Respect for art

Qatari artist Faisal al-Hajri says the real value of art lies not in its sales pitch but understanding life. P4-5

Quiz
It’s sporting feast in London.

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Qatar Cultural and Literary Festival ends on a high note.

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PRAYER TIME

Fajr 3.23am
Shorooq (sunrise) 4.53am
Zuhr (noon) 11.41am
Ain (afternoon) 3.06pm
Maghreb (sunset) 6.29pm
Isha (night) 7.59pm

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency 999
Worldwide Emergency Number 112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water 991
Local Directory 180
International Calls Enquiries 150
Hamad International Airport 40106666
Labor Department 44508111, 44406537
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888
Qatar Airways 44496000
Hamad Medical Corporation 44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44594050
Qatar News Agency 44450205, 44450333
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444

Humanitarian Services Office
(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)
Ministry of Interior 40253371, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health 40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation 40253364, 40253365
Qatar Airways 40253374

Quote Unquote

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”
—Aristotle

The Mall Cinema (1):
Gorilla (Tamil) 2pm; Super 30 (Hindi) 4:15pm; Escape Plan: The Extractors (2D) 7pm; Super 30 (Hindi) 8:45pm; Super 30 (Hindi) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (2):
Rustom (Kannada) 2:30pm; Shubha Rathri (Malayalam) 4:45pm; Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 7pm; Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 9:15pm; Shubha Rathri (Malayalam) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (3):
The Little Dragon 2 (2D) 2:15pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 3:45pm; Aladdin (2D) 5:30pm; Hamlet Faroun (Arabic) 7:45pm; Crawl (2D) 9:45pm; Venilla Kabaddi Kuzhu 2 (Tamil) 11:30pm.
Landmark Cinema (1):
Super 30 (Hindi) 2pm; Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 5pm; Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 7:15pm; Crawl (2D) 9:30pm; Gurkha (Tamil) 11:15pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):
Shubha Rathri (Malayalam) 2:15pm; Toy Story 4 (2D) 4:30pm; Super 30 (Hindi) 6:15pm; Shubha Rathri (Malayalam) 9pm; Super 30 (Hindi) 11:15pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):
Super 30 (Hindi) 2:15pm; Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 5pm; Hamlet Faroun (Arabic) 7:15pm; Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 9:15pm; Escape Plan: The Extractors (2D) 11:30pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3):
Venilla Kabaddi Kuzhu 2 (Tamil) 2:30pm; Shubha Rathri (Malayalam) 5pm; Escape Plan: The Extractors (2D) 7:30pm; Crawl (2D) 9:30pm; Gorilla (2D) 11:30pm.
**EVENTS**

**Animal Canvas Painting**  
WHERE: Qatar National Library  
WHEN: July 17  
TIME: 10am – 11:30am  
In this event, children will enjoy learning different canvas painting techniques, such as dot painting and making silhouette shapes from nature, as they create art featuring their favourite animals, birds or bugs.

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

**India to Qatar – Symbiosis of Cultures**  
WHERE: FBQ Museum  
WHEN: Ongoing till July 31

**Summer Camp for Special Needs**  
WHERE: Step by Step Centre for Special Needs  
WHEN: Ongoing till 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.

**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.

**Arabic Calligraphy Workshop**  
WHEN: Saturday – Wednesday  
TIME: 8pm  
Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier.

**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.

**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.

**Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change**
“Art is for people, not consumers”

— Faisal al-Hajri, Qatari artist

(My family) has taught me how to be strong and a seeker of knowledge. I have been travelling the world looking for knowledge.

By Mudassir Raja

Art can really lead people to evolve and understand life better. Art is for the people. Art is not for the consumers. Art takes care of human values.

So says Faisal al-Hajri, a talented Qatari artist. He believes that art is all about giving meaning to feelings and concepts through different techniques such as painting, sculpting, and writing fiction and poetry. He has a lot of respect for artists, who try to highlight newer philosophies, ideas and concepts through different media.

Faisal, a conceptual artist, recently spoke about his art philosophy and techniques with Community.
Coming from a traditional Qatari family, Faisal appreciates the basic values of life. He has learnt from his family. “They have taught me how to be strong and a seeker of knowledge. I have been travelling the world looking for knowledge.”

Faisal was born in Doha in the 1980s. “I graduated from Qatar University in Fine Arts and taught art for 10 years but later decided to be a freelance artist, widening my connection with people. I wanted to be open to the world. It proved to be really a revolutionary decision for me.”

Faisal has taken part in various group exhibitions in Qatar and around the world. He has been a part of the Unesco Club in Athens. He and planning to have his first solo exhibition in Qatar soon. “My solo exhibition is going to be very unique. People are going to be my medium. As far I know, using people as the canvas is going to be the first concept of its kind. It is very fresh and a revolutionary idea.”

