No-one is more surprised by *Chernobyl*'s success than creator Craig Mazin. P4-5
Aladdin
DIRECTION: Guy Ritchie
CAST: Chris Hemsworth, Tessa Thompson, Kumail Nanjiani
SYNOPSIS: When a street urchin finds a lamp with a genie inside, he uses the lamp to turn himself into a prince in order to win the heart of a beautiful princess. But an evil vizier is after the lamp too.
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark

Unda
DIRECTION: Khalid Rahman
CAST: Mammootty, Asif Ali, Vinay Forrt
SYNOPSIS: The film narrates the events that occur when a unit of policemen from Kerala reach the Naxalite prone areas in North India for election duty. During a volatile election season, a group of policemen led by Sub Inspector Mani strive to maintain law and order in a Naxalite stronghold.
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza
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, 55448853.

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, 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 33897609.

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

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.
By Matt Brennan

With Chernobyl, his first TV series, screenwriter Craig Mazin — perhaps best known for his two sequels to The Hangover — made the leap from popcorn entertainment to serious historical drama. The gamble paid off: The HBO/Sky Atlantic miniseries, which dramatises the 1986 nuclear accident and its aftermath, emerged as an unlikely hit, with more than 9 million viewers, plus 6.5 million downloads or views of its companion podcast.

We asked Mazin, 48, why he thinks audiences are responding to Chernobyl and what prompted him to interrogate his own work on The Chernobyl Podcast.

Are you surprised by the way Chernobyl has taken off?
I think if you predict something like this, you’re probably a sociopath. I always presume the worst. That’s just the way I’m built. We thought that we were really proud of the show we made. We thought that some people would see it, and we hoped that those people would appreciate it too. But we also felt that a lot of people would see it and think, “This is too much,” or “It’s just not something that I’m interested in.” We have been overwhelmed with the response.

Why do you think people are connecting with it?
I think people are connecting with it the way I connected with it. The most you can hope for is that the very things that excite you and thrill you and scare you and move you and break your heart will do those things to other people.

“We have been overwhelmed”

The most you can hope for is that the very things that excite you and thrill you and scare you and move you and break your heart will do those things to other people

— Craig Mazin
It's been suggested that viewers' interest stems from the series' depiction of an environmental catastrophe, its political relevance, or its reflection of a new Cold War sensibility. What do you make of those interpretations?

You can't invalidate anyone's interpretation of something — well, I mean, you can. Look, some people can get things wrong. But I don't think any of those people are getting anything wrong. One of the reasons to tell any kind of historical event, to re-present it for people, is because it's relevant now. There are historical events that are interesting, they're just not that relevant. I think this one is interesting and relevant, and it does have greater implications for how we move through our lives and how we relate to our own government and how we relate to the truth ...

My greatest worry was that people would see the show and say, "Those people did something. Those people had a problem. That was about that." So now we're just sort of gawking at history. Far from it: There was nothing that happened in the Soviet Union that didn't happen anywhere else, because the last time I checked, the Soviet Union was made up of people, and these are human problems.

Chernobyl reminds me of American Crime Story, drawing on some genre elements that might be unexpected in a historical drama. Did you think consciously of ways to bring a reluctant viewer into the story?

When you're making historical drama, you do need to be aware of the audience. If I wanted to just educate people, I suppose I'd write a book — and there are some terrific books that are being written about Chernobyl — or I'd teach a class. I want to educate people but I also want them to feel something. This is about connecting to other human beings, and feeling empathy for human beings that aren't even with us anymore. That requires drama, and that's a different practice.

To me, one of the most fascinating parts of watching Chernobyl was listening to the companion podcast. Can you tell me about how that came about?

It was something that I had been asking for since the beginning ... I said, "By the way, full disclosure, I want to be able to offer full disclosure, so when we do the show, I want there to be a companion piece" — at that point, I had been podcasting for a bit myself — "where we talk about the changes that had to be made." Because so much of what this is about is truth and narrative and needing to be accountable to truth, and I don't think that talking openly about what needed to change so that we could tell the story is going to diminish the story. I think the opposite ...

HBO had this big teleconference meeting: "What will this be about?" And I'm sitting there giggling, like, "I'm pretty sure what it's about is, we're going to talk about the show, and I'm going to talk about what's accurate and what changed and why. That's it. There's nothing complicated about this one." Again, I have to tell you, I was pretty sure that no one was going to listen to it. I just thought this was something that I was doing because it was the right thing to do. And I don't think anybody at HBO felt like this was a huge promotional opportunity. Theoretically, one ad on the side of one bus in New York will do more to promote the show than this thing.

Why do you think people gravitated toward the podcast?

