakul Preet Singh, Sai Pallavi  
**SYNOPSIS:** Nandha Gopalan Kumaran (NGK), a charismatic young man, embarks on a political journey that brings about an unprecedented socio-political revolution.  
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

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**Ma**

**DIRECTOR:** Tate Taylor  
**CAST:** Octavia Spencer, Diana Silvers, Juliette Lewis  
**SYNOPSIS:** A lonely middle-aged woman befriends some teenagers and decides to let them hang out in the basement of her home. But there are some house rules: Don’t curse, and never go upstairs. They must also refer to her as Ma. But as Ma’s hospitality starts to curdle into obsession, what began as a teenage dream turns into a terrifying nightmare, and Ma’s place goes from the best place in town to the worst place on Earth.  
**THEATRES:** Landmark, Royal Plaza

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**Quote Unquote**

“Everything you can imagine is real.”  
— Pablo Picasso

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**The Mall Cinema (1):** Devi 2 (Tamil) 2:30pm; NGK (Tamil) 8:30pm; Devi 2 (Tamil) 11:15pm.  
**The Mall Cinema (2):** Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 8:30pm; Avengers: Endgame (2D) 11pm.  
**The Mall Cinema (3):** NGK (Tamil) 2:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 9pm; NGK (Tamil) 11:15pm.  
**Landmark Cinema (1):** Devi 2 (Tamil) 2:30pm; Devi 2 (Tamil) 9pm; Ma (2D) 11:15pm.  
**Landmark Cinema (2):** NGK (Tamil) 2:30pm; NGK (Tamil) 8:30pm; NGK (Tamil) 11:15pm.  
**Landmark Cinema (3):** Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 8:30pm; Avengers: Endgame (2D) 11pm.  
**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):** NGK (Tamil) 2:30pm; NGK (Tamil) 8:30pm; NGK (Tamil) 11:15pm.  
**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):** Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 8:30pm; Ma (2D) 11pm.  
**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3):** Devi 2 (Tamil) 2:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 9pm; Devi 2 (Tamil) 11:15pm.
**EVENTS**

**MF Hussain: The Horses Of The Sun Exhibition**
**WHERE:** Mafa: Arab Museum of Modern Art  
**WHEN:** Ongoing till July 31  
**TIME:** 9am – 7pm  
The exhibition presents Hussain’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. Hussain: Horses of the Sun bears witness to a recurrent motif in his art, a personal symbol of self-renewal and vitality.

**Katara Drive Thru Festival**
**WHERE:** Katara – the Cultural Village  
**WHEN:** Ongoing till June 10  
**TIME:** 6pm – 4am  
Join us at Katara – the Cultural Village and enjoy the diverse cuisines at your car step! From first day of Ramadan until Eid holidays starting from 5pm till 2am.

**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.

**Sunset Desert Safari with Iftar**
**WHERE:** Sealine Beach  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
**TIME:** 2pm – 10pm  
Enjoy a day out in the relaxing singing sand dunes of Mesaeed along with a thrilling dune bashing experience. This 8-hour getaway takes you all the way to the breath-taking inland sea beach aka Khor Al Adaid to watch the Sunset. Break your fast with lavish Iftar at the resort. Only for QR280 per person.

**Summer Camp for Special Needs**
**WHERE:** Step by Step Centre for Special Needs  
**WHEN:** June 30 – August 1  
**TIME:** 8:00am – 12:30pm  
During this time, all therapists and teachers will be working together, running individual, peer and group sessions within classes. The children will continue learning age-appropriate concepts, work on social skills, life skills training, arts and crafts, music, and fun activities such as water play.

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

**Ballet Lessons**
**WHERE:** Music and Arts Atelier  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
**TIME:** 4pm – 8pm  
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003839.

**Career Guidance**
**WHERE:** Right Track Consultants, Al Sadd  
**WHEN:** Sunday – Thursday  
**TIME:** 6pm – 8pm  
Career guidance for course, country, college and entrance for students of Grade IX-XII, of all curriculum. Career assessments administered for stream preference, career test, branch preference, personality, multiple intelligence and learning styles and productivity. For more information, 55448835.

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

**Hobby Classes**
**WHERE:** Mamangam Performing Art Centre  
**WHEN:** Wednesday – Monday  
Mamangam Performing Art Centre, is a holistic performing arts institution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip hop, Indian classical dance, music (Hindustani and Carnatic), arts and craft, karate, yoga, percussion (Chenda, Thimila, Elathalam and Madhalam), violin, harmonium, public speaking. Additional services include dance education, choreograph music videos and dance cover albums, choreograph dance musical projects, corporate workshops and events, choreograph events for schools, colleges, alumni meets and corporate and choreography events. For details, call 33907609.

**Dance and Instrument Classes**
**WHERE:** TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building  
**WHEN:** Wednesday – Monday  
Learn the movements of dance styles in Bollywood, Hip Hop and also the musical instruments such as Piano, Guitar, Keyboard for adults as well kids and move in the world of music. For details, contact 66523871/31326749.

**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

**Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change**
“There’s a real can-do attitude in Qatar”

— Jamie Riordan, Head of Production for The Edge Picture Company in Qatar

We pride ourselves at thinking outside of the box. We look at every project and every company differently. Our films have a lot of thought process going into the scripting, production and delivery

— Jamie Riordan

By Mudassir Raja

Edge Picture Company, a British film production company, also has a regional office in Qatar. It was recently crowned Production Company of The Year Worldwide for the 13th year running at the New York Festival TV & Film Awards 2019.

