Pursuit of excellence

Dr Ivan Ninov, Executive Dean at Stenden Qatar University of Applied Sciences, on his academic experiences and quality education at the university.

Offbeat
Mexico City’s lowriders pedal against stigma.

Back Page
ICC unveils plans for new welfare, cultural programmes.
PRAYER TIME

Fajr                                  3.13am
Shorooq (sunrise)               4.46am
Zuhur  (noon)                      11.37am
Asr  (afternoon)                  3pm
Maghreb (sunset)                  6.29pm
Isha (night)                      7.59pm

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency                              999
Worldwide Emergency Number            112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water      901
Local Directory                       180
International Calls Enquiries         150
Hamad International Airport           40106666
Labor Department                      44508111, 44406537
Mowasalat Taxi                        44588888
Qatar Airways                         44496000
Hamad Medical Corporation             44922222, 4493333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation       44903333, 4493363

Qatar Assistive Technology Centre    44594050
Qatar News Agency                     44450205
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation  44450333

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

Quote Unquote

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”
— Helen Keller

Kabir Singh
DIRECTION: Sandeep Reddy Vanga
CAST: Shahid Kapoor, Kiara Advani, Arjun Raju
SYNOPSIS: Kabir Singh is a remake of a Telugu movie Arjun Reddy (2017), where a short-tempered house surgeon gets used to drugs and drinks when his love interest is forced to marry another person. As a senior and a topper in one of Delhi’s most reputed medical institutes, he wields immense power. Thanks to his lethal anger issues, there are few who would want to mess with him.

THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

Men In Black: International
DIRECTION: F. Gary Gray
CAST: Chris Hemsworth, Tessa Thompson, Kumail Nanjiani
SYNOPSIS: The Men in Black have always protected the Earth from the scum of the universe. In this new adventure, they tackle their biggest threat to date—a mole in the Men in Black organisation.

THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

The Mall Cinema (1): Kabir Singh (Hindi) 2pm; Aladdin (2D) 5pm; Mahadesh Shaf Mohamed Hussein? (Arabic) 7:15pm; Child’s Play (2D) 9:15pm; Kabir Singh (Hindi) 11pm.

The Mall Cinema (2): Toy Story 4 (2D) 2:15pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 4pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 5:45pm; Men In Black International (2D) 7:30pm; Men In Black International (2D) 9:30pm; Men In Black International (2D) 11:30pm.

The Mall Cinema (3): Unda (Malayalam) 2:30pm; Pokemon Detective Pikachu (2D) 4:45pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 6:45pm; Kabir Singh (Hindi) 8:30pm; Unda (Malayalam) 9:30pm.

Landmark Cinema (1): Unda (Malayalam) 2:30pm; Pokemon Detective Pikachu (2D) 4:45pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 6:45pm; Kabir Singh (Hindi) 8:30pm; Child’s Play (2D) 9:15pm.

Landmark Cinema (2): Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 5pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 6:45pm; Kabir Singh (Hindi) 8:30pm; Child’s Play (2D) 11:15pm.

Landmark Cinema (3): Toy Story 4 (2D) 2:15pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 4pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 5:45pm; Men In Black International (2D) 7:30pm; Men In Black International (2D) 9:30pm; Men In Black International (2D) 11:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1): Toy Story 4 (2D) 2:15pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 4pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 5:45pm; Men In Black International (2D) 7:30pm; Men In Black International (2D) 9:30pm; Men In Black International (2D) 11:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2): Unda (Malayalam) 2:30pm; Kabir Singh (Hindi) 5pm; Kabir Singh (Hindi) 8pm; Unda (Malayalam) 11:15pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3): Shadaa (Punjabi) 2:30pm; Pokemon Detective Pikachu (2D) 5pm; Child’s Play (2D) 7pm; Unda (Malayalam) 8:45pm; Kabir Singh (Hindi) 11pm.
**EVENTS**

**MF Husain: The Horses Of The Sun Exhibition**  
WHERE: Mataf: Arab Museum of Modern Art  
WHEN: Ongoing till July 31  
TIME: 9am – 7pm  
The exhibition presents Husain’s pluralist approach to the divine and cosmic aspects of being, articulated through the myths, symbols and narratives of the world’s religions and philosophies. M. F. Husain: Horses of the Sun bears witness to a recurrent motif in his art, a personal symbol of self-renewal and vitality.

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

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

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

**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, 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.

**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.

**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, Thimilai, 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 33897609.

**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 66523871/3132649.

**After School Activities**  
WHERE: Atelier  
WHEN: Ongoing  
Music and arts activities for students taking place after they finish their day in school includes Group Music lessons, Hip-hop, Ballet, Drawing and Painting, Drama Theatre & Taekwondo. Ages between 5 and 10 years old after school hours.

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“Qatar has always been very creative in how they do things”

— Dr Ivan Ninov, Executive Dean at SQU of Applied Sciences

Qatar has opened up to the world. The country has been trying to develop a lot of cruise tourism and different tourism attractions. The effect from the blockade was shortlived

— Dr Ivan Ninov

He is very impressed by the dining options available in Doha and likes the upscale restaurants here. He sees a brighter future for Qatar’s diverse hospitality scene.