It seems like it could be because they want to pull back the curtain on Hollywood magic, or because it gives them an outlet for the kinds of conversations about TV that are happening on Twitter. I thought that if people listened to the podcast, it would perhaps make the conversations a little easier. Because sometimes conversations on Twitter can turn around questions, which become arguments. Some people say, "Why did they do this?" And someone will say, "I think they did it because of this." And someone else will say, "Well, I think they did it because of this." And they begin to fight, because it's Twitter. Meanwhile, they're both wrong. ... There is a little bit of a danger in the demystification, but I think that's a bigger issue with fiction, which is entirely a magic trick. This is not entirely a magic trick. In fact, clinging to the magic of it is somewhat disrespectful to the truth of it.

Were you at all worried about interrogating the truth content of your own show? Was there ever a moment where you thought, "Is this is just going to open me up to more criticism?"

Anything that we felt we would be embarrassed to defend or squirming in our seats explaining why we did it the way we did, we just wouldn't do. We thought, "Look, we're telling this the best way we can, and therefore we can be open and honest about the changes that we made, and we can give the reasons." It doesn't necessarily mean that people can't disagree that our reasoning was good. But, by and large, people have felt that .... It's hard to accuse people of trying to pull a fast one when they're showing you how they're doing it.

There are no pure dramatists of history. It's not possible. I think sometimes, writers and directors want to present themselves as these perfect purveyors of historical truth, and if you start to question them, they roll their eyes at you and say you've missed the point. ... What I'm advocating here is a dramatic retelling of history, but to do so with some kind of responsibility and accountability. And if you have the answers, if you have the decent explanation, you should share that with people.

—Los Angeles Times/TNS
DPS-MIS organises award ceremony

DPS-Modern Indian School recently organised an award ceremony to felicitate the meritorious students of Grade X and XII. Hemant Kumar Dwivedi, First Secretary of Information and Education at the Embassy of India, was the chief guest at the event. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Hassan Chougule, President of DPS-MIS, and other executive committee members of DPS-MIS. Speaking on the occasion, Aruna Nair, Principal of DPS-MIS, highlighted that the institution has always sought quality education and it is reflected in every performance of the students. She congratulated the top performers of Grade X and XII on their results and encouraged them to be role models both in action and behaviour. She also urged the parents to understand the pressure level of their wards, spend time with them and reinforce the values of gratitude, tolerance and compassion to help them grow into the responsible citizens of tomorrow. Speaking on the occasion, Hemant Kumar Dwivedi, praised the young achievers for their ‘enthusiasm to learn’ and teachers for their ‘passion to teach’. Hassan Chougule, commended the students on their achievement and advised them to remain tenacious, committed and resolve in their future endeavours. Around 300 students were awarded with trophies, blue blazers, blue ties, gold and silver medals and merit certificates.

Upakar marks 15th anniversary celebrations

Upakar, an association of the residents of Pala Kaduthuruthy, Kerala, India, recently organised an event to mark its 15th anniversary at Indian Cultural Centre. Monce Joseph, MLA, Kaduthuruthy, was the chief guest on the occasion. Thankachan Kurien, President of Upakar, presided over the meeting. Various notable personalities, including Vinod Kumar, Vice President of Indian Cultural Centre; Joppachan Thikeykutty, President of Upakar; Jagy George, Secretary at Upakar, and George Joseph Vembally, Vice President of Upakar, spoke on the occasion. Abdul Rauf Kondotty and Abdul Salam, both social workers in Qatar, along with, Jose Nambusseril, founding president of Upakar, and Jose Chemmanathadam, founding patron, were felicitated at the event. The members of Upakar presented several performances at the event. Manoj Mathew, Chairman of Upakar Advisory council, along with Biju John, Thomas Augustin, Sibu Varghese, Advisory council members, coordinated the event.

PMG to organise tribute for legendary Rafi, Sadaf

The Punjab Music Group (PMG) is all set to organise a musical evening as a tribute to Mohammed Rafi, legendary singer, and Abdul Razzaq Sadaf, legendary poet, on July 19 at Skill Development Centre. International singers along with poets, including Arif Ali, notable singer from Karachi, and Kaifi Azmi Mr. Khafi poet from Lahore, would be a part of the event. For further details, contact Nazakat Ali Khan, Chief Organiser at PMG, on 33381490 and 7762320.

Past International President of Toastmasters to visit Qatar

Bala Arunasalam, Immediate Past International President of Toastmasters, is all set to visit Qatar to conduct a training session during District Executive Committee meeting and to deliver a keynote address. ‘Position is not the pinnacle’. Arunasalam holds an advanced level General Certificate of Education from Trinity College in Kandy, Sri Lanka, and is earning a master’s degree from the Australian Institute of Business Administration. A dedicated Toastmaster for 28 years, is a distinguished leader, who has held numerous offices. “Toastmasters is a way of life. It helped me understand the philosophy of leadership, to give and receive respect, and to be humble,” said Arunasalam. Sundaresan Rajeswar, District Director said, “There cannot be a better way to end this very successful year with Qatar being the first Smedley Distinguished District in the world and currently tops in other global ranking criteria. This event is like a parting gift to members for accomplishing goals set in every sphere with exemplary teamwork and dedication.” The event is scheduled to be held on June 29 from 6:30pm to 8pm at Birla School auditorium.
AMUAAQ organises annual ladies event