He recently completed his creative project titled ‘Unlimited Limits’ under the Fire Station Artists in Residence programme. He has introduced a novel concept through the project and made an artistic declaration. “I greatly felt the emptiness of the studios that the organisers gave me at Fire Station. I felt it. I loved it and I said I wanted it. I saw the emptiness of the studio as an art work and called it ‘rhythm zero’ — it talks about the art of silence — which means the moment when every other present moment is born.”

Faisal likes himself to be called a conceptual artist. “Conceptual artist is one who examines an idea or concept from time to time. He is a kind of investigator. He investigates different elements of life. “My medium is going to be people; I have also been using traditional mediums of art. From now onward, I will focus on people as my canvas. I will do art with the people. I will invite different people asking them to learn and know more about themselves. I want to study the identity of different people through their behaviour, fashion, food, interests, and hobbies. I want to study more about the human evolution. Then, I will portray different identities. I will have in-depth artistic investigation about different cultures.”

For Faisal, life is art and art is life. He sees life as a creative force. “That is why I invite people to understand the creation of life. The more we know about the creative force within ourselves — reflecting in the present moment — the more we will become free. If we suppress the creative force by identifying it with other things, then we struggle and we feel pressure in life.”

“The thinking artist does not appreciate the rising auction culture in the field of art. “Most of the art work you see in a museum and big galleries around the world is a reflection of capitalism. It is like two people fighting about how much [money] they have. The auction culture has actually destroyed the real meaning of life. When you put an art piece for auction and start betting, it is not about the value of the art work. It is about the value given to the people who bet for it. “The real value of the art is that it helps people to be free, evolve and understand life better. It means nothing for me if a painting is worth $2 million. The art piece adds no value in the life of a common man on the street. It may be of some value for a banker or an investor. We need to change this idea. Art is for the people. Art is not for the consumers!” Faisal appreciates the art related developments taking place in Qatar. “First of all, I would like to thank the Qatar Museum. They are playing a very good role. They are celebrating the heritage and culture of Qatar. We are very happy to have a beautiful art platform like Fire Station where all the artists are invited to create a culture of art and to teach the society the real value of art. I can vividly see that in the last five years, Fire Station has been successful in creating a positive impact in a way that the people appreciate art and are able to perceive it. “However, I feel that there is a need for more art schools and art centres that can help people to learn more and more about art. I believe that increasingly people are getting excited about art. They see the artists becoming ideals and they want to follow them. In the near future, I will also restart teaching art to those who want to be creative.”
INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION: DPS-Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS) recently organised Inter-house competition 'EXPLORICA – 2019'. The students of Grade III-V along with the faculty members participated in the event. The event was inaugurated by Asna Nafees, Principal of DPS-MIS, along with Sini Menon, Headmistress of Junior Section at DPS-MIS. Around 400 students participated in the celebrations.

FELICITATION CEREMONY: Mohamed Sardar Khan, General Manager of Ambassador Travel, recently felicitated Nazakat Ali Khan, Chief Organiser of The Punjab Music Group (PMG), for the support to the organisation. Khaleeq Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer of Bolan Cultural Society, along with the members of PMG attended the felicitation ceremony. PMG is all set to organise a musical evening as a tribute to Mohamed Rafi, legendary singer, at Skills Development Centre on July 19. For further details, contact 33181490.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Indian Women’s Association (IWA) recently organised an event dedicated to health and wellness at Hotel Millennium Plaza. Dr. Devaraju, Specialist in Dermatology, and Dr. Meera, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, both at Badr Samaa Medical Centre, highlighted and shared the health tips from their respective fields, which was followed by a healthy snack and salad competition.
Proud heritage or abuse?

The shiny coaches are a symbol of Vienna's imperial past, but the horses that pull them are at the centre of a conflict about ethics and money, write Albert Otti and Fabian Nitschmann

Before there were Uber cars and taxis, there were horse-drawn carriages in Vienna.

Hooves can still be heard clacking on the cobbled streets of the city centre, where the shiny coaches – known locally as Fiaker – are a major tourist attraction.

Numbers have dwindled since their heyday in the late 19th century, when 1,000 Fiaker roamed the Austrian capital, to 58 coaches currently allowed to operate in the city on any given day.

The bowler-hatted coach drivers feel threatened. City administrators are annoyed by the smelly horses and their scratchy horseshoes, while animal rights advocates want to end the centuries-old trade altogether.

Fiaker horses suffer from “animal cruelty,” the Association Against Factory Farms (VGT) states on its website.

The group is lobbying to lower the temperature at which horses are banned from working from 35 to 30 degrees.