Dr Ivan Ninov, Executive Dean at Stenden Qatar University (SQU) of Applied Sciences, is full of praise for the continuous growth and future prospects of the hospitality industry in Qatar as he has been heading one of the premier higher education providers of hospitality management, tourism management, and business management in Qatar for over three years.

Dr Ivan holds a PhD degree in Hospitality Administration from Texas Tech University in the US and a Master of Science degree in Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional Management from the same institution. He carries extensive industry and academic knowledge, combined with successful international and regional experience. He has also worked for Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management in Dubai as an Assistant Dean.

Community recently caught up with the dean and interviewed him about his professional career, the contributions that the university has been making so far and his understanding of the hospitality industry in Qatar.
Originally from Bulgaria, Dr Ivan has been living abroad for over 20 years. He cherished talking about his childhood in predominantly agricultural Bulgaria. “My childhood was very eventful in Bulgaria. It was very safe and quiet to be there in childhood. I used to be a very good basketball player in my school. When I was in my high school, I was kind of fascinated with a very old building housing a hotel, close to my school. I wanted to study about that. At that time, we did not have hotel management education at the university level so I got the degree in International Tourism. I did my internship with a well-known hotel in my country. “I liked the hospitality industry and I decided to make it my career. Then I went to the US and did my Masters in restaurant and hotel management. I started working with a company and they offered me to do PhD in Hospitality Administration in 2001. At the same time, I was teaching the course of food and beverage management. I really enjoyed teaching young people. I decided to make academia as my career. I have always been having a certain kind of rewarding feelings. In 2005, I moved to UAE and it was in 2016 that I moved to Stenden in Qatar.”

Talking about his family, the dean said: “I have one sister. I got married in 2013. Both of my parents were medical doctors. My father was a surgeon and my mother a paediatrician. They always wanted both of us to become doctors. My sister is a lawyer. My mother now pushes our children to become doctors. I have two kids.”

It was in January 2016 when Dr Ivan found himself in Doha after he joined Stenden University. He finds the education facility quite attractive. “Stenden is a very unique university in Doha. We are the oldest private university. Next year, we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary. So far, we have graduated around 700 students. Some of them have been working in very good key positions.”

“We are the only Dutch university in GCC. We are the only international campus that offers five different programmes – International hospitality management, tourism management, and international business for bachelors’ degree. From last September, we introduced two master programmes – International leisure, tourism, and event management and International hospitality and service management. “Apart from the academic courses, we offer special short course for the industry in Qatar. We have planned different short courses. We offer courses both for companies and individual professionals.”

The dean appreciates the promotion and development of the hospitality and tourism sectors in Qatar. “The development of the tourism and hospitality sectors is one of the strategic objectives of the country. There is a lot of investment in these two sectors. In terms of facilities, Doha has a lot to offer. We have more than 50 five-star hotels here. Some of them are upscale luxury hotels. There is a lot more under development.”

“We (the university) have very close relations with these hotels. All our students go for practical training. Currently, there are some challenges due to the unjust blockade. There used to be a good market from the GCC. However, I think this market has been replaced with other markets. Qatar has opened up to the world. The country has been trying to develop a lot of cruise tourism. They are expecting them in big numbers. They are also developing different tourism attractions. I think the effect from the blockade was shortlived. The country has kind of found ways to work around. Qatar has always been very creative in how they do things. I think slowly with more marketing and promotion, Qatar will see a rise in the number of visitors. We should not diminish the importance of the fact that Qatar is becoming a big stop-over destination. There are very attractive deals.”

Dr Ivan has been working on different projects in the university to contribute to the tourism sector in Qatar. “There have been lots of developments here in the last three years. First of all, in 2017, we applied for international accreditation for the hospitality and tourism programmes from International Sector of Excellence in Hospitality and Tourism Education, which is the most reputable accrediting body worldwide based in Australia. Our tourism programme is the only internationally accredited programme in whole Mena region. “In 2016, we created a high level of advisory board for the university which consists of heads and CEOs of 10 biggest organisations in Doha. In October 2017, the university was added to the list of the government support universities. We are the only private institution in the list. Last year, we got two new masters programmes licensed. Further, we are the only private university in Qatar that offers its own degree. We are really focused on the quality of the courses we offer. We also plan to introduce new courses in media and maritime studies.

“About 20 percent of our students are Qataris at the moment. We are trying to increase that percentage. I see a lot of interest in our international business degree. It is not easy to make progress in Stenden. It is one of the most challenging universities to graduate from. We have very rigorous criteria and admission requirements. The graduates of Stenden are very good. A very high percentage of our graduates get good jobs.”

The dean is fully aware of the upcoming opportunities and possible growth in the tourism sector in Qatar. He has his eyes on the FIFA World Cup 2022. “We want to extend our portfolio. We will introduce newer courses. We are also planning to move to a new facility in two to three years. We already have the land.”

Dr Ivan also shared his expert views on hospitality scenes in different areas of the world. He sees more similarities than differences at the international hospitality scenes. “With the globalisation, filings are becoming more or less similar, though still there are some differences. With standardisation, you can see hotels having similar properties in different countries. They have to follow the same standards. There is a lot of standardisation but still you can find differences between markets. For example, in the US, they are very pragmatic. In GCC, you will find a different level of luxury that is upscale.”