The AMU Alumni Association Qatar (AMUAAQ) recently organised its annual ladies event ‘Zaiqa-e-Aligarh 2019’ at Grand Regal Hotel Doha. Jawed Ahmad presided over the event. Sophia Bukhari, from Qatar University, and Kausar Hassan Choghule, founding member of DPS-Modern Indian School, were the chief guests and Zainab Azem the guest of honour. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Dr M S Bukhari, Rafat Jahan, Qazi Faiz, Ibraiz Khan, Mohamed Shahabuddin, Rasheed Christi, Qamar Alam, Shahid Khan, Ali Imran, Ziauddin Ahmad, Zoyaul Haque, Sarwer Mirza, Abdul Karim, Danush Ali Khan, Afif Khan, Jawed Sultani, Farman Khan, Mosheer Alam, Shahid Parvez, Shad Kaisar, Junaid, Dr Mosharraf, Abuzar, Naam, Alamirg, Umer, Aslam and Jawed Ahmad.

More than 130 people including participants attended the event. Dr Ashna Nusrat and Nuzhat Parveen compered the event. The event kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an by Haleema and Samia. Dr Ashna Nusrat, the co-ordinator for the ladies group of AMUAAQ, welcomed the gathering, which was followed by a presentation and discussion on Zaiqa-e-Aligarh. A quiz competition for the male members was also part of the event.

The event featured a cooking competition. The judges of the competition, included Baccha Singh, Rajeev and Zainab Azem. The event was sponsored by SATCO International, Deccan Deewan, Malabar Gold, Al-Sulaiman Jewellers and Watches, Qatar Canadian Trading and QFM.

The winners of the competition, included Sadaf Kausar, in main course category; Khadija Perween, starter; and Farheen Haider, dessert. The first runners up of the competition, included Samiya Syed, main course; Sadaf Kausar, starter; and Ambiya Khatoon, desert. The second runners up of the competition, included Fareena Junaid, main course; Sara Ali Khan, starter; and Afrida Khatoon, dessert. Hina Sarwar proposed a vote of thanks.

Doha College exhibits artwork of students

Doha College recently opened the doors of its Art and DT centre to unveil the creativity and skills of its students, who produced works for their GCSE, AS and A Level examinations in fine art, photography, product design, textiles design and media. The original pieces of art and design on display included both coursework and examination outcomes along with preparatory pieces, spanning across the mediums of painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, printing, graphics, lens-based media, moving imagery, mixed media, three-dimensional design and textiles.

Dr Steffen Sommer, Principal at Doha College, along with Sabah Arbili, artist whose calligraphy-based art is widely and internationally displayed in the Middle East, Europe, Russia, Turkey, Australia and throughout the world, inaugurated the exhibition. Sabah is a master in traditional calligraphy; an award winner for his works and has works showcased all around Qatar, including the calligraphy sculpture in stainless steel on the Corniche.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Steffen Sommers, said, “Once again, the Doha College Art Exhibition was a highlight of the academic year. The students’ artwork, be it GCSE or A Level, was of very high calibre indeed, and it showed one thing: that art is a very important feature in the Doha College academic schedule. Art and creativity can indeed be taught, learnt and improved. Our artists have shown how accomplished they already are, and some of the pieces could easily have been sent to exhibitions for which invitees pay. The exhibition also included Design and Technology pieces by our GCSE and A Level students, which showed how the knowledge of students and technology could be combined. Being a visual arts exhibition, there was also a variety of films that were shown by the Media Studies department. Here again, the visual art and film-making competence of our students was on display and highlighted that Doha College students are well versed in combining and using skills learnt in one subject to another, and translating them creatively into pieces of art.”

Audrey Stigter, a student of Grade VII at Doha College, played harp on the occasion. The event was sponsored by InterContinental Doha the City Hotel.
SIS organises Inter School Teachers Discussion Forum

Shantiniketan Indian School recently organised an Inter School Teachers Discussion Forum ‘Progress in Artificial Intelligence will Revolutionise Education’. The session was moderated by Tanveer Ahmed. He highlighted the importance of AI and pointed out that adjusting learning based on an individual student’s need has been a priority for educators for years and AI will allow a level of differentiation that’s impossible for teachers who have to manage 30 students in each class. He said that the promise of AI in education is not that it will replace teachers and advisors rather it will empower them for the best outcome of the students. The transformation of active digital teaching and learning to virtual reality through AI which will culminate in the preparation of the children for dynamic, social and economic changes of the future were discussed on the occasion. The discussion stressed on the effect of AI in strengthening the knowledge of the learners through interdisciplinary and cross curricular instruction. Eradication of the burden of non-comprehension through differentiating the content, process, product and learning environment will fully be plausible through AI. Dr Subhash Nair, Principal of Shantiniketan Indian School, and Prasad, Principal of Loyola International School, appreciated the members of the panel, including Vijeesh, Sajith K, Ben Antony, Shakir Hussain, Sudha, Mariam John, Rekha, Sharad, Sabiha and Dr Deepika, and honoured them with the certificate of participation.