The company was also crowned number one in Television’s Peer Poll 2019, and number two in the overall Top 50 companies, for its successful collaboration with some of the top-notch entities in Qatar including National Tourism Council, ExxonMobil, Sidra, Ooredoo, Qatar National Bank, Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, and Qatar Petroleum.

Jamie Riordan is a British expatriate and Head of Production for The Edge Picture Company in Qatar. Community recently got in touch with the talented film director and producer to know more about his expertise and achievements.

Please tell us about your journey so far.

I started in the film and TV industry in London over 20 years ago with a varied career that spans documentary filmmaking in Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, and broadcast news in UK, British television in all its guises and commercial and corporate film.

I came to Qatar in 2009 for the Doha Tribeca Film Festival (DTFF) where I met my wife Victoria. We have two children Aya and Margaux. We fell in love with Qatar and after two years of returning for DTFF, I
finally took a position with the Doha Film Institute (DFI). After a couple of years with DFI, The Edge approached me to open their first office in Qatar, an offer that was hard to refuse and in 2014, I joined The Edge and started to build our team here.

What kind of work has The Edge been doing in Qatar? What are the things that you find unique about the Qatari market?

Qatar is unique in many ways. The cultural diversity you find with people from all over the world living and working together brings such value to a creative business. At The Edge, we have employees from all corners of the globe, bringing their own ideas to the table which enriches the work we do. There is a real can-do attitude in Qatar, which is visible from the very top of Qatar’s leadership. This attitude runs deep in Qatari spirit. You can see that with the blockade, and this sentiment is passed down through the community and businesses alike. We see it in our employees in Doha all the time. We regularly turn around high profile film productions in record time.

What were the challenges that you faced when you first established your office here?
The Edge already had a solid footprint in Qatar when we opened the office in 2014. Our first project was the inauguration of Weil Cornell Medicine – Qatar back in 2005, so we were already well-known in the market. In that first year of being an official Qatari company, we won the prestigious Qatar Tourism Authority Brand Film which went on to win 11 international film awards, as well as a massive three year contract with the US Embassy documenting the Linus Expressway. The biggest challenge can be finding talent, and last minute sometimes too, but when you find them, they are worth the wait, we are so proud of our team at The Edge. Networking is key to finding talent and I was fortunate to have first come to Qatar with the Doha Tribeca Film Festival back in 2006, followed by a senior position at Doha Film Institute, so this background and local knowledge was a great resource in finding talent to join our expanding team.

Can you share some of the successes of your company?
As a global agency, we produce over 400 films a year, and a large percentage of those go on to be award winners. It’s always such a privilege to win awards for our clients, and it also gives real recognition to the team involved, from the writers to producers to post production and distribution team. The Edge have been crowned Production Company of the Year at New York Festivals for 13 years in a row. We regularly win awards at major festivals in Cannes, London and New York. Recently we produced a film for Sidra hospital to help build awareness about child abuse. The film also won awards at the London Brand Film Festival, The London Film Awards and The Cannes Film Awards.

What are some of the most prominent works that you have accomplished for Qatari institutions or projects that you are proud of?
It’s a long list, but recently we just completed 120 films for National Museum of Qatar as well as the digital documenting of 1000’s of artefacts which was a real honour and privilege.
A recent production for Shafallah Centre with ExxonMobil is something I am personally proud of. We were tasked with making a film that encourages inclusiveness, understanding and compassion for children living with intellectual disabilities. It’s a really important film that shows that just because people are different, they still absolutely have a role to play in family, society, and in the workplace. I was privileged to write and direct the film. It was really rewarding to work with the wonderful staff of Shafallah and their talented students.

What is the value you bring to the projects you undertake?
We pride ourselves at thinking outside of the box. We look at every project and every company differently. We work closely with the client so that we understand their brand philosophy, messaging and values, then come back to them with a fresh way at telling their story. We never forget that film is a powerful communication tool and our films have a lot of thought process going into the scripting, production and delivery.

The Edge Qatar works in harmony with our mother-ship, and we tap into a large creative development team when coming up with ideas that may not have been seen before in Qatar. Our local producers can reach out to our London team for specialist talent, such as 3D animators, or high-end grading, and we have a fantastic pool of producers and directors that come from London theatre, BBC drama, animation studios and British advertising.
We also take a project from ideation through to distribution, so when coming up with the creative we are also thinking about it in terms of delivery - will this be shown on YouTube, do we need social media etc.

The country as a whole is developing at an unprecedented pace in all sectors and Qatar’s film industry is no exception. DFI returning from Festival de Cannes recently with success in 7 official selections of their funded and co-funded films is a testament to the incredible growth and appreciation for Qatari film.

How much has the film production changed or improved over the years?
Film production has changed an incredible amount since I first started out. When I was working in post-production in London in the early 2000’s, at that time we were still editing on tape with hugely expensive hardware driven AVID machines. The digital shift has done away with the hardware expense of filmmaking and made it much more accessible to anyone who wants to get involved. This has allowed more people to share their stories with the world and Qatar is a shining example of a country that has a flare and passion for storytelling.
We are very lucky to be working in an ambitious, fertile market with bold, dynamic people from all over the world. As a company, we keep an eye on the shifts and trends in technology and how film is shared and distributed. We have explored and use a wide range of technologies as new ways of telling stories such as Virtual and Augmented Reality.
But regardless of the camera, the technique, or the trend, it’s the story that is always at the heart of our films, how it is told, what it says and most importantly how it makes an audience feel, react or change. It’s a powerful medium with the real ability to make a change.