“Doha has developed very quickly. It is very diverse. The main hotel companies are in Doha. But, what I have personally found interesting about the market here is, from the hospitality prospective, to have really nice upscale restaurants. I am actually impressed by the dining options here. There are so many options for everyone. The dining options here are very unique, especially the fine dining.”

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“The development of the tourism and hospitality sectors is one of the strategic objectives of the country. There is a lot of investment in these two sectors. In terms of facilities, Doha has a lot to offer. We have more than 50 five-star hotels here.”

VISIT: Dr Ivan Ninov with Dr Bahaa Tahzib-Lie, the Ambassador of The Netherlands to Qatar, during her visit to the SQU of Applied Sciences.
Students of MES and Sindhu P Nair perform at ICC

Eighty-seven students of MES Indian School recently performed thematic fusion and classical dances based on the theme of 'Glimpses of India' at Indian Cultural Centre. The performances included Fusion Oppana, Fusion Thematic Dance and Group Song.

Sindhu P Nair, a well-known 'Vazhuvoor style' Bharatanatyam artist from Bangalore, also performed on the occasion, which was followed by a felicitation ceremony. Certificates and appreciation plaques were presented to the students of MES and Sindhu P Nair by the managing committee members of the ICC.

Anjan Ganguly, Joint Secretary of ICC, initiated and conducted the proceedings. A P Manikantan, President of ICC, welcomed the gathering and Nayana Wagh, Cultural Secretary, introduced the artistes.

MCTA organises 28th annual get-together and general body meeting

The Qatar Chapter of the Marthoma College Trivandrum Alumni Association (QC-MCTA) recently organised its 28th annual get-together and general body meeting at Shalimar Hotel. Raju Mathew, President of MTCA, presided over the event.

A P Manikandan, President of Indian Cultural Centre, was the chief guest on the occasion. Rev Mathew Skariah, Baby Kurian, Patron of MCTA, Anish George Mathew and Lijo Raju spoke on the occasion.

Anish George Mathew presented the annual report and Vijo John Thomas the annual accounts report for the year 2018-2019, which was followed by a cultural performance.

Baby Kurian extended his condolences and sympathies on the passing away of Varughese Mathew, alumni member. A minute silence was observed in his memory on the occasion.

SIS organises SIS Academic Excellence Awards 2018-19

Shantiniketan Indian School (SIS) recently organised SIS Academic Excellence Awards 2018-19 for the students of Junior Section of Grades I-V. The students received awards in different categories, including SIS Scholar Badge, Co-Scholastic Achievement Badge, and 100% Attendance Badge among others.

Principal's Honour badge was presented to the students who received both the scholars badge and the co-scholastic badge and having no record of indiscipline.

Abdullah Abdul Wahab Qurashi, a student of Grade V, was presented with the International Benchmark Test Certificate of Distinction in recognition of his outstanding performance in Hindi subject. K C Abdul Latheef, President of the School Management Committee, along with Dr Subhajit Nair, Principal of SIS, Vice Principals and Head Teachers presented the awards.

Speaking on the occasion, Dudley O'Connor, Vice Principal of SIS, congratulated the parents and students. He spoke about the progress of the school and the unique changes that have taken place with the learner and the taught. He also shared about the SIS Learn Pedagogy which is inclusive in nature, giving all children equal opportunity and personalised guidance, keeping in mind that 'Every Child can Learn and Achieve High Results'.
BPS takes part in online meeting

Birla Public School (BPS) recently exchanged music notes with B K Birla Public School from Kalyan Mumbai in an online meeting via Zoom WebCam, technical support arranged by the IT Department of BPS. The meeting was supported by A P Sharma, Principal of BPS, Rajesh Pillai and Bhawna Vijaykumar Sonkamble, Vice Principals; Marshal D’Silva, Head of Department of Music and Dance, co-ordinated the meeting. Ann Mariya, a student of Grade IX explained the meaning of Qatar national anthem and the history behind it. John, music faculty at BPS, supported the session. Twenty students of BPS took part in the session which was compered by Rushali, a student of Grade IX.

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE: Ethera Api Qatar recently staged a theatrical play Suddek Oba Amathai at Qatar National Convention Centre Al Mayassa Theatre. The artistes from Sri Lanka performed on the occasion. Dr Jayalath Manorathna, veteran artiste, was felicitated on the occasion.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: Greenwood International School and Kindergarten (GISK) recently marked World Environment Day to highlight the importance of global warming and the duties of every individual in keeping our mother earth cool and green. Students of KG - Grade VI participated in various activities. The students of Kindergarten Section planted saplings. The students of Grade I-IV made drawing and slogans and the students of Grade V-VI participated in face painting and T-shirt designing.

New touring specification for Jaguar XE SV Project 8

Jaguar's Special Vehicle Operations division has recently developed a more restrained road-oriented version of the extreme XE SV Project 8 featuring a discreet new rear spoiler, delivering a covert design that belies the 600PS vehicle's race-track-tuned performance capabilities, stated a press release.

The new Touring specification is available alongside existing 200mph Project 8 derivatives, which currently hold production sedan lap records on three continents - at circuits including the Nurburgring Nordschleife, Dubai Autodrome and Laguna Seca.

The fixed Touring Spoiler replaces Project 8's adjustable carbonfibre rear aerodynamic wing and is complemented by a fixed front splitter to maintain aerodynamic balance.