Pearl Social celebrates grand opening with international chef and restaurateur Jason Atherton

Pearl Social recently celebrated the grand opening of their restaurant and bar, The Divers Club, with a special guest appearance by the renowned international chef and restaurateur Jason Atherton at a star-studded VIP celebration at Marsa Malaz Kempinski, The Pearl – Doha, stated a press release. Jason Atherton, founder of The Social Company, a global restaurant group, spoke to guests about his vision for Pearl Social. Attended by various dignitaries, socialites, members of business associations, corporates and media and influencers, guests were able to enjoy a selection of dishes and small bites from the new menu, enjoy the relaxed setting of Pearl Social and socialise with the notable communities of Doha. Pearl Social is a modern British restaurant that offers a superlative dining experience at a waterfront location. On its upper floor, guests can enjoy The Diver’s Club, where they can savour creative cocktails and mocktails and gather for an evening out. Chef Jason Atherton said, “I am delighted to be here launching the newest member of the Social Company, Pearl Social is exactly as its name suggests – a place where everyone can come and enjoy delicious food and beverages in a sociable environment.” Mélanie Moncho, General Manager of Pearl Social and The Diver’s Club, said, “This is an exciting start for us! The Social brand is all about putting the fun back into dining and that’s exactly what we aim to achieve with Pearl Social and especially tonight at our Grand Opening.” Pearl Social brings to Doha an extensive menu with a selection of modern international and British inspired dishes: from pastas and risottos to seafood, grilled meats and sharing plates. There are also traditional British roasts on Saturdays and Sundays, the Social Brunch every Friday, as well as a Ladies Night on Tuesdays and the hearty Steak Nights on Wednesday.
**ICC to organise musical event**

Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), in association with Thiruvananthapuram District Residents Association in Qatar (TRAQ), an associate organisation of ICC, is all set to stage a musical evening ‘Mehfil’ tomorrow (June 26) from 7:30pm onwards at Ashoka Hall, ICC. The event will feature songs from Bollywood and Malayalam movies apart from Qawwali, Ghazals and dance sequences. Admission to the event is free for all.

**DPS-MIS participates in yoga celebrations**

The staff members of DPS-Modern Indian School (DPS MIS) recently participated in the celebrations of 5th International Yoga Day at Qatar National Museum, organised by the embassy of India. More than 1,500 people from different schools, communities and nationalities attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, P Kumaran, Ambassador of India, highlighted the health benefits of yoga. He said that yoga helps people be physically fit and mentally strong and is a great stress-buster. It can be practised by everyone irrespective of the age.

**BOOK REVIEW**

**Patsy: magnetic, wrenching**

By Connie Ogle

In America, anyone can be anything. That’s what the dream assures us, right? We live in the land of opportunity for anyone willing to work hard. Unless of course you get here the wrong way. Then there’s little opportunity, few choices, constant unease, quick despair. You don’t belong.

In her new novel, Nicole Dennis-Benn contrasts the deep chasm between the American dream and immigrant reality, and the result is magnetic and wrenching. The story is a perfect fit for the author: Her first novel, *Here Comes the Sun*, laid bare the poster image of Jamaica as a tropical paradise, revealing the ugly truths behind the promises of sun, sand and love. Now, in *Patsy*, she exposes another mirage, returning to themes she explored with insight and empathy - sexism, racism, colourism, motherhood and poverty.

What must women sacrifice, Dennis-Benn asks, to become their true selves? It’s not just a question for the privileged. Patsy, a civil servant in Jamaica, knows her answer. In a fair world, her affinity for math would lead her to a desirable job. Accounting, maybe. But such work is impossible to find, because dark-skinned, poor women like Patsy have little value in her town.

So Patsy has invested the little money she has saved and spent it on a visa application. She is going to America, she tells her 5-year-old daughter Tru, to “mek t’ings bettah fah you. Fall all ah we.”

This is a lie. Patsy hopes to find a better job, after all, she has taken two courses at a community college and once solved 100 math problems in a row at school. But she won’t return to Jamaica because Cicely is in America. Cicely, her beautiful friend who emigrated and married for a green card.

Patsy and Cicely loved each other once, and Cicely still writes hopeful letters to Patsy, encouraging her to come to New York. And so Patsy leaves Tru to build a new life. But America is less a paradise than a treacherous illusion.

A mother who abandons her child is a monster in most cultures, but Dennis-Benn’s deep compassion for Patsy, for all women facing unthinkable choices, forces you to reconsider your own preconceptions. She urges you to think about this woman’s desperation, her fear, her past, her yearning for connection. She never wanted to be a mother, and Tru’s father, a married police officer, can provide a stable home for the girl.