What do you think is the future of film production in Qatar?
Qatar’s film production is on an upswing and I think we can’t see that trend stopping anytime soon. We’re seeing our clients have a stronger appetite for more dynamic and bolder films and they’re always looking to collaborate on ideas outside of the box. The country as a whole is developing at an unprecedented pace in all sectors and Qatar’s film industry is no exception. DFI returning from Festival de Cannes recently with success in 7 official selections of their funded and co-funded films is a testament to the incredible growth and appreciation for Qatari film. In the 10 years I have been here, I have seen Qatari filmmakers grow and present their films on the international platform – an incredible achievement for Qatar’s film industry and a tribute to the success and creativity of the people of Qatar.

What are the things you like about Qatar?
What I love about Qatar is that every week there is something amazing to see, my former boss, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa has a lot to be thanked for this.
The new National Museum of Qatar is spellbinding. You can walk under a Louise Bourgeois Spider at Qatar National Convention Center, I have watched the China State ballet perform The Nutcracker with my daughter, I’ve seen the sunset at Richard Serra East-West-East/West-East statues in the desert, as well as the huge collection of Damien Hurst that was here a few years back. For an art lover, it is a real privilege to live in a country where art is appreciated, and as the leadership commissions new pieces and acquires old, I look forward to seeing what will be next on the peninsula’s canvas.
Embassy of Nepal celebrates Republic Day

The Embassy of Nepal recently organised an event to mark 12th Republic Day of Nepal. Lakshuman Khanal, acting Ambassador of Nepal, chaired the event. Reecha Bhatterai, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Nepal, welcomed the gathering. The event was attended by notable personalities of Nepali community, including businesspersons, engineers, doctors, social workers and journalists. Lakshuman Khanal hoisted the national flag. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Republic Day of Nepal inspire and unite all Nepalis to work for the national integrity and prosperity through Federal Democratic Republic form of governance. He said that democratic elections at all three tiers of federal structure have been concluded in 2017 and the government of Nepal now remains strongly centred to achieve sustained peace, progress, social justice, economic development and prosperity of Nepali people with the motto of ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepal.’

He also highlighted the existing bilateral relations between Nepal and Qatar and thanked the government and people of Qatar for hosting more than four hundred thousand Nepali nationals in Qatar. Saligram Pokheral and Dr Nitesh Aryal also spoke on the occasion. The event was hosted by Praben Bhatterai, Second Secretary at Embassy of Nepal.

– Text and photos by Usha Wagle

Anti-Smoking Society marks World No Tobacco Day 2019

Anti-Smoking Society recently organised an event to mark World No Tobacco Day 2019 celebrations at Skills Development Centre. Dr Mohammed Asad, Tobacco Monitoring Department at the Ministry of Public Health, inaugurated the event. He observed that tobacco culture influenced generations on account of traditions, religious beliefs and false notions. But now after years of scientific research and studies the world has succeeded in convincing the serious health hazards of smoking and smoking is viewed as a social evil.

Tobacco smoking is the primary cause for lung cancer, responsible for over two thirds of lung cancer deaths globally. Second-hand smoke exposure at home or in the work place also increases risk of lung cancer. Quitting smoking can reduce the risk of lung cancer: after 10 years of quitting smoking, risk of lung cancer falls to about half that of a smoker. It is well documented that tobacco smoking is the leading cause of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a condition where the build-up of pus-filled mucus in the lungs results in a painful cough and agonising breathing difficulties. The risk of developing COPD is particularly high among individuals who start smoking at a young age, as tobacco smoke significantly slows lung development. Tobacco also exacerbates asthma, which restricts activity and contributes to disability. Early smoking cessation is the most effective treatment for slowing the progression of COPD and improving asthma symptoms.

Infants exposed in utero to tobacco smoke toxins, through maternal smoking or maternal exposure to second-hand smoke, frequently experience reduced lung growth and function. Young children exposed to second-hand smoke are at risk of the onset and exacerbation of asthma, pneumonia and bronchitis, and frequent lower respiratory infections.

Globally, an estimated 60,000 children die before the age of 5 of lower respiratory infections caused by second-hand smoke. Tuberculosis (TB) damages the lungs and reduces lung function, which is further exacerbated by tobacco smoking. Dr Muhammedunni Olakara, Global Chairman of Anti Smoking Society, along with M P Hassan Kunhi, Qatar Chairman of Anti Smoking Society, also spoke on the occasion.

The event was conducted by Dr Amanulla Vadakkangara and sponsored by Doha Beauty Centre.
BPS organises Nasa educational and recreational trip

Birla Public School (BPS) recently organised Nasa educational and recreational trip to US. It was a 3-day international camp at the Kennedy Space Centre – Orlando, Florida. Students engaged in adventures and educational activities. Campers teamed up as they were presented with everyday challenges faced by astronauts based on Nasa space research stations related to science, technology, engineering, and maths. Additionally, they interacted with each other through astronaut training simulators, participated in real Nasa experiments, programmed and operated robots, and experienced a guided tour of Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. The focus of this camp was on inspiring the ‘Mars Generation’ through three days of teamwork, educational fun, and enriching space activities.

The students received the participation Certificate and the winning teams (girls and boys) received medals. The KSC tour, Space Shuttle Atlantis Museum, IMAX and Lunch with the Astronaut were part of the visit. A detailed itinerary of the trip was issued beforehand. One-hundred and fifty nine students were accompanied by 16 teachers.