Despite this significant aerodynamic revision, the 5.0-litre Supercharged V8 Project 8 with Touring Spoiler retains an extraordinary level of on-road performance and driver engagement for a sports sedan, accelerating from 0-60mph in 3.3sec (0-100km/h in 3.7sec) and on to a limited top speed of 186mph (300km/h).

Jamal Hameedi, Engineering Director, Jaguar Special Vehicle Operations, said, "Project 8 has received outstanding critical acclaim since its launch, demonstrating the Special Vehicle Operations team's ability to create a compact Jaguar sedan with supercar-rivalling performance. Touring specification extends the appeal of Project 8 to performance car enthusiasts and collectors who prefer a more discreet appearance, without compromising its driver-focused on-road dynamics."

Special Vehicle Operations will hand-assemble no more than 15 examples of the Touring specification Project 8 at its Technical Centre in Warwickshire, exclusively in four-seat configuration.

Valencia Orange, Velocity Blue, Corris Grey Satin and British Racing Green paint finishes are available, while the absence of body decals - though optional - confirms this as the ultimate Q car.
Life seemed as it should for all of us gardeners and horticultural gurus. We loved Big Begonias, Whopper Begonias and Tophat that had just introduced white. Shoot we still had Dragon Wing at the throne when it came to hanging baskets. Then something happened in the space-time continuum of begonias and gardeners. Our happiness has been shaken thanks to Viking begonias.

You see we can’t be happy now until we get our hands on each and every colour in this new series of begonias. These have been the jaw-droppers at all of the trials this summer. Eight standard varieties and 4 that are called XL. You may have heard of the one called Viking Red on Chocolate XL as it is a 2019 AAS Winner. My gut tells me, however, that this largely slipped under the radar this year, and to be honest, I would like to know why. At trials which typically seem like an ocean of colour, begonias typically have an uphill battle to steal the limelight from plants like lantanas, zinnias, and salvias, but not the case this year.

The Viking series of begonias is coming from Sakata Seed that also brought us SunPatiens and in a similar fashion, these begonias too are packed with vigour and performance. The eight regular selections are suggested to reach a height of 20-24 inches with a spread of 24 to 28 inches. The XL group takes on a more dwarf azalea frame reaching 28-34 inches tall with a width of 32 to 36 inches or should we say, THREE FEET. The rows of these begonias were uniform and stunning and seemed to be the gathering place of greenhouse producers, garden centre owners, and professional designers. The consensus was I want it and I want it NOW. To be honest it will be next year before most of us get our hands on it. The wrinkle in that may come from the 2019 AAS Winner Red on Chocolate XL. Seeds are out there although 99.5% of us have never grown a begonia from seed. Visit your garden centre often this season and keep your eyes open, you never know.

You’ll find three leaf colours in the series, bright green, bronze, and chocolate. The foliage is so luscious you want to touch it. While I have touted the size of the plants know also that the flowers are enormous and colourful with rose, pink, scarlet and coral flame. Judges were impressed with how the deep bronze of this year’s AAS Winner remained sharp and intense no matter what area of the country it was grown. Hello Sakata, we want it now!

Whether you choose to grow in sun or partial-sun, the soil should be fertile, organic-rich and well drained. Work in 3 to 4 inches of organic matter, turning the soil to a depth of about 8 inches. While tilling, add two pounds of a slow-release, 12-6-6 fertiliser with minor nutrients per 100 square feet of bed space.

These plants are ever-blooming and have the ability to form an almost dwarf shrub-like appearance. They lend themselves to create stunning vistas when mass planted. Believe me when I say, however, they can stand alone in large containers dazzling on the porch patio or deck. The Garden Guy looks forward to the day where they are combined with bananas, gingrs and elephant ears for a tropical paradise. Sakata, I want them NOW!

Viking begonias shaking up the garden world

You see we can’t be happy until we get our hands on each and every colour in this new series of begonias, writes Norman Winter.
Travelling in time along the Pacific International Date Line

When ships travel east across the International Date Line, they gain a day.

Heading west, they lose a day. And if you think that’s complicated, try living in a country that has land on both sides of the line, writes Joachim Mangler.

There’s only a single sign on the tranquil island of Taveuni to remind visitors that two separate days once existed here virtually right next to each other. If you stood east of the line, you were in yesterday, West of the line, it was today. Sound crazy? It is.

First the explanation. Longitudinal lines are the geographical co-ordinates running from the North Pole to the South Pole. These lines help to measure precisely where something is located on the Earth. The zero degree meridians runs through Greenwich, just outside London.

Taveuni, an island belonging to Fiji in the South Pacific, is situated exactly on the other side of the globe, on the 180th line of longitude. This north – south line runs through vast expanses of the Pacific Ocean and, importantly, marks the International Date Line dividing yesterday from today – or today from tomorrow.

And, as if this isn’t confusing enough, things can get even more complicated. When those travelling by ship near Taveuni cross the International Date Line heading east, they experience the same day twice. Heading west, they lose an entire day.

On a cruise ship heading from Fiji to Tahiti, the captain tells the passengers: “Hapag-Lloyd is generous and so is giving you an extra day.” The ship is heading eastwards across the International Date Line. This means that Wednesday takes place twice on board – “because it was so beautiful,” the captain says with a wink. “We took pains to see that nobody has a birthday.”