“These are big animals, with a lot of muscle mass in relation to their body surface. Therefore they heat up faster,” VGT activist Georg Prinz argues.

Ursula Chytracek, who acts as the spokeswoman of Vienna’s coach operators, says such a limit would be deadly for her business.

“I generally is 30 degrees in summer,” she tells dpa.

Last year, the horses would have had to stay in their stables for 43 days under the lower limit, while the thermometer climbed above 35 degrees only on two days.

In any case, horses are naturally suited to being outside under the sun, Chytracek says.

As far as she is concerned, groups such as VGT have taken their campaign too far.

“As long as a horse, or any other animal, has a home, is being cared for, gets fodder and has a veterinarian – what exactly is an animal rights activist good for?” she asks. Chytracek owns a coach business including 38 horses that rotate between work days and rest days, as well as carriages that are more than 100 years old.

Her stables are in an outer district of Vienna, in a green jumble of small gardens and newer apartment buildings, where lanes snake in odd directions and fences are overgrown by shrubs.

The atmosphere here is different from the tidy city centre, with its centuries-old but freshly renovated facades and its luxury boutiques.

Inner city administrator Markus Figl wants fewer coaches in the heart of Vienna.

“Residents and pedestrians complain about air pollution – not only because of the smell, but also because of urine and manure particles,” he wrote in a letter to City Hall.

He also pointed out that the horseshoes damage the pavement, creating repair costs of 750,000 euros (850,000 dollars) each year.

Metal horseshoes should be replaced by rubber models, and coach drivers should clean up after their animals, Figl has demanded. Otherwise “the gradual end of the Fiaker” in the city centre could not be ruled out, he wrote.

Rubber shoes have been tested on Chytracek’s horses, but she is not impressed.

“They were gone after three days,” she said. The metal versions last for at least five weeks. Chytracek also worries that the new shoes stop the hoof at each step, rather than letting it slide a little. This could lead to injuries, she warns, although she concedes that longer-term studies would be needed to watch for negative health effects.

In addition to these demands and proposed restrictions, Fiaker businesses have been worried and angered by the upcoming renovation of the Michaelerplatz square outside the former Habsburg imperial palace.

The square is among a handful of spots where coaches are allowed to wait for customers, and the Fiaker drivers fear that they will be banned from Michaelerplatz during and following the renovation.

“There are few alternatives left where we can stand and earn money,” Chytracek says.

“There’s no use standing in a little side alley,” she adds, explaining that most of the business comes from tourists who see the horses and spontaneously decide to go for a ride. Locals book coaches only rarely these days, except for weddings or other special occasions.

Vienna’s tourism board is unhappy about the Fiaker spat, which escalated to the point of a narrowly avoided coach drivers’ strike.

Tensions between animal rights activists and drivers have also been running high, resulting in mutual provocations and scuffles.

“With all solutions that are being discussed, the Fiaker must not lose their source of income,” says Walter Strasser, Vienna’s tourism spokesman.

The tourism board has conducted a survey to find out which aspects of Vienna’s image appeal most to visitors, and the city’s imperial past came out on top.

“The Fiaker are part of that imperial heritage,” Strasser says.

Sitting next to her stables in a repurposed shipping container that serves as an office, Chytracek acknowledges that everyone will have to make concessions to solve their differences in the bustling inner city, where tourists, locals and horse-drawn carriages compete for space.

“We all have to get along in the city centre,” she says. “But oftentimes we negotiate with people who have no clue about horses.” – DPA
Believe it or not: Some still think

Most of the 650 million people who watched TV on July 20, 1969, would have found that notion preposterous. But Nasa’s grand achievement has always had doubters. Or are they just a bunch of lunar lunatics? asks David Whitley

One group will not be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing for what it believes is a simple reason. It never happened. Instead of gallivanting around Sea of Tranquillity, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were in the Nevada desert pulling off the greatest bit of fake news in the history of the universe.

Most of the 650 million people who watched TV on July 20, 1969, would have found that notion preposterous. But Nasa’s grand achievement has always had doubters. Or are they just a bunch of lunar lunatics?

Whatever one’s view, many believe the truth is still out there. And it’s not what Nasa has been peddling for 50 years.

“I see a growing awareness that the official story has neither credible support nor sensible evolvement,” said Dr Phil Kouts, a researcher who believes Apollo 11 was a hoax. “It is preposterous. But Nasa’s grand achievement has always had people who watched TV on July 20, 1969, would have found that notion preposterous. But Nasa’s grand achievement has always had doubters. Or are they just a bunch of lunar lunatics?” asks David Whitley

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Whatever one’s view, many believe the truth is still out there. And it’s not what Nasa has been peddling for 50 years. “I see a growing awareness that the official story has neither credible support nor sensible evolvement,” said Dr Phil Kouts, a researcher who believes Apollo 11 was a hoax. “It is getting seen as a fake by a growing number of independently thinking people.”