That rationalisation doesn’t soothe Patsy’s guilt, nor does it comfort Tru, who clings to her mother’s promise to return for as long as she can. Eventually, though, Tru has to grow up and make hard choices of her own.

Patsy is told from both points of view, mother and daughter, the voices raw, honest and haunting. Patsy faces the irony that the only options open to her are nanny jobs, caring for the children of others. She hates being labelled ‘illegal’ and “can’t understand why she’s deemed a criminal for wanting more.” She wonders: “What am I good at?” and simply doesn’t know.

As a teenager, Tru begins to reject the role her culture has carved out for her (Dennis-Benn has a lot to say about how girls are raised in her native Jamaica). Both women suffer depression, a battle all the harder to win when you don’t have the means to fight it.

But reinvention and redemption are possible. The story ends on a note of hope, though it comes at a price. What are you good at, Patsy? Loving. Learning. Living. The most human strengths of all. – *Newsday/TNS*
Keeping the tradition alive

Dhow Cruising is a part of the weekend celebration in Qatar. It is a popular sport and a recreational activity. Dhow was originally a traditional wooden sailing boat used by merchants.

The dhow is an integral part of Qatari culture and they were historically used for pearl diving, fishing and transporting goods. To keep those traditions alive, the ancient craft still serves the people of Qatar, elegantly evoking the essence of our centuries-old maritime heritage.

The wooden dhow, mainly made of Malabar teak, is probably the biggest handicraft in the world.

Craftsmen from Beyapore (Kerala, India) send at least one fully handcrafted luxury dhow a year to Qatar. Beyapore dhows are purely made of wood, without using any modern techniques, and traditional methods are used to launch this boat into the water.

The carpenters manually join each piece of wood to build the large boat. They are a set of traditional dockyard workers.

We can see plenty of dhows available at the Corniche area for cruising. Families and communities are organising their special occasions in Dhow with food, music, fishing and many cultural activities. We can cruise Doha Bay in a dhow for limited time or as per our demand at an affordable price.

The dhow captain and his team members decorate their dhow with colourful lights and will play Asian or Arabic music at your request. Adequate safety precautions are taken with all the lifesaving equipments. The atmosphere in the dhow is tremendous. Qatar tourism authority is also supporting this activity to introduce Qatari tradition on the world tourism map.

—Text and photos by Vinu John @vinujohnkj
How to click a better selfie

If you are not a pro in taking selfies, doing simple things like positioning your face slightly to one side can make your photo look much better, suggest experts.

So if you want to impress your social media followers with a cool solo snap, do not forget to tilt your face a bit. Experts also suggest that whenever possible, click it under natural light.

“Taking photos in the dark is hard, and it may be tempting to use your phone’s flash. But flash photography often makes a selfie look washed out, and you can lose your background, or add glare to your face,” Google’s Mallory Richards wrote in a blog post after taking inputs from Pixel camera experts.

“Using photography’s ‘Rule of Thirds’ can help you snap a great picture, by bringing the focus of your photo to the area in an image where your eye naturally falls,” she wrote.

The idea behind the “Rule of Thirds” is that the subject of the photograph should not be placed in the middle. This can help one creatively use the negative space.

It is also important to know when to use the portrait mode. According to the experts, this mode works best when the subject can stand out against a busy background.

“The subtle blur on Portrait Mode can help you pop against the background of your selfie. With Pixel 3 and 3a, you can adjust the blur to your liking,” Richards said.

The experts cautioned against overdoing the editing. So if you want to impress your social media followers with a cool solo snap, do not forget to tilt your face a bit. Experts also suggest that whenever possible, click it under natural light.

“Avoid all those built-in filters, because they typically perform very well in other situations, too,” said travelling fashion and lifestyle photographer Dorothy Fisch Moffett.

“Who cares if you have a pimple on your chin? It’s your selfie, not theirs,” she said.

“Your face also has a natural beauty, so let it shine,” she added.

“Snap a great picture, by bringing the focus of your photo to the area in an image where your eye naturally falls,” Richards wrote.

– IANS
Wordsearch

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

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

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8 3 5 4 5 7
4 6 1 3 2 8
7 3 2 3 6 9
5 1 9 7 3 6
3 6 1 2 9 7
2 7 1 4 9 5
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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 you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains every number, while no number is repeated.

Adam

Is the ice helping? A little
Who'd have thought a game where your nose is the target could take a turn
Yeah, well...
I thought it was clear we were using Nerf balls!
Baseballs get better distance

Pooch Cafe

Hey dog! You can all come out of your hole now. I dealt with the giant squirrels.

Come on out! The coast is clear! The parks are ours again! What are you waiting for?

Kaa-Kaaaw!