FAREWELL: Qatar K K Angadi Pravasi Koottam recently organised an event to bid farewell to Abdu Samad Koottilangadi, one of its founder leaders, who is set to leave Qatar for good. Muhammedali Edavazhikkal presided over the event. Saheer Babu Nediya, Thahir Nikkas and Shariavas Chulliyil spoke on the occasion.

MES organises Iftar at labour camp

MES Indian School recently organised an Iftar for 400 labourers residing at labour camps of the Industrial Area. The students of the Department of Home Science and Senior Boys took part in the cause. Food packets along with snacks and fruit salad were served by the students. Speaking on the occasion, Hameeda Kadar, Principal of MES, said, “MES, as always, is at the forefront in upholding and extending philanthropic gesture. By conducting such an enormous gathering, MES ascertains its role in the exemplary act of charity and social responsibility besides enriching its students with enhanced humanitarian values and spiritual gratification. The successful event was the result of collective efforts and cohesive co-ordination of everyone involved.”

GET TOGETHER: Qatar Tamizhar Sangam (QTS), Indian socio-cultural organisation, recently organised an Iftar get together at Taaza Restaurant. The event was attended by over 80 members and guests, including QTS sponsors and office bearers of ICC, ICBF and other socio-cultural organisations in Qatar. Muniyappan, QTS General Secretary, conducted the proceedings. Sri Raja Vijayan, President of QTS, welcomed the gathering and Ramesh Babu, Vice President of QTS, proposed a vote of thanks.
The St. Regis Doha launches exciting offers to celebrate Eid al-Fitr

The St. Regis Doha has recently announced a series of specials in a number of its refined outlets and facilities in line with the upcoming Eid Al-Fitr celebration, stated a press release. During Eid, guests will be delighted with exceptional offers on rooms, recreational activities and at the hotel’s refined restaurants and lounges. Kicking off the Eid Al-Fitr celebrations is the much-famed Eid Brunch at Vine and Opal Restaurants, an exceptional culinary journey that will be held for four consecutive days, starting from June 4 from 12:30pm to 4:00pm daily, featuring specialties from the hotel’s numerous restaurants and lounges, in addition to live entertainment and kids’ activities. Furthermore, the award winning Sarab Lounge will re-open starting from the first day of Eid Al-Fitr with an array of special experiences including the Afternoon Tea. A number of outlets at The St. Regis Doha, including award winning Al Sultan Brahim for lunch and dinner, Astor Grill Steakhouse and Oyster Bay, the hotel’s Caribbean-inspired pool restaurant and bar with sweeping views of the pool and Arabian Gulf, will kick-off post Eid. The package offers an affordable rate of lunch buffet at Choices along with a day pool access all week except Friday, allowing guests and visitors to satisfy their taste buds while relaxing by the pool.

Guest can visit the ‘Swim and Lunch’ package, which offers an amazing culinary experience over brunch at Choices restaurant on Friday or Saturday, a dazzling staycation, 30 minutes massage session, in addition to complimentary breakfast on the following day. The Brunch Escape package offers the availability of early check-in and late check-out to ensure an unforgettable stay experience. Coinciding with the summer season, and to escape from the hot weather, Bodylines Fitness and Wellness Club introduced the ‘Swim and Lunch’ package, which will kick-off post Eid. The package offers an affordable rate of lunch buffet at Choices along with a day pool access all week except Friday, allowing guests and visitors to satisfy their taste buds while relaxing by the pool.

Oryx Rotana invites its guests to celebrate Eid al-Fitr

With a view to celebrate Eid al-Fitr in a grand way, Oryx Rotana, the five-star luxury business hotel in Doha, has recently launched its exquisite offers including Eid brunches at ‘Choices’, stated a press release. The renowned all-day dining restaurant, Choices will take its guests and visitors on a unique gastronomic journey to experience the best culinary delight at the hotel’s Caribbean-inspired pool restaurant and bar with sweeping views of the pool and Arabian Gulf.

The hotel will also launch its first summer camp for children. The camp aims to keep the little ones entertained during summer and increase their physical activity with a wide range of activities including swimming, basketball, football, tennis, arts and crafts, fit-dance and a lot more. The summer camp starts from June 9 and ends on August 22, 2019. It is for children between the ages of 4-10 years. Wissam Suleiman, Multi-Property General Manager of The St. Regis Doha, said, “The St. Regis Doha is Qatar’s supreme leisure destination thanks to its exceptional award-winning offerings as well as special accommodation packages and dining options to enjoy a break away from the hustle and bustle of life as well as the load of work.”

Centro Capital Doha reduces Ramadan Iftar buffet prices

Centro Capital Doha, a 4-star property under Rotana Hotel Management Corporation, has recently introduced new prices for the Ramadan Iftar buffet at C.taste restaurant as Ramadan enters its last week, stated a press release. The menu selection brings a diverse range of dishes where guests can enjoy exquisite Arabian flavours. Delicacies include Arabic and international dishes accompanied by a variety of traditional beverages that guests can indulge in.

Ronal Pereira, Assistant F&B Manager at Centro Capital Doha, said, “We look forward to welcoming diners to C.taste especially with the new reduced prices. We have taken the time to put together traditional dishes to align with the traditions and customs of the holy month of Ramadan, to ensure our guests can have an enjoyable experience with their friends and family.”

Guest can visit C.taste for Iftar from sunset till 10pm and dine at a reduced price of QR99 per person, valid from 26th May until the end of Ramadan. Visitors can also request for a private dining space that is available upon request.