The passengers spend hours trying to figure out why it is that a day must be experienced twice. With intuition alone, it is something that is not easily grasped.

To try to understand the date line, one should imagine two air passengers who, starting from the prime meridian in London, fly off in opposite directions. One heads west, where, upon reaching each new time zone, they must turn their watch back one hour. The other flies east, and must correspondingly keep turning the watch ahead by one hour.

When both passengers reach the 180th degree of longitude, they have both travelled for the same amount of time, yet one has repeatedly lost an hour and the other has kept gaining an hour. But since, logically speaking, neither has travelled into the past or the future, there must be some kind of balance established. So, the traveller coming from the west goes back a day, while the one from the east goes forward a day.

The fact that the zero meridian was established as running through Greenwich is rooted in a – rather arbitrary – decision at an international conference in 1884. Which means that theoretically speaking, the date line could also be somewhere else.

But the fact that the International Date Line runs through the Pacific Ocean, where few people actually live, was intentional. It means that very little actual land territory is divided by two days of the calendar.

That notwithstanding, the International Date Line does not completely follow the 180th meridian. The line does some zigging and zagging, since having two dates can be a handicap for the affected countries. The same applies to time zones, which also rarely follow a specific longitude. And so, today, the International Date Line no longer runs through the island of Taveuni.

It also makes a hammer-shaped bulge near the equator close to the island republic of Kiribati. In 1995, Kiribati was fed up with dividing its time between two different days, and so the country decided that it lies completely west of the International Date Line. The new adjusted time zone was ushered in at the turn of the millennium, which has given the Micronesian island-state the nickname of the “Millennium Islands.”

In 2011, Samoa changed from the eastern side of the date line to the western side because this brought benefits in its trade with Australia, New Zealand and Asia. Beforehand, Samoa was virtually always running a day behind. But American Samoa remained in the east.

“The date line has inspired us all to think a lot more about things,” comments one of the passengers on board the cruise ship as the trip comes to an end. The lecturer keeps going back to the day that was repeated on board: “I still don’t know whether I got paid for that second day.” – DPA
The combination of contemporary architecture with Islamic traditions

During my first visit to the Education City Mosque located in the Education City, I found the whole space breathtaking. This is the first truly modern structure for worshippers in the region and it is already an inspiration for many. The interior juxtaposes light and shadow. The uniqueness of the building is that the rays of light penetrate through the holes of different shapes and sizes.

The peculiar features of the mosque are the two minarets, similar to ribbons which strive for the sky. The mosque rests on five large columns with each featuring a verse from the Quran. Prayer lines are calligraphed over the facade of the building. Four streams of water flow from the surrounding garden into the building. The mosque has a main prayer hall - a hall for men and a hall for women, and classroom spread across the floor.

This is a must visit place for people in Qatar, especially since everybody is welcome to visit. It is also a place to go and click some stunning pictures, get enlightened about religion and spend some quiet time. It is an oasis of serenity amidst the bustling city.

— Text by Keerthana Kandaraja, photos by Santhiya Kandaraja
The chrome handlebars of Carlos Bermudez's lowrider glint in the sun as he hops on and starts to pedal. He and his friends from the Chilangos Lowbike Club stand out among all the cyclists, joggers and roller-bladers on the Paseo de la Reforma in the centre of Mexico City.

It’s not just their unusual and elaborately decorated bikes, but also the way they are dressed: baggy pants, XXL sports jerseys, silver chains and large rings on their fingers. Some are tattooed, even on their neck and head – like David Tavira, whom they call ‘El Pizaron’ (the blackboard).

Their outfits recall the ‘Cholos’ – Mexican youths who in the 1970s sought to establish their own identity in the immigrant districts of Los Angeles. Many of the lowriders live in areas that are plagued with violence. They don’t want any trouble here – just to cycle on their special bicycles.

A lowrider is a kind of lowered bicycle. With their low seats and long, curved handlebars, some look a bit like a Harley Davidson, but without the engine. Their owners are also often classic biker types.

“Some were gang members, but today they don’t want any more trouble. That’s why they’re cruising now,” says Saul Perez Ramiro. The 30-year-old bricklayer has got his bike himself.

“They want to leave that behind them. And when they come here instead of committing crimes, they represent a culture. There’s a completely different atmosphere here,” he says.

On the last Sunday of every month, the boulevards of Mexico City become a track for the lowriders. And it’s not just their exotic bikes that attract attention, but also their characteristic poses and gestures, borrowed from the gangs of Central America.

The group was founded in 2014 and today has around 85 members, including women and children. “Apart from our image, we are a club like any other,” says Juan Carlos Jasso, one of the organisers. “There are workers, fathers and students here.”

They meet at a corner opposite the cathedral of San Hipolito near the Hidalgo metro station to start their tour.

“We are like a family,” says 30-year-old Hector Hernandez. “There are boys who have been through so much that they are marked - hence the tattoos. They joined the club first and foremost to leave all that behind – everything that they did.”

One of them has come with his seven-year-old son on a converted tricycle. “The aim of our bike club is to change this image people have: Here come the wrongdoers, the thieves and the drug addicts. When they get to know us, they realise that it’s not true,” he says.

The group has rules for how members support and interact with each other. Members must respect the code in order to be allowed to wear the official signs of membership: a badge to hang around your neck and a shirt with the yellow ‘Chilangos’ lettering on the back. That’s what the inhabitants of the Mexican capital are called.