A 2013 survey by Public PolicyPolling found that 7% of Americans think the Apollo 11 mission was faked. “It’s easy to paint the moon hoax movement as a bunch of tinfoil hat-wearing dopes who believe the Earth is flat. The sceptics say that stereotype is unfair.”

“I am not a Flat Earther, nor am I interested in UFOs or other such nonsense,” said Dr Emanuel Garcia, a psychiatrist and author based in New Zealand. “I am a free thinker, a truth seeker and operate, if you wish, as an investigative journalist,” said Kouts. “If the moon hoax theory has a father it would be Bill Kaysing. He was a technical writer for Rocketdyne, which built Apollo engines. His 1974 book We Never Went to the Moon: America’s Thirty Billion Dollar Swindle laid the movement’s foundation. Nasa didn’t have the technology to get a man to the moon, so the government concocted the entire Apollo fable to fulfill John F Kennedy’s promise to win the Space Race over the USSR. The movement got a boost in 1978 with the movie Capricorn One. In it, the government faked a Mars landing and forced three astronauts to play along or be killed. O.J. Simpson played one of the astronauts. More juice came in 2001 when Fox ran the documentary Conspiracy Theory: Did We Land on the Moon?

Nasa policy has always been not to comment on hoax questions, thinking they aren’t worthy of a response. But it felt compelled to issue a statement after the Fox special. “Yes. Astronauts did land on the moon.” To which conspiracy theorists respond, “What’d you expect them to say?”

“Based on the US governments history of confirmed conspiracies, not to mention Nasa’s history of being less than truthful about their screw-ups and exaggerated claims about their technical capabilities, taking a mission to the Moon is certainly not outside their nature,” Jarrah White said. He’s an Australian who runs the Moonfakker website YouTube channel. The rise of the Internet has given the moon hoax a vast new breeding ground.

There are thousands of websites, blogs and video channels devoted to debunking Nasa’s story. Similar platforms are devoted to debunking the debunkers. The two sides question each other’s academic credentials. They engage in long debates over things like proton fluxes and the “ppm of ferric iron.” They debate whether 2001: A Space Odyssey director Stanley Kubrick helped Nasa stage the whole thing. “It’s a rabbit hole of speculation and scientific jargon, but here are a few major points of hoax contention.”

The lunar module didn’t leave any engine-blast craters when it landed. The US flag waved in an atmosphere that has no wind. Humans could not have survived passing through the Van Allen radiation belts. Lunar photos are rife with anomalies, such as the horizon having no stars.

“Lastly, ‘Going to the moon’ is the only claimed achievement in the entire history of the world, such as the first automobile, airplane, or nuclear bomb, that was not far surpassed in capability fifty years later, much less not able to be duplicated by anyone on Earth, even with five decades better technology,” Bart Sibrel said. He’s an American filmmaker and perhaps the most prominent member of the moon hoax movement. His fame is such that Sibrel says he has a tape of an astronaut conspiring with the CIA to have him killed.

“Something that would not be necessary if they really went to the moon and I was merely misguided,” Sibrel notes.
Apollo 11 moon landing was fake

Nasa defenders say the hoaxers’ red fl ags can be explained. During the gravity-les sened landing, the lunar module’s engines didn’t produce enough thrust to leave craters. Armstrong and Aldrin had to grind the fl ag pole into hard lunar surface. The shaking pole made the fl ag wave.

Apollo 11 passed through the radiation belts too fast for its passengers to be affected. Cameras were set at minimal exposure on the moon’s bright surface, so images of stars and other objects were underexposed.

There are other factors, like the fact about 400,000 people worked on Apollo missions and no one’s ever blown a whistle claiming they were faked.

But conspiracies are hard things to shake. Be it the JFK assassination or 9-11truthers or vaccinations, no amount of evidence will dissuade the true believers. The evolving nature of news dissemination has made it harder to tell fact from malarky.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Apollo 11 in 2009, The Onion published a story entitled “Conspiracy Theorist Convinces Neil Armstrong Moon Landing Was Faked.”

In it, Armstrong held a news conference where he dumped moon rocks into a trash can and lamented, “I suppose it really was one small step for man, one giant lie for mankind.”

What it was was satire by a publication that specialises in it. Two Bangladeshi newspapers didn’t get the joke, however, and ran the story as if it were legitimate.

And not even the Russians, who still maintain the official death toll of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster is 31, have ever claimed Apollo 11 was a hoax.