Oryx Rotana invites its guests to benefit from the ‘Brunch Escape’ package for two during Eid al-Fitr, which offers an amazing culinary experience over brunch at Choices restaurant on Friday or Saturday, a dazzling staycation, 30 minutes massage session, in addition to complimentary breakfast on the following day. The Brunch Escape package offers the availability of early check-in and late check-out to ensure an unforgettable stay experience. Coinciding with the summer season, and to escape from the hot weather, Bodylines Fitness and Wellness Club introduced the ‘Swim and Lunch’ package, which will kick-off post Eid. The package offers an affordable rate of lunch buffet at Choices along with a day pool access all week except Friday, allowing guests and visitors to satisfy their taste buds while relaxing by the pool.

Ghassan Dalal, General Manager of Oryx Rotana, said, “We are happy to celebrate this blessed occasion with all the members of the society. We have sought to provide a range of offers to take our guests and visitors on a unique gastronomic journey to experience the best culinary delight at the Choices restaurant, as well as special accommodation packages and dining options to enjoy a break away from the hustle and bustle of life as well as the load of work.”

With a view to celebrate Eid al-Fitr in a grand way, Oryx Rotana, the five-star luxury business hotel in Doha, has recently launched its exquisite offers including Eid brunches at ‘Choices’, stated a press release. The renowned all-day dining restaurant, Choices will take its guests and visitors on a unique gastronomic journey to experience the best culinary delight at the hotel’s Caribbean-inspired pool restaurant and bar with sweeping views of the pool and Arabian Gulf.
Lexus ES 300h wins ‘Best Midsize Luxury Sedan’ award

Lexus’ enduring commitment to excellence in engineering, innovation, and driving dynamics has once again been highlighted with prestigious industry recognition. The brand’s tireless pursuit of emotional design, exceptional comfort and class-leading performance was endorsed recently when the Lexus ES 300h was honoured with the European Best Midsize Luxury Sedan category at the 2019 Middle East Car of the Year (MECOTY) awards, one of the premier annual award ceremonies for the region’s automotive industry, stated a press release.

Combining class-leading handling with unparalleled luxury, the Lexus ES 300h was selected for the award by a judging panel made up of 19 independent senior editors from the Middle East and North Africa’s leading automotive publications. Each nominee was assessed according to a rigorous set of ten criteria, including design and quality (exterior and interior), emotional appeal and driver satisfaction, handling and drivability, value for money (new purchase and resale), safety and durability, comfort and practicality, performance and capability, environmental friendliness, technological innovation, and regional appeal.

Corporation, said, “We are delighted that the Lexus ES 300h has been recognised as Best Midsize Luxury Sedan at the sixth annual MECOTY awards. This coveted accolade is testament to the model’s winning combination of design, exceptional comfort and class-leading performance which have an enduring source of inspiration in our quest to develop vehicles that create amazing experiences and exceed the expectations of drivers and passengers.”

The 2019 ES 300h is an electrified hybrid model that can be driven entirely by electrical power with zero-fuel consumption and carbon emissions, or through a combination of a petrol engine and two electric motors, depending on the vehicle’s speed and driver behaviour.

In addition, batteries in the hybrid electric drivetrain are automatically charged by either the petrol engine or when braking and decelerating, eliminating the need to plug in a power cord. The class-leading model enables customers to contribute to a sustainable future with a fuel consumption value of 22.4 km/L, while enjoying the increased driving satisfaction and engagement provided by the ES 300h’s advanced technologies.

The all-new Lexus continues the expression of the brand’s design direction and commitment towards crafting vehicles with heightened excitement, emotion, and passion. The vehicle’s distinct personality is completed by its exquisite interior, which offers an array of advanced features that create a refined cabin experience.

These include a 12.3-inch enhanced invehicle multimedia display, 10.2-inch colour multi-information display (MID) in the gauge cluster, wireless charging system for smartphones, LED ambient illumination, the Lexus Climate Concierge

Jaguar I-PACE wins three titles at The International Engine + Powertrain of the Year Awards 2019

The all-electric Jaguar I-PACE has won Best Electric Powertrain, Best New Engine, and the 350 to 450PS category at The International Engine + Powertrain of the Year Awards, stated a press release.

Announced at the Engine Expo + The Powertrain Technology Show in Stuttgart, the panel of 70 expert motoring journalists from 31 countries took into account key characteristics including performance, driveability, energy efficiency and refinement. These three titles recognise the technical excellence of the I-PACE’s zero emissions powertrain, which was designed and developed in-house.

Ian Hoban, Powertrain Director at Jaguar Land Rover, said: “We’ve used all the benefits of state-of-the-art battery and motor technology to create a world-class electric vehicle. As well as zero emissions, the all-electric powertrain delivers an ideal balance of performance, refinement and range, together with outstanding responsiveness, agility and day-to-day usability. I-PACE is a true driver’s car and above all a true Jaguar.

We set out to make the world’s best all-electric performance SUV; these awards reflect that, and are fitting recognition for what the engineering team has achieved.”

I-PACE’s 90kWh lithium-ion battery enables a range of up to 292 miles (WLTP). It’s capable of charging from 0-80% in 10 minutes using a 100kW DC charger, or in just over ten hours when using a 7A AC wallbox — ideal for overnight charging at home.