“I see this as a lifestyle. It’s something that allows you to completely switch off,” says Juan Carlos Martinez. Inspired by the lowriders, the 21-year-old started studying industrial design.

Ricardo ‘Robotin’ Sanchez’s bicycle, meanwhile, is chrome-plated. Its seat has a low backrest and the rear wheel rim is reinforced. Uriel Solorzano rides a blue bike with curved handlebars decorated with dice. The 24-year-old is a lawyer, but instead of a suit and tie, he is wearing dungarees with the straps hanging down.

“They say fashion is just what you like wearing. Clothes don’t make people,” he says. “People often see us and think, ‘You will steal from me.’ But when they engage in conversation, they are surprised. Some are academics, teachers and cooks,” he says. “This is a project that shakes off that bad image.” – DPA

Once a month, the members of Chilangos Lowbike Club gather for a ride through the boulevards of Mexico City, writes Andrea Sosa.
Wordsearch

AGUILAS  GUERNICA  VIGO
CUENZA  PAMPLONA  BURGOS
ALCALA  HUELVA  ZAMORA
DURANGO  TOLEDO  CADIZ
MALAGA  BARCELONA  LEON
ALCOY  IRUN  CORDOBA
GRANADA  VALENCIA  LORCA
OVIDE  BILBAO
ALICANTE  JEREZ

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.

Codeword courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Sudoku

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

Bound And Gagged

Bound And Gagged
Super Cryptic Clues

**Across**
1 Beginner in Athens (5)
4 Long poems involving spice? (5)
7 Loose chips are heavenly (8)
8 A cereal, we hear, that’s crooked (4)
9 Ancient city not completely destroyed? (4)
10 Garment daughter ripped off (7)
12 Social occasion - central bit in backyard? (6,5)
14 Sit and read awkwardly with legs apart (7)
16 Small animal in boat (4)
19 Captain in submarine movies (4)
20 Examination, as soon as it’s finished (4,4)
21 Times leader censures pitfalls (5)
22 Fibre used in optics is altered (5)

**Down**
1 Porter right on the ball (5)
2 Group of soldiers taking philosopher forward (7)
3 A colleague of Castro is hurt (4)
4 Get away having swallowed half of loaf or slice of meat (8)
5 Characters from China needlessly silly (5)
6 Theatre work that could have you in stitches (7)
7 Mortality figures may be a complete write-off (4,4)
8 Family tree reveals this sudden visit (7)
9 Judges playing conkers? (7)
10 Woman distributing hoard (5)
11 Revolver we’ll hear (5)
12 Cast about for laws (4)

**Colouring**

**Answers**

**Wordsearch**

**Codeword**
Soft furnishing ideas for your home

lifting the look of your house can be easy with a change or two in soft furnishings. Play around with a rug or throw in cushions to style it well, suggest experts.

Rashmi, Founder, Carpet Couture, has the following tips to share:

- Style the windows: The windows are the eyes of the home, letting in light and confining the world outside. Try and pick trendy curtains for your windows – for example, strong textures or wild examples, Venetian blinds or mantel screens.
- Make a statement with a rug: Your eyes will normally be attracted to walls and furniture, but did you realise that a carpet/rug can truly integrate the room? Pick something that you can manage the cost of. Only buy if you adore it. A rug encompasses the furniture arrangement and makes the decor look complete.
- Complementary bed linens accentuate the decor. A printed bedspread really uplifts a space when it comes to decor.
- Store cushions to style it well, suggest experts.

Sameet A M, Founder and CEO, Bonito Designs, suggests:

- One of the easiest things to look for while decorating is curtains, things you might have already stacked away in your cupboards. There are plenty of things already in your home you may not have considered wall-worthy. Take another look at curtains, scarves and fabrics you’ve collected and use large, or several smaller pieces by hanging them on a rod or directly onto the wall with small hooks sewn onto the back.

— Revive a favourite sofa or chair: We all have that one most loved household item that we just couldn’t stand to dispose off. Regardless of whether it’s a legacy wingback seat or a comfortable Chesterfield couch, there’s no requirement for a substitution. Squash squared velvet, an extravagant print or much calfskin – maybe pick something swanky to make the thing emerge significantly more to give a special style to your living room.

— Complementary bed linens

— Using objects such as musical instruments and album covers makes a fitting display in your living room – particularly when hung together in a grouping or salon arrangement. Choose matching frames to bring it all together for a cohesive look. — IANS

ARIES
March 21 – April 19

You may feel like you’re coming up against a brick wall, Aries. Your emotions are a bit shut down and you may find that you’re more stubborn than usual. There is a large and benefical force that you can tap into today, as long as you keep your intuition open. This is a day in which you can get quite a bit accomplished if you set your mind to it. Radiate your true nature through every cell in your body and share:

TAURUS
April 20 – May 20

Smile at the world today, Taurus. Be thankful for the things you have and the people around you. Amplify the cozy, warm feeling inside and spread this love to others. This is a very expansive time for you in which you can get quite a bit accomplished if you set your mind to it. Radiate your true nature through every cell in your body and watch as the opportunities come your way.