Other members of the hoax movement say such extreme views give them all a Flat-Earthly name. “I simply ask people to try to look at the facts objectively,” Garcia said. “Do they say Apollo was one great leap or one great lie?”

Fifty years from now, some people will still be asking the question. The only difference is Aldrin won’t be around to punch them in the face.

– Orlando Sentinel/TNS
The rainy day

The day is cold, and dark, and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
The vine still clings to the mouldering wall,
But at every gust the dead leaves fall,
And the day is dark and dreary.

My life is cold, and dark, and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
My thoughts still cling to the mouldering Past,
But the hopes of youth fall thick in the blast,
And the days are dark and dreary.

Be still, sad heart! and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;
Thy fate is the common fate of all,
Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days must be dark and dreary.

— A poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Photos by Mohamed Samad Imran, @Imran_ismarbaan
It’s a sporting feast in London

Summer is in full swing in London. It’s a veritable adrenaline rush as sports fans from all across the world flock the city as it hosts a veritable sporting feast today. NW8 vs NN12 vs SW19. Take your pick.

It is host England’s first World Cup Cricket final in 27 years and fourth ever, as it takes on ‘The Black Caps’ at Lord’s in NW8, which is hosting WC final for the record fifth time.

And, at the leafy SW19, or more specifically, the All England Lawn Tennis Club, it is the mighty Federer Express marching through the draw in his bid for his (YES!!!) record ninth Wimbledon singles title, as he clashes with four-time winner and defending champion Novak Djokovic. The likes of Nadal, Bautista, Kyrgios and Nishikori have all gun blazing, while a host of unheralded newcomers tried to spoil everyone’s party.

The Championships are a fan favourite. It is the world’s oldest tennis tournament, with a history that goes back to 1877 and traditions and facts, some of which may amaze you. Back then, it cost just one shilling to watch the final and Spencer Gore received 12 guineas for his triumph. Many fairytales have taken shape. It has elevated the level of many tennis players who have gone to achieve their dream of reaching the pinnacle of glory.

Wimbledon has always had strong associations with royalty. Earlier, players used to bow to the Royal Box upon entering or leaving the Centre even if no member of the Royal family was present at the venue. That requirement, however, was thankfully scrapped in 2003; now the courtesy is mandatory only if the Queen or the Prince of Wales is in attendance.

Wimbledon upholds a very strong dress code with all white being the colour of choice. It is up to the Umpire’s discretion to decide whether the clothing passes the rule book and can send a player to change if needs be. Eight-time Grand Slam champion Andre Agassi refused to compete at Wimbledon between 1988 and 1990 due to the restrictions imposed on dress code, and called the atmosphere ‘stuffy’.

As the tournament sees some high-profile celebrities in attendance, there’s a special somebody in charge of security. Thanks to Rufus the Hawk, the pigeons stay away as he encircles the sky each morning. Rufus has the job title of ‘Bird Scarer’ for 15 years now. He has even become a bit of a social media celebrity and traditions and facts, some of which may amaze you. Back then, it cost just one shilling to watch the final and Spencer Gore received 12 guineas for his triumph. Many fairytales have taken shape. It has elevated the level of many tennis players who have gone to achieve their dream of reaching the pinnacle of glory. Rufus the Hawk, the pigeons stay away as he encircles the sky each morning. Rufus has the job title of ‘Bird Scarer’ for 15 years now. He has even become a bit of a social media celebrity and traditions and facts, some of which may amaze you. Back then, it cost just one shilling to watch the final and Spencer Gore received 12 guineas for his triumph. Many fairytales have taken shape. It has elevated the level of many tennis players who have gone to achieve their dream of reaching the pinnacle of glory. Rufus the Hawk, the pigeons stay away as he encircles the sky each morning. Rufus has the job title of ‘Bird Scarer’ for 15 years now. He has even become a bit of a social media celebrity and traditions and facts, some of which may amaze you. Back then, it cost just one shilling to watch the final and Spencer Gore received 12 guineas for his triumph. Many fairytales have taken shape. It has elevated the level of many tennis players who have gone to achieve their dream of reaching the pinnacle of glory. Rufus the Hawk, the pigeons stay away as he encircles the sky each morning. Rufus has the job title of ‘Bird Scarer’ for 15 years now. He has even become a bit of a social media celebrity and traditions and facts, some of which may amaze you. Back then, it cost just one shilling to watch the final and Spencer Gore received 12 guineas for his triumph. Many fairytales have taken shape. It has elevated the level of many tennis players who have gone to achieve their dream of reaching the pinnacle of glory. Rufus the Hawk, the pigeons stay away as he encircles the sky each morning. Rufus has the job title of ‘Bird Scarer’ for 15 years now. He has even become a bit of a social media celebrity and traditions and facts, some of which may amaze you. Back then, it cost just one shilling to watch the final and Spencer Gore received 12 guineas for his triumph. Many fairytales have taken shape. It has elevated the level of many tennis players who have gone to achieve their dream of reaching the pinnacle of glory. Rufus the Hawk, the pigeons stay away as he encircles the sky each morning. Rufus has the job title of ‘Bird Scarer’ for 15 years now. He has even become a bit of a social media celebrity and traditions and facts, some of which may amaze you. Back then, it cost just one shilling to watch the final and Spencer Gore received 12 guineas for his triumph. Many fairytales have taken shape. It has elevated the level of many tennis players who have gone to achieve their dream of reaching the pinnacle of glory.