A suite of smart, range-optimising technologies includes a battery pre-conditioning system when plugged in the I-PACE will automatically raise (or lower) the temperature of its battery to maximise range ahead of driving away. A heat pump can scavenge energy from the outside air – even in sub-zero conditions – to reduce the amount of battery energy used by the climate control system. It can even utilise heat generated by the propulsion system to warm up the cabin, further reducing demand on the battery.

The battery is placed centrally between the two axles, and as low down as possible. This location enables perfect 50/50 weight distribution and a low centre of gravity; together with the advanced double wishbone front and integral Link rear suspension this is fundamental to the I-PACE’s agile handling and outstanding ride comfort.

The permanent magnet motors are housed with the drivetrains passing through the centre. As well as being light – together with the transmission they weigh just 79kg – they’re also exceptionally compact. This contributes to the I-PACE’s spacious cabin, 656-litre luggage compartment volume and SUV ground clearance.

Integrating the motors into the front and rear axles delivers all-wheel drive for outstanding traction and control in all-conditions. They also enable high levels of regenerative braking - up to 0.4G. This maximises range, and also enables intuitive ‘single pedal’ driving in many conditions. I-PACE has received 68 global awards since it was revealed little more than a year ago, including 2019 World Car of the Year, World Car Design of the Year, World Green Car, European Car of the Year, and German, Norwegian and UK Car of the Year.
Doha’s Souq Waqif is easily one of the best tourist destinations of Qatar. For a first time visitor, it can be easy to lose your way in the several streets of the souq that appear as mazes with no defined geometric pattern, but they are a peculiar characteristic of the many bazaars across the region, as are the low-rise single-storied buildings of the souq, which are a trademark of Qatari architecture.

One of my personal favourite feature of the design and architecture of the souq is the rough plastered buildings with small openings facing the streets, which combine to make a walk through souq both warm and welcoming.

Souq is a popular destination for many food lovers thanks to an array of restaurants, almost all of whom have exquisite outdoor sitting areas, and who also serve some of the best Shisha in the country. Then there are the frequent festivals and many theatrical and musical performances that will keep you entertained while at the souq.

But for a majority of Doha residents, souq is the place they go to shop for groceries and seasonal delicacies. The many small shops lined along the paths in the souq offer a dazzling selection of authentic merchandise from spices and seasonal delicacies to perfumes, jewellery, clothing and handicrafts that can often only be found there. So next time you visit Souq Waqif, make sure you have a look at the merchandise available at the souq, which you also can bargain for— unlike other markets in the country.

— Text by Azmat Haroon, photos by Rinzy Ismail
Time for celebration

Festivity: It’s time of festivity as Muslims celebrate Eid al-Adha, to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan, the time of deep spiritual reflection, and not just fasting.

There were hopes that he could break the 100 mph barrier. And when the big screen revealed the truth, it delighted the fans and the bowler himself, the only time in WC history. Glenn McGrath has taken most wickets in the world cup tournament – 71. The bowler himself, the only time the operation code-named?

Identify the below twins, which is the only Christian country in the world to recognise Eid al-Adha as a national holiday?

Which is the oldest independent state in the Arab world?

Oman.

Identify the below twins, arguably the most successful and popular in the world of cricket. Tugga and Afghan, as they are nicknamed, celebrate their 54th birthday today. (Answer next week. Answer to last week’s photo-quiz: Jawaharal Nehru. He died of heart attack on May 27, 1964.)

Name the international cricketer who has represented his team against 45 different national teams. He has played against countries beginning with 20 of the 26 letters of the alphabet.

Mohammad Nabi.

Name the only person to have played both World Cup Football and World Cup Cricket.

Sir Vivian Richards. He played football for Antigua in 1974 World cup qualifiers.

Which is the only Christian country in the world to recognise Eid al-Adha as a national holiday?

Philipines. It is known to most as Wakas ng Ramadan.

A student-led demonstrations calling for democracy, free speech and a free press was halted in a bloody crackdown 30 years ago on June 4, at a place named after an original main gate called ‘Heavenly Peace Gate’. Which event was it?

Tiananmen Square Massacre.

This Thursday (June 6) marks the start of the 75th anniversary of the D-Day, the largest amphibious (land and water) invasion in history. The successful Allied advance into German-occupied Western Europe comprised the mass-deployment of 3 million troops and became a pivotal moment in the World War II. What was the operation code-named?

Operation Overlord.
Wordsearch

Books: Shelves, Membership
Dewey: Catalogue, Videos
Return: Journals, Code
Branch: Tables, Numbers
Due date: Chairs, Newspapers
Search: Library card, Whisper
Browse: Tapes, Computers
Fines: Checkout, Periodicals

Codeword

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

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine 3x3 boxes. You are given a selection of values and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains each of the digits 1 to 9 only once.

Bound And Gagged
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Volcanic rock turned up by little creatures (6)
4 Females sailed off (6)
8 Move during sword fight, taking nothing from room (5)
9 Payment to author from people in palaces? (7)
10 Basic building block forming part of kettle (5)
12 Country dancing as a ritual (5)
17 I drink, by the sound of it, and freeze (3,2)
19 Lover who may be married? (7)
21 Ancient city and its leader saved for last? (3,4)
22 The medicine goes down (5)
23 Unpleasant type of animal seen by river (6)
24 Sort of pastel tableware (6)

Down
1 Little ball from gym upset famous archer (6)
2 Chap with key - a renowned African leader (7)
3 Fabric created initially by eccentric peer (5)
5 Very bad letters from Lamb, say (7)
6 Bringing back some mussels in the Hebrides, say (5)
7 Youth leader surrounded by poor mites is put in an awkward situation (6)
8 Sailor held by Communist worker, causing delay (9)
9 Sovereign in purse changed by me (7)
14 Dry wine for Charles de Gaulle, for example (7)
15 Family member in Barts is terrific (6)
16 Credit is doubled - a desperate situation (6)
18 Old Testament character, New Testament incident (5)
20 Poser with poem written in 1050 (5)

Yesterday’s Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
Eating blueberries can likely improve your heart health

Eating a cup of blueberries daily reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) by up to 15 per cent, according to a study.