CANCER
June 21 – July 22

There may be a great deal of opposition in your way today, Cancer, but try not to dwell on it. The key is to stay levelheaded and maintain a positive outlook. This is a day in which you can bring a great deal of balance to issues by understanding and respecting the other side. Have charity for those who are making sacrifices so that you may have a more comfortable ride.

LIBRA
September 23 – October 22

There may be a battle between old and new in your world today, Libra. A reserved and old-fashioned perspective has a strong hold on the prevailing sentiment. This feeling is likely going to hit you square in the face as you lean toward the unconventional and more revolutionary approach to life. See what sort of past lessons you can learn from as you build the future.

AQUARIUS
January 20 – February 18

The key to being successful today is to maintain an air of stability. If others see you as too flighty and off the wall, they will hesitate about putting their trust in you. Make sure you do those things in your power that will help boost your clout. You will need this support from others later. Make a solid base to build on.

SCORPIO
October 23 – November 21

People may seem a bit stubborn today. Your powers of adaptation may be put to the test, Scorpio. The people around you are likely to fall on your tender, sympathetic nature. Offer a nurturing ear and strong shoulder for others to cry on. Keep things low key and steady. The more grounded you are, the easier it will be to get along with the energy of today.

CAPRICORN
December 22 – January 19

Today is a terrific day for taking the plunge or making an investment, Capricorn. Luck and prosperity are in your favour, and you have the opportunity to make some very profitable financial decisions. Your intuition is right in line with what you need to do. Make the best deal possible and provide a fair and secure future for you and your investment.

GEMINI
May 21 – June 20

Today isn’t the best day to play practical jokes, Gemini, so put away the disappearing ink. Stick close to home. Find security in doing things you know how to do best. Hang a painting and cook a scrumptious dinner. You can inspire others with your smile, so use it. Don’t get down if your thoughts aren’t flowing well with the group. This is a sign that you should spend some time alone.

LEO
July 23 – August 22

The pieces of today’s puzzle may not fit into place, Leo, and it’s possible that you have no idea why. Don’t stress over something you don’t quite understand. The key to making things work out is listening. Adjustments will definitely be needed on both sides, but this can only happen if both parties are willing to open their ears and understand one another’s perspective.

VIRGO
August 23 – September 22

Today can be an extremely productive day, Virgo. You’re in a good space from which to work and this will aid you in all your endeavours. Today is also excellent for looking at some of the long-term trends moving through your life now. Consider the next five or ten years and think about how your actions will affect your future. Plan ahead to get ahead.

SAGITTARIUS
November 22 – December 21

When you go up a flight of stairs, take one step at a time today, Sagittarius. Skipping up the staircase two at a time could result in you falling back to the bottom. Trying to rush things today will leave holes in your projects. Finish jobs completely by making sure that every step is thoroughly taken care of. Don’t ignore the details.

PISCES
February 19 – March 20

Today is a very expansive day for you, Pisces. Your emotions can lead you into favourable situations with others. The pace of the day may seem a little slow, but this can be used to your advantage. Examine every detail with care and try not to leave any piece of the equation unaccounted for. You should enjoy a stable, caring mood that radiates out and draws others toward you.
Manisha's grandparents inspired her to be a questioner

Actress-author Manisha Koirala says it was her grandparents who inspired her to be a writer, thinker and someone who questions.

Manisha on Friday shared a photograph of her grandparents and captioned it: “My love for classical dance, reading fiction inspired by her and dreams of being a writer/thinker (or in my case questioner) was inspired by grandparents.”

Manisha, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2012, wrote about her journey as a survivor in *Healed: How Cancer Gave Me a New Life.*

Earlier this month, Manisha announced: “Starting a film...another exciting journey begins. Feel blessed.” – IANS

Life got ruined with *Wasseypur,* says Kashyap

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap says when *Gangs Of Wasseypur* released on this day seven years ago, his life got “ruined.”

June 22, 2012 was when the first instalment of the two-part *Gangs Of Wasseypur* released. It is a cult film that revolves around a gangster who clashes with a ruthless, coal-mining kingpin.

“Seven years back is exactly when my life got ruined. Since then all everyone wants me to do is the same thing over and over again. Whereas, I have only been unsuccessfully trying to get away from that expectation. Anyways hope that Sanalveer is over by the end of 2019,” Kashyap tweeted yesterday.

*Gangs Of Wasseypur,* based on a real life story, was loved by the masses for its rawness. It had managed to collect Rs10 crore in the opening weekend.

The gang war drama based in Wasseypur in Jharkhand, featured Manoj Bajpayee, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Piyush Mishra and Richa Chadha.

Kashyap has helmed films like *Black Friday,* *Dev.D,* *Gulaal,* *Ugly,* *Raman Raghav,* *Black Friday,* *Mukkabaaz* and *Fleabag.*

He is currently working on a new film with Roshan Mathew and Saiyami Kher. – IANS

Going to theatres to watch films still a popular trend

By Michael Phillips

Owners of the nation’s roughly 4,100 movie theatre screens are hoping the arrival of *Toy Story 4* will mean big business. The previous *Toy Story* made a little over $1 billion in revenue. So, that kind of big.

Next week, Chicago native and Northwestern University graduate Patrick Corcoran will leave Studio City, Calif., where he lives, and return to his hometown for a lunch meeting convened by the Webedush Securities Inc. The mission, in his words: “to dispel some misconceptions about the health of the exhibition industry.” And to persuade a roomful of skeptical financial analysts that traditional, old-fashioned movie-going hasn’t succumbed to online streaming platforms yet.