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Adam

Pooch Cafe

Garfield

Bound And Gagged

Wordsearch

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

Codeword

Sudoku

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

Across
1 Party clobber (4)
3 American prosecutor gets copper brought into service in capital city (8)
9 People in the Himalayas sorted out her pass (7)
10 Fancy dress beginning with a lot of paper (5)
11 Stay in bed a bit longer - left, that is, at home (3,2)
12 A slope that’s slippery in US city (2,4)
14 Distant cardinal, out of tune (3-3)
16 Friend given card in royal residence (6)
19 Journey the Parisian makes three times as much (6)
21 One who sings in private, normally (5)
24 Run away from antelopes (5)
25 Success for Nelson’s ship (7)
27 Pay attention to what’s in the editorial? (4)

Down
1 A couple of chaps somewhere in Essex (8)
2 Material moved to and fro, so we hear (5)
4 Response right after a news broadcast (6)
5 Do some arithmetic and make sense (3,2)
6 Church, otherwise a part of London (7)
7 Not all like this with yours truly (4)
8 Clean cake (6)
13 Shopped, yet bread has been ordered! (6)
15 Thrown or flung many yards (7)
17 Tomfoolery? Not for leaders in Civil Service (6)
18 Exist, say, as a dam-builder (6)
20 Verse manuscript abridged by author (5)
22 Putting one’s head in this may make one so wretched (5)
23 Busy worker has right drink (4)

Yesterday’s Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
Researchers have found that friends in high places may get you recognised but ultimately harm your chance at glory. Being friends with an award juror can increase a person’s chance of being nominated but decrease their chances of being selected as the victor, according to the study published in the Academy of Management Journal. “These findings should invite some healthy cynicism among those who still have unconditional faith in the universalistic principles that are supposed to inspire meritocratic institutions, but should also come as hopeful news to those who have long lost that faith,” said Simone Ferriani, Professor at the University of Bologna.

For the study, researchers combined statistical analysis of eight years of decision-making data from the most prestigious Norwegian advertising industry competition with industry member interviews and sought to understand how relationships between jurors and entrants affect competition results. Three relationship dynamics were used to understand how jurors’ decisions are influenced - the extent to which jury members tend to favour candidates with whom they have worked in the past, Reciprocity – the extent to which jury members tend to favour candidates from whom they have themselves been favoured in the past, Cliquishness – the extent to which jury members tend to favour candidates who are part of the same network clique as the jury members.

The researchers found that while all three dynamics can improve a candidate’s chance of receiving an honourable mention, only reciprocally boosts their chances of being the victor.

“Having a direct tie to, or being a part of the same clique as an award juror can help candidates be shortlisted or nominated but then actually prevent them winning,” he said.

“This, we believe, is because people in charge of granting prestigious honours may be driven by self-serving relational interests, as much as the genuine desire to signal their moral integrity and deflect potential inauthentic concerns away,” he added. – IANS

**Winners must choose their friends wisely: study**

**ARIES**
March 21 – April 19

You’re in splendid shape today, Aries! Did a fairy godmother brandish a magic wand to dispel all the little difficulties of the past few weeks? Enjoy this moment of relief from worries. As for your relationship, some exciting opportunities may arise. Be on the lookout for them. Whatever you do, don’t let them pass you by!

**TAURUS**
April 20 – May 20

It’s certainly clear that you have faith in your actions, Taurus! You feel no fear or doubt as you progress toward your goals at a fast clip, cruising along on calm seas under clear skies. This new atmosphere is likely the product of your renewed commitment. Reward yourself for your accomplishments, but you should wait a few days before launching an all-out celebration.

**GEMINI**
May 21 – June 20

This is a moment to start being creative and stop worrying that you don’t have talent, Gemini. Who’s to say what “talent” is? In the romance department, the love of your life might be right under your nose. Try lifting your eyes from the romance novels and look around. The perfect mate could be any number of people in your daily life. You just have to open your eyes.