The findings, published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, suggest that blueberries and other berries should be included in diets to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.

“Having metabolic syndrome significantly increases the risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes and often statins and other medications are prescribed to help control this rise,” said study lead author Aedin Cassidy, Professor at the University of East Anglia in Britain.

The researchers studied whether eating blueberries had any effect on metabolic syndrome - a condition, affecting 1/3 of westernised adults, which comprises at least three of the following risk factors: high blood pressure, high blood sugar, excess body fat around the waist, low levels of ‘good cholesterol’ and high levels of triglycerides.

For the study, the researchers investigated the effects of eating blueberries daily in 138 overweight and obese people, (aged between 50 and 75), and having metabolic syndrome.

“We found that eating one cup of blueberries per day resulted in sustained improvements in vascular function and arterial stiffness - making enough of a difference to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease by between 12 and 15 per cent,” said Peter Curtis, co-author of the study. – IANS

**ARIES**
March 21 – April 19

Something strange may happen today. Someone in your family may reproach you for having chosen your profession. It may be that your career has little connection with what people have traditionally done in your family. But just because a tradition is lost doesn’t mean that it must be mourned, Aries. Listen to your heart. If you’ve chosen a profession that you’re truly meant for, you will know it.

**CANCER**
June 21 – July 22

You’re likely to experience a day of thoughtfulness and reflection. Cancer. Your state of mind will resemble that of a person who has just rebelled against everything and is now in search of a new vehicle for self fulfilment. Others seem to be trying to exert pressure on you. Will you yield or will you listen to your inner voice? You will know the answer by the end of the day!

**LIBRA**
September 23 – October 22

You may have planned to isolate yourself in order to get things done, but that won’t be possible. It’s like a force is destabilising your professional life. Nothing seems to go right today. Everyone may be disagreeing, misunderstandings may crop up, things could be delayed, and communications are likely to be scrambled. You will be asked to take sides in a conflict. Libra. Try to stay neutral.

**CAPRICORN**
December 22 – January 19

Here is a day that may make you think you aren’t exactly in the right place in your profession. Capricorn. Could it be that your current position is too traditional? You’re someone who wants to expand on all the ideas that you have at any given moment. It would seem that your superiors aren’t evolving in the same way. If this is the case, take the necessary action.

**TAURUS**
April 20 – May 20

Authorities who have been your guides up to now may confront you. The hour is here to sort out your fears and lead yourself along your path. This is undoubtedly a very positive state of affairs. It means that you’re maturing, Taurus. Besides, there’s nothing to stop you from asking for help from time to time, should you need it.

**GEMINI**
May 21 – June 20

The day is likely to be confrontation. The latest developments in your career have offered you so little encouragement that you’re tempted to cut back on your efforts. But you have no intention of surrendering. You’ve a right to a room of your own. You will fight for it tooth and nail!

**LEO**
July 23 – August 22

The day may give you great insight into the decisions you face concerning your future. Now is the time to decide on your priorities. Do you want a career right away or would you prefer to continue your studies? Are you satisfied with your love life and family relationships? It’s possible that a major upheaval in one of these realms will affect all the others. It will be interesting!

**VIRGO**
August 23 – September 22

Prepare for a somewhat stressful day. Virgo. Your family life may be marred by some disagreements. There’s some likelihood you will feel as though your territory is being invaded and your range of action limited. But you have no intention of surrendering. You’ve a right to a room of your own. You will fight for it tooth and nail!

**SCORPIO**
October 23 – November 21

People seem fuzzy about your way of doing things today, Scorpio. Try as you might, it seems there’s no pleasing the authorities. You, one of the world’s great escape artists, would be well advised to choose this opportunity to do a vanishing act. However, if the financial health of your home is at stake, it would be better to stay and face the music.

**SAGITTARIUS**
November 22 – December 21

Your characteristic independence may play some tricks on you today, Sagittarius. What you say won’t be approved of as easily as usual. Even though you have quite a bit of freedom, there are others who assume that you feel you don’t have enough. There’s no way to please everybody. This concern is their problem, not yours. Do the people you associate with daily really understand who you are?

**AQUARIUS**
January 20 – February 18

Some past stories may come back to haunt you today, Aquarius. If you once held a government post, for example, a journalist could uncover some error that you made years ago and publish it in today’s newspaper! Everyone has to deal with the jealousy of others. If you’re a journalist, think about writing for yourself as well as the paper. You could write novels, poetry, or plays. It doesn’t matter what you create so long as it accurately reflects what you feel and is quite apart from your professional life.
The Prophet’s justice

Justice is a noble moral and a magnificent characteristic which is attractive to people, infuses hope in the hearts of the wronged, and the unjust pay utmost concern for it.

By virtue of justice, matters return to their normal and right path; rights are returned to their owners, people are happy and life is rectified. Welfare is present as long as there is justice, if justice is absent people will be miserable.