Sudoku

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

That was his "I know someone who has a birthday coming up" look

And this is my "Yeah, yeah, don't remind me" look

Bound And Gagged

Marriage counselor please sit in our respective corners.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Fastidious French resort (4)
3 Early birds sound pleased, wanting last flower (6)
9 Mate in Sydney holding large hammer (7)
10 Donne composed a lot (2,3)
11 Carmen, say, with some Mini Cooper accessories (5)
12 Thin boxes, empty initially (6)
14 What happens at noon? Reparation (6)
16 Start to sip convenient drink (6)
19 Greek god left in a game (6)
21 Section of supermarket? I’ll say! (5)
24 Chiseller, married, with a child (5)
25 Be ardent then change employment (7)
26 Relief organisation embarrassed and annoyed (3,5)
27 River discovered in private estate (4)

Down
1 Colin has changed his name (8)
2 The end is nigh! (5)
4 Stop artist ascending with others (6)
5 Country singer seen by king (5)
6 Don’t stop persons going astray (5,2)
7 Theme park attraction in the Hebrides (4)
8 A pig died on the ship (6)
13 Fresh prey spotted up in the mountains (8)
15 Former spouse was a model, it’s revealed (7)
17 Hard ground that’s by the fire (6)
18 Underwear for dogs (6)
20 One left right out? (5)
22 Dressing required impudence (5)
23 Eastern potentate back in Crimea (4)

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword
Music was a way to escape violence, says London rapper MoStack

Hornsey plays an important role in the life of English rapper MoStack. Real name Frederick Ojumah, the Hornsey district of North London is not only his birthplace but the location which inspired him to make a career in music.

"My area is the reason why I make music," said 24-year-old Mo. "It's my main influence. From the things that happened and the things that went down to the lifestyle I live, everything is Hornsey." Mo is not one of those artistes who begin rapping when they are barely out of the cradle.

It was 2008 when he first started to rap but 2014 before he released his first online single.

"My stuff was available for free. People don't pay for their music where I come from. I had to give away my songs if I wanted to get my name known and have people listen to my stuff." Mo might have made little money from his early music but he was getting noticed. Artistes such as Tizzy, Sneakbo and Sean Focus wanted him as a guest on their songs while J Hus and Moe Logo happily lent their talent to Mo's own tracks.

Many of his songs reflected the life he knew on the streets. But the tone of his work began to change after an incident in 2015 when Mo came close to death. It is explored in the lyrics of his track, Getting Shot Wos a Blessing.

"That track was on my Gingerbread Man mixtape. What happened changed my life for the better. Bad situations can sometimes be blessings in disguise. I wanted the people to listen to my message and realise that." MoStack's debut album Stacked hits number 3 on UK chart.

His songs also cover personal subject matter with incredible honesty. In the track Liar Liar Mo reflects upon his thoughts of committing suicide.

"Talk about the truth in my lyrics. People don't always notice the pain behind some of the words. I want people to take it in and understand some of the situations that I have to go through." Mo says.

"It's not easy for me to talk about these things. But people seem to look up to music artistes and are influenced by them. If I can rap about a particular situation then hearing my track might help people who are going through the same kind of thing." His first commercial mixtape High Street Kid was released in June, 2017.

By this time, Mo had built a large enough following for the mixtape to peak at number 16 on the UK albums chart. He also experienced singles chart success but much of this was as a featured performer on songs by artistes such as Dave and Steel Banglez.

With Mo's star continuing to rise, it was inevitable that he would attract the attention of major labels. Signing to Virgin EMI has boosted his career to such an extent that his debut album, Stacked, has shot straight to number three on the UK chart.

Lead single Wild hit number 41 in Britain last month. But the second single, Shine Girl, has climbed to number 15.

in brief

Joss Grynne

Many positive remarks have been made about British singer Joss Grynne.

She holds the record for the most UK chart-topping singles by a female artiste, although the majority of these were as a featured vocalist on songs by other artistes. Only rarely has she received anything less than the highest praise.

It is therefore all the more surprising to hear Isle of Wight Music Festival boss John Giddings blast Jess for what he described as her "shocking behaviour." He continued: "She will never be booked to play the Isle of Wight again. It shows no regards for people that bought a ticket. It's so sad that an artiste would do that to their fans. She's let them down."

John's comments stem from 29-year-old Jess pulling out of her performance just ten minutes before she was scheduled to take the stage.

For her part, Jess insists she was suffering from exhaustion.

"I got ready and was about to head to stage but just couldn't do it," she wrote on Instagram. "I was incredibly weak and full of anxiety. I can't help that my body sometimes gives up on me."

"I am so gutted, sorry and upset that I couldn't perform. The last thing I ever want to do is let people down. I am sorry to anyone I upset. It was not my intention." While her physical condition is not disputed, the question is how she allowed herself to get in such a state.

She performed as the support act in the Spice Girls' Wembley Stadium concert on the night before her Isle of Wight show. Jess stayed behind for the after party until around 7am the following morning. She and her friends then continued partying at a nearby hotel until at least 7am despite a car from the Isle of Wight Festival being scheduled to pick her up at 9am.