Not yet.

The movie-going experience and the corporate behemoths supplying its wares may not be “a growth stock,” Corcoran tells me. “It’s too erratic, and dependent on the popularity of the movies. But for investors it’s a good dividend stock, quarter after quarter.”

A former entertainment journalist and Los Angeles Reader theater editor, Corcoran serves as vice-president and chief communications officer of the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO), a trade organization representing the owners of those 4,100 screens across the US and Canada.

Industry analysts, Corcoran says, “keep reading and hearing this idea that there’s a mass change in consumer behaviour, and it’s leaving the movie industry behind.” That, he argues, doesn’t jibe with 1.3 billion tickets sold in 2018 across the US and Canada.

“Because that misconception’s in play?” Corcoran says. “A bad string of movies has a way of underscoring the perception that we’re a legacy industry, if not a dying one.”

About that rough patch: A lot of recent studio titles performed poorly. *Men In Black: International,* *Shaft,* *Dark Phoenix* represent brand recognition without much imagination or distinctive filmmaking skill.

Of the 10 most lucrative theatrical offerings so far in 2019, only one film – *Jordan Peele’s Us* – wasn’t a sequel, or a remake, or franchise line item. It was new. And it turned into Peele’s second consecutive smash, with *Get Out* pulling in $255 million worldwide (on a $4.5 million product budget) prior to *Us* ($254 million worldwide, on a $20 million production budget).

Peele’s movies are anomalies in a movie world regularly smothered by the Marvel Cinematic Universe and super-heroes that feel a little less super each year, even when the movies work. Certainly from most angles *Avengers: Endgame* worked. It satisfied the unofficial global membership ranks of the MCU club, to the tune of $2.69 billion in revenue.

It was a sterling example of “product supply,” which is a phrase NATO’s Corcoran hears with some regularity, “which is a phrase NATO’s Corcoran hears with some regularity when meeting with industry analysts.

What’s missing, he says, is simple.

“We’re not offering audiences enough diversity of types of films to get them in the door,” Corcoran says. “Audiences turn out for the huge stuff. But you can also build a big audience through a mixture of smaller films.”

Marketing and advertising, so often under-budgeted and curtailed just when a new film needs the boost, is ridiculously pricey. If a $20 million dollar studio movie wants to open successfully on 2,000 screens, and scores a $50 million marketing budget, the film has to make $150 million to break even.

That doesn’t happen very often. If it did, Corcoran likely wouldn’t be getting on a plane next week to come to Chicago to talk to a lunchful of financial analysts about the long-term viability of movie-going.

Corcoran says the media has to claim some of the responsibility: “If there’s any industry being hurt by the online world, it’s the press. And I wonder if the press has a way of seeing everything through that lens (of crisis)?”

When Disney and AT&T/WarnerMedia launch their streaming platforms next year, will things indeed change in the multiplex–slaughtering fashion so many have predicted for so long?

Perhaps. For now, the product supply remains somewhere between “steady” and “too much to handle properly.” It’s the same with streaming platforms and home–screen options. Half the country goes to bed wondering how the other half has time for even a fraction of it, and half of both halves wonder when they’ll get around to *Fleabag.*

Meanwhile, at the multiplexes: If we continue to get the occasional MCU triumph, such as *Black Panther,* and the occasional stand-alone, franchise-free success story, such as *Us,* then a few dud weeks near the midpoint of 2019 won’t merit much attention come December.

But for anyone who saw *Dark Phoenix* in the same late spring blur as *Aladdin* (a hit, though not with me) and *Men In Black: International* and *Shaft,* the viability of the same old formulas feels perilously shaky.

“Hollywood runs on retreats,” as Corcoran says. It’s a winning game plan for the stockholders. Until it isn’t anymore. – *Chicago Tribune/TNS*
ICC unveils plans for new welfare, cultural programmes

By Mudassir Raja

A ll expatriate communities always like to enjoy and engage themselves in cultural activities in Qatar. The Indian community here, the largest expatriate community, is no exception to that.

The Indian Community Centre (ICC) working under the aegis of the Indian Embassy has always been involved in carrying out cultural programmes. They have arranged many programmes on their premises and also in other places. These programmes are about dance, music and art of India. These events are well-attended by Indians living in Qatar and the people of other communities.

Indian schools and they can also come and perform in ICC on every Wednesday. There are many Indian schools and they can also come and perform in ICC on every Wednesday. There are many institutes that are also interested in carrying out cultural programmes. They will participate in the programmes according to their quality. We are trying to inform more and more people to come and enjoy the shows. Mostly cultural programmes in Doha take place on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. We have arranged it on Wednesday, giving people a chance to enjoy cultural activities during week days.

The president added that the ICC had already been conducting different classes for dance, karate, chess and music. “This summer we plan to have some crash courses for Indian expatriates.”

Manikantan A P, President of ICC

“We are also going to upgrade the website of ICC and the new website will be launched on June 25. Indian expatriates will be able to apply for ICC membership online. We are also creating a job portal in the website.”

– Manikantan A P, President ICC

Indian expatriates will be able to apply for ICC membership online. We are also creating a job portal in the website.