Justice is a moral of those who are great, a feature of those who are pious; it is the hope of the righteous and the way to success, and a magnificient characteristic which is attractive to people, infuses hope in the hearts of the wronged, and the unjust pay utmost concern for it.

Moreover the Prophet always showed justice and hated to show injustice. Such great character is clearly highlighted in a most beautiful story. Abu Sa’eed Al-Khudri, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated: “While the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, was his relative or favorite. When a woman from Banu Makhzoom tribe committed theft, the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, rejected the intercession of Usaaah, may Allah be pleased with him, for her and said his famous words: “O people, what led to the destruction of the nations preceding you was your acquittal of the noble person if he committed theft and infliction of the punishment on the weak if he committed theft. By Allah, if Faatimah, the daughter of Muhammad, committed theft I would cut her hand off.” [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Through this noble character, the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, practiced it before Allah, the Almighty, in his dealings with others, with his relatives and with others, his friends, antagonists and even his stubborn enemies. Allah ordered him to be just; Allah Says (what means): (O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, with what you do, Acquainted.

Qur’an 4:135

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Qur’an 4:135
everyone cherishes childhood memories. These memories become sweeter if one gets special treatment from elders during one’s childhood. Aliguma Saul Rayan, a young Ugandan Muslim expatriate and chairman of Ugandan Community in Qatar (UGACOQ), has a very interesting story to share about his childhood when it comes to how he used to experience Ramadan in his country.

Aliguma, an operations manager with a construction company, recently spoke to Community about how he used to experience the holy month of Ramadan in Uganda and how he has been enjoying it in Qatar. Aliguma, who is also a photographer, Afro dance teacher and motivational speaker, has been living in Qatar since 2013. He said: “As far as my experience of observing fasting in Uganda, I have a very interesting story to tell. I come from a Christian family. I used to go for prayers on Sundays. I became a Muslim back in 2008 when I was in my high school. At that time, I even did not know about Qatar as a country, I only knew Qatar Airways.

“I used to celebrate Ramadan along with my younger cousins. In our family, we have a few Muslims – for example my young cousin Ashraf. Ashraf is a son of my favourite aunt. Though she is a Christian, she always made sure that Ashraf and I had the best in Ramadan. She would give us all the beautiful goods during the holy month. Her affectionate treatment taught me something very special about how to show love, care and support to other human beings. We were treated like kings during Ramadan. The family would not let us overwork or even cook. Event at my school, those fasting used to be treated specially. They were served with fresh food and we celebrated every day as a big family.”

Aliguma feels very happy and satisfied to be in Qatar. “Everything associated with Qatar nowadays makes me smile. Living here during Ramadan is like there is no tomorrow. When I came here in 2013, I was very young. Over the years, I have established my feet here.

“Qatar is one of those countries that value families and loves to share with others. These values become more prominent during the holy month of Ramadan. I see the Qatari people who work from abroad come back home, older people are supported to reach masjids for prayers. I remember a few years back I used to help one of my elderly neighbours. All his sons knew me because of the bond I had with their father.

“Ramadan actually rekindles the spirit of giving back to the community. We carry out beach clean-ups, distribute Iftar packs among the motorists, and share food stuff with friends and workmates.

“Ramadan is also enjoyed by the non-Muslims. I have learnt from my non-Muslim friends that they could not wait for Ramadan in Qatar. As working hours are reduced, folks get more time to see friends and talk to their families back in their countries. They also get time to enjoy some sports.”

Aliguma wishes every day to be Ramadan. “Ramadan gives you a chance to understand yourself. It brings you close to Allah. It reminds you that food is not the only thing that you need in your life.

“Ramadan teaches you equality and social justice. There are more chances of social networking, visiting the sick and caring for others.”

— Aliguma Saul Rayan

### Food Tips: What to eat?

- Raspberry – a handful
- Persian Pudding
- Pound cake- 1 (sliced)
- Dried rose buds- for garnishing

**(NOTE: The quantity of cornstarch can be adjusted depending on how thick the pudding should be. I kept it medium thick)**

**Method:**

1. In a bowl, add the egg yolk and granulated sugar. Beat till it turns to a creamy texture. Then add rose water and continue beating. After 2-3 minutes, add cornstarch and beat for another few minutes. To this creamy mixture, pour 3-4 tablespoon of warm milk and mix well.
2. Now boil milk in a sauce pan at low flame. Later pour the mixture which we prepared, to the boiling milk (in low flame) and stir it gently to a thick texture. It will take at least 6-8 minutes to get the thick consistency. Once it is done, switch off the flame and let it cool at room temperature.
3. Now let’s make the trifle. Mix saffron, warm water and rose water in a bowl. Also mash the raspberries and keep it aside. Dip the pound cake slices in the saffron rose water mixture and place it in serving glasses as the bottom layer. This will give good flavour and moisture to the pound cake.
4. Later fill the serving glasses with Persian pudding and add the raspberry mixture over it. Then top it with another layer of pudding to the top.
5. Garnish the glasses with dried rose petals. Refrigerate the trifles for at least 3 hours to make it thick and serve it chill.

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By Nimmi Afzal

**Persian Raspberry Mini Trifles Ingredients:**

- For The Persian Pudding:
  - Milk- 1.5 litre
  - Rose water- 2.5 tablespoon
  - Egg yolk- of 3 eggs
  - Granulated sugar- 1 cup
  - Corn starch- 3 tablespoon

- For Trifle:
  - Rose water- 2 tablespoon
  - Saffron – a pinch
  - Warm water- 3 tablespoon

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[By Nimmi Afzal]

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