**CANCER**
June 21 – July 22

You may be a bit unclear about your professional direction today, Cancer. Your motivation has disappeared without warning. What happened? It may be that you need to become involved in projects that have more universal resonance. Projects that concern only your interests or that are of narrow scope no longer hold your attention.

**LEO**
July 23 – August 22

You could be seeing mirages at the moment, Leo, most notably in the environment around you. You may have the impression that people are lying to you or that they’re hiding something from you. Or it may be that you’re the one who lies about certain things or hides what you do. Why are you making it all so complicated? Don’t be afraid to express your feelings.

**SAGITTARIUS**
November 22 – December 21

The forecast for you is excellent, Sagittarius. You can rely on today’s aspects to restore your self-confidence, which has been sorely tried during the past few days. The charismatic seducer in you can swagger forth, certain of conquest. However, don’t go too far. Wait a while for reality to dispel the cloud of ecstasy and you will be able to see the future more clearly.

**LIBRA**
September 23 – October 22

Today isn’t a good day to sign contracts or make any substantial purchases, Libra. Go to the grocery store, by all means, but buy hamburger, not tenderloin. Keep your money at home and safeguard your reserves. Don’t negotiate about anything. No matter how good the offer sounds or how compelling the deal, walk away.

**SCORPIO**
October 23 – November 21

Are you certain you can’t modify your current situation, Scorpio? Are you a prisoner of a lifestyle that isn’t of your own making or is a throwback to the past? People have been asking you to take on too many responsibilities and this is weighing you down. Don’t be afraid to distance yourself from these situations. Learn to say no.

**VIRGO**
August 23 – September 22

Hold on to your wallet, Virgo, because you may have some strange (though noble) impulses to give away your money or spend a large amount on something useless. You should think about spending your money in a better way or not at all. Why not consider donating some of your time rather than money to those in need?

**TAURUS**
April 20 – May 20

It’s certainly clear that you have faith in your actions, Taurus! You feel no fear or doubt as you progress toward your goals at a fast clip, cruising along on calm seas under clear skies. This new atmosphere is likely the product of your renewed commitment. Reward yourself for your accomplishments, but you should wait a few days before launching an all-out celebration.

**PISCES**
February 19 – March 20

Your goal for today is to enchant your mate. There’s no reason not to try. Indeed, it’s an excellent day for love. Since the day’s aspects tend to distort your perception of things, you may be deceived by what you see in the mirror. Be careful about what you do and how you do it!
CRAWL: Actors meet alligators at Long Island Aquarium

By Joseph V Amadio

The first clue this isn’t a typical press junket for a new film is the live alligators.

“He’s only getting a little cranky” assures Joe Gemellaro, an educator at Riverhead’s Long Island Aquarium, while holding Blue, a three-foot American alligator who jerks, occasionally whacking Gemellaro’s side with his tail. Blue’s snout is taped shut, and good thing – his bite can apply 300 pounds of pressure per square inch. Not bad for a 4-year-old, who’s still growing.

“If he bit my finger, he’d take it,” Gemellaro says casually. That was the scene this week at the Aquarium, when reporters gathered to meet actors Kaya Scodelario and Emmy winner Barry Pepper, plus director Alexandre Aja, of Crawl, this summer’s chilling new horror disaster film – think Jaws, but with alligators and a hurricane.

The film pits a dad (Pepper) and his swimmer daughter (Scodelario) in a fight for their lives, trapped in a small crawl space under their Florida home as hurricane flood waters threaten and gators roam. Unlike the shark-wielding tornadoes in Sharknado, the events in Crawl feel somewhat plausible, which may add to the fright factor.

Scodelario, the English actress known for Maze Runner, happens to be married to a Georgia native, and her in-laws showered her with tales of alligator sightings in homes down South. “I’m like, really?” she says, chuckling. Really, they replied.

Mechanical replicas, puppets and costumed stunt men replaced actual ‘gators during filming, but the actors did shoot many scenes in a tiny crawl space, part of a set built inside a series of warehouses in Serbia, where they recreated a small town inside a massive tank, then flooded it, to simulate an actual storm. “It was like a 10-week fight camp underwater,” Pepper told Newsday. And gruelling, to be in the water for 12-hour days. You emerge “like a prune,” he admits.

“I broke my toe at one point, and couldn’t get out to get it wrapped in ice – it would’ve taken too long to lift off the roof – so I was like … ‘Just keep filming,'” says Scodelario.

The Aquarium’s Gemellaro also knows on-the-job aches (smacked by alligator tails). But he remains in awe of the apex predators. “They’re truly amazing animals,” he says. A student at Suffolk County Community College, Gemellaro, 20, has been drawn to reptiles and insects since he was a tot growing up in Shirley. “Every day I get to work with them, it’s surreal – a dream come true,” he says.