After partying for so long and having virtually no sleep, if any at all, it was hardly surprising that Jess felt physically exhausted and unable to perform. Her lack of professionalism and apparent total disregard for her fans is what so incensed John Giddings.

Mo's enjoyment of working alone perhaps stems from his earlier life on the roads. He could never be certain of their motives when people approached him.

"I was constantly on edge in those days. The roads were often not a good place to be. I've learned to relax more now around people whose only objective is to create good music. But you still can't be sure what people want when they recognise you.

With this in mind, many of Mo's songs now carry a positive message." People sometimes ask me why my songs have changed. I'm a different person from when I started making music. I was on the roads back then. I have a much more settled and comfortable life now. I used to rap about some of the crazy things that happened in Hornsey but I handle things differently now."

"I don't want to glorify the kind of life I used to have. I want my songs to encourage people not to follow the path I took. I don't want to motivate people to do stupid things. They have to realise they only have one life. Forget all that and go to the good stuff. Music was my way to escape but anything positive can be the way out for them."

Adam Lambert

Following the success of recent music biopics, Bohemian Rhapsody and Rocketman, word is that renowned director Baz Luhrmann will be making a film on the life of Elvis Presley, and Adam Lambert wants in!

Although Adam will release his fourth studio album later this year and is currently preparing for the North American leg of Queen and Adam Lambert's Rhapsody Tour, he is already pushing for the starring role as Elvis.

"I have been compared to Elvis quite a lot," he stated. "Last year, I got to do this tribute thing that has a recreation of his comeback special. I got the Elvis lip movement. Audition me, come on!"

Tom Hanks is reportedly set to play Tom Parker, but no confirmed details of the film have yet been announced.

Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds

Black Star Dancing, the title-track from Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds' recently released EP, made little impression on the UK singles chart.

This was not particularly surprising. Although all three of the band's albums have topped the UK chart, their most successful single, The Death of You and Me, could only reach number 15.

There are plans for takeovers in the top 40 but Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds would certainly be categorised as an albums band.

Perhaps there might be an improved response to Sail On, the latest single from their Black Star Dancing EP. The song is accompanied by an official lyric video which can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4wOSkJayN8.

The video can also be found on Noel's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/channel/UCHEY0x9dF0pKeL3eaJyC909. Here are the videos for Black Star Dancing and the EP's third track, Rattling Rose.
**Euphoria honest portrait of addiction: Zendaya**

Actress Zendaya says her show Euphoria is a raw and honest portrait of addiction, anxiety and the difficulties of navigating life at present.

“Euphoria is for mature audiences,” Zendaya wrote on her Instagram handle.

The HBO high school drama Euphoria, created by Sam Levinson, follows a group of high school students as they navigate drugs, sex, identity, trauma, social media, love and friendship. The show will premiere in India on Star World on September 2.

“ITs raw and an honest portrait of addiction, anxiety and the difficulties of navigating life today. There are scenes that are graphic, hard to watch and can be triggering. Please only watch if you feel you can handle it. Do what’s best for you. I will still love you and feel your support,” she added.

Zendaya essays the role of Rue, a teenage recovering drug addict who falls back into her own ways as soon as she gets out of rehab. The actress will also be seen in Spider-Man: Far From Home. – IANS

**AERIALIST: Nik Wallenda and his sister Lijana will walk a 1,300 feet cable 25 stories above Times Square without a safety net**

Nik Wallenda to do highwire stunt above Times Square

Aerialist Nik Wallenda and his sister Lijana will walk a 1,300 feet cable 25 stories above Times Square without a safety net.

The death-defying highwire stunt, which will be held on Sunday, will be aired live in India on Discovery Channel on Monday.

The 1,300ft long walk will take place 25 stories high between the famed 1 Times Square and 2 Times Square.

Nik and Lijana will start from opposite ends of the wire, meet and cross in the middle of Times Square, then continue to finish opposite of where they started. The walk marks Lijana’s first highwire walk since the 2017 accident.

Sharmin Segal, niece of filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali, debuts with Malaal, releasing on July 5.

**DIGITAL DIARY:** Salman Khan is taking the digital route to give a glimpse into his personal life.

Salman continues to use social media as his personal diary and share the fun videos.

This time, he shared a video, where he is racing with actor Zaan Khan, who is on a horse. And Salman beats them both. “Overpower horse power... fun run with Zaan,” he wrote along with the video.

He also posted three videos where he is seen playing with his nephews Ayaan Agnihotri, Arhaan and Nirvaan Khan.

On the film front, the actor is enjoying the successful run of Bharat at the box office despite dismissal response from critics.

His upcoming projects include the next season of TV reality show Bigg Boss, Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s Inshallah and another installment of his popular franchise Dabangg 3. – IANS

**I won’t rely on family name for work: Sharmin**

Bollywood debutante Sharmin Segal, niece of filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali, says she will not use her family name to land film roles and would rather sharpen her skills to remain in the business of entertainment.

The actress will make her foray into filmmaking with Malaal, releasing on July 5, opposite Meenaz Jaffrey.

Sharmin is already facing questions on nepotism, during the film’s promotions.

Asked if coming from a film family has been an advantage for her, Sharmin said: “I will not rely on my family name to get work, but only on talent and hard work. As far as I have observed, only talent and the liking of the audience can make me survive in Bollywood.

“From the beginning of my journey, I have been told not to rely on the relationship with Sanjay sir even to gain popularity, or to get photographed. I know that the comment on nepotism will come my way, but did I choose my family? We don’t, right?”

“Therefore, I do not want to be judged on that. I would rather want people to praise and criticise me because of who I am on screen. Having said that, of course I will work hard to justify every opportunity that comes my way.”

Malaal is produced by Bhansali and directed by Mangesh Hadawale.

Sharmin’s mother Bella Segal is also in the film world. She has worked as a film editor in Black, Devdas and also directed the film Shirin Farhad Ki Toh Nikal Padi.

So, Sharmin grew up in a household where films are discussed daily, but her mother says she did not understand the power of her uncle’s work until later.

“I remember everyone was emotional after the screening of Devdas, people praised the film Black, and they were crying while watching the film. I was like, ‘What happened to them?’”

“I was around five years old then and had zero understanding of such intense cinema. But from the time I started developing an interest, my Sanjay uncle became Sanjay sir,” said Sharmin, who has worked as an assistant for films like Mary Kom and Rajeev Masumi with the filmmaker before deciding to become an actress.

Slowly, Sharmin went through a transformation.

She lost extra pounds and built herself up emotionally to perform different characters on-screen. At a time when there are constant conversations on inclusivity of people of all colours, sizes and shapes in the beauty and entertainment business, was it important for her to slim down to take up acting?

“No, I lost weight because I was unfit physically and was certainly not comfortable with my extra kilos. I strongly believe in feeling comfortable and embracing myself first, so that I can wear my confidence.

“If I make myself look and feel positive, the world will accept me with my unique quality. Happiness matters to me,” said Sharmin. – IANS
Qatar’s only Inflatable Park is a major attraction for kids at SEC

When summer holidays come, children have free time on their hands but parents see very few opportunities for physical activities and play areas during the hot summer days.

In Qatar, however, the ongoing Summer Entertainment City (SEC) at Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) is one place where both kids and adults find different opportunities to have quality leisure time.

The summer city, organised by QSports, offers a variety of activities for the family starting from shopping area, food market, kids’ playing areas and cultural shows. The main areas of the SEC 2019 include amusement rides, skills games with prizes, bespoke trampoline park, a kids driving school setup, giant blocks park for kids to play and build with large lego-type blocks, a 1,000sqm ocean ball soft play area, Qatar’s first Inflatable Park spread over 1,200sqm, world’s largest bounce castle, a 1,200sqm skate park, synthetic ice skating, Spider Climbing tower and over 45 food options and 100 retail outlets.

However, the major attraction for the children is the Inflatable Park where if an active kids enters, he or she would not want to leave the area. This is first of its kind playing facility for kids available at the SEC in Qatar. This park is in addition to a very large bounce castle that was also introduced by the SEC organisers last year for the first time in Qatar.

Qazi Yousri, Media Manager at QSports, talking to Community, said: “We have multiple facilities at the 3rd edition of the SEC but the Inflatable Park has been proving to be the most attractive, alongside the bouncy castle. The park is the only and the largest playing facility of its kind in Qatar so far.”

“When asked how the park is different from the bouncy castle, he said: “The park is actually a kind of challenge run for the kids. The older kids tend to compete each other running through the hurdles and challenges with stopwatch. The bouncy castle, on the other hand, only carries rides and playing areas. There is no challenge for the kids in the castle. The kids and youngsters jump and bounce in the castle playing different games, including basketball, maze running, slides, climbing walls, and playing with big inflated balls.”

Abdulrahman Bachir, a Palestinian expatriate, was present with his family at the SEC. His two kids just came out of the Inflatable Park area. The kids were really sweating when they came out.

“I have been waiting out for over 40 minutes. Two my boys were not ready to leave the park as they had a lot of things to do and a lot of rides to enjoy. It is indoor and has cool temperature. As parents, we are carefree when the kids are inside the park. The park is inflatable and there is no chance of getting injured lest the kids collide with each other.”

He added: “First of all, it is great to have such a big kind of indoor festival like SEC. And in SEC, it is good to have inflatable Park and castle for the children. These facilities provide some sort of physical activity to the children who remained glued to smart phone or tablet screens when they have to remain in door during the hot summer days. Nowadays we have to push kids for physical activities and sports.

For young kids less than 10-year-old, it is good to have the inflatable facilities where they can have some physical activities.”