With that, he unleashes the gator from a harness, and carries him off to an outdoor exhibit. The Aquarium has seven gators, and it’s feeding time. (Spoiler – not for the squeamish.)

Later, the Crawl co-stars check out the gators, in their sleepy post-meal haze. “Ah, they’re not moving,” Pepper says. Then one does. “Wuhhhhh,” Scodelario shudders.

– Newsday/TNS
Qatar Cultural and Literary Festival ends on a high note

By Mudassir Raja

Qatar Cultural and Literature Festival (QCLF) was a deeply engaging, thought-provoking and entertaining event. It proved to be a two-day fiesta highlighting some searching questions and sharing wise and sane opinions.

Organised by Question Associates Pvt Ltd, QCLF was held at Drama Theatre in Katara on Thursday and Friday evenings. A number of celebrated writers, poets, artists, motivational speakers, classical dancers and singers from India took over the Doha audience.

Some of the key names included: Mika Singh, Indian singer; Piyush Mishra, actor/poet; Chetan Bhagat, Indian author; Vindu Dara Singh, Indian actor; and Laxmi Agarwal, acid attack survivor, motivational speaker, and TV anchor. From Doha, the event had Zunira Malik, founder/editor What’sup Doha; Amal al-Aatham, Consultant of fine arts, Ministry of Culture and Sports; Rashmi Agarwal, Qatar-based Indian artist; and Merval Bahlam, Qatari writer; to name a few.

The two-day event that successfully brought the two countries closer through art and culture was attended by Hemant Kumar Dwivedi, First Secretary (Information, Culture & Education) Embassy of India to Qatar, as the chief guest. The real entertainment of the opening ceremony was enthralling dance by Arupa Lahiry, classical dancer. The event had Zunira Malik, founder/editor What’sup Doha; Amal al-Aatham, Consultant of fine arts, Ministry of Culture and Sports; Rashmi Agarwal, Qatar-based Indian artist; and Merval Bahlam, Qatari writer; to name a few.

During the opening ceremony, the organisers felicitated all the noted guests from India. It was started with a beautiful act of dance by Arupa Lahiry, classical dancer.

The real entertainment of the opening ceremony was enthralling and heart-throbbing show by singer Mika Singh. The singer, mostly known for his Punjabi songs, entertained the audience with his fast and loud music. It was a music performance that the audience would cherish and remember for long.

Apart from the concert, the first day of the festival was lined with book launches as well, giving a sneak peek into the literature and creative work by the authors.

The second day included an opening session by Chetan Bhagat on the title of ‘Making a nation read’, followed by poetry performance by Piyush Mishra, and various cultural performances and panel discussions. It also had a panel discussion on women empowerment titled as ‘Empower Women, Empower Society’.

There were two more panel discussions on ‘Impact on Culture on Writing Books’ and on ‘Cinema & Cultural Difference’.

Talking to Community, Ruhi Ganguly, festival producer and CEO of Question Associates, said: “I am very excited to see this combination of two such rich cultures on the same platform. We did not just have speakers from India but we also had speakers from Doha. Seeing them having a conversation on various important issues was very interesting. We all are at heart and with this festival we have shared our feelings and about our rich cultures with each other and got to know each other in a better way’

Ruhi added: “The core team at Q&A is very much excited for the successful completion of the event, and has plans for more of such events in the middle-east in the following months. Events such as these prove crucial and vital for the audience from Doha have made it easier for me to work for the event. I am humbled to see the response and excitement.”

Rashmi Agarwal said: “It was a wonderful literary festival. Seasoned writers, poets, actors, singers, dancers, and artists shared their valued opinions for the audience. It was really amazing for me to be a part of the extraordinary event. I would like to see more and more such literary programmes in Qatar.”

Other participants of the festival were namely: Anurag Punetha, author and senior news anchor, Lok Sabha TV; Anuj Tiwari, Indian romance novelist; Aparna Sharma, award winning author, orator, leadership expert; Adite Banerjee, best selling romance novelist; Arupa Lahiry, national award winning classical dancer; Nihin Soni; poet; Anurag Chauhan, social worker; Raul Shaandilya, film writer; Sushant Singh, film actor and honorary secretary of CINTAA; Kulpreet Yadav, author and motivational speaker; Sandeep Soparkar, ballroom dancer and film choreographer; Manjeet Negi, bestseller author and journalist; Erika Ralaline, creative writer and blogger; Siddhartha Jain, motivational speaker/entrepreneur; Shereen DSouza, editor, TimeOut Doha; Poornima Chauhan, secretary, Administrative Reforms, Language, Art and Culture, Govt of Himachal Pradesh, India.