Perspective

The spirit of art is infinite in Qatar, says Doha-based Indian artist and art teacher Shajee P Madhavan. P4-5

Quiz

The ‘finisher’ turns 38.

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Making learning fun for children.

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**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr: 3.19am
- Shorooq (sunrise): 4.30am
- Zuhur (noon): 11.40am
- Aza (afternoon): 3.04pm
- Maghreb (sunset): 6.30pm
- Isha (night): 8pm

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

- Emergency: 999
- Worldwide Emergency Number: 112
- Kahramaa – Electricity and Water: 991
- Local Directory: 180
- International Calls Enquires: 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

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**Quote Unquote**

“Don’t sweat the petty things and don’t pet the sweaty things.”

— George Carlin

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**Community Editor**

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**Malaal**

**DIRECTION:** Mangesh Hadawale

**CAST:** Meezaan Jafri, Sharmin Segal, Badri Chavan

**SYNOPSIS:** Malaal is the story of Shiva and Astha, two very different people from contrasting backgrounds who fall in love with each other. Does their love find its destination or do they part ways?

**THEATRE:** Royal Plaza

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**Spider-Man: Far From Home**

**DIRECTION:** Jon Watts

**CAST:** Tom Holland, Samuel L. Jackson, Jake Gyllenhaal

**SYNOPSIS:** Following the events of Avengers: Endgame, Spider-Man must step up to take on new threats in a world that has changed forever.

**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

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**The Mall Cinema (1):**

- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 2:15pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 4:30pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 7pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 9:15pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 11:30pm

**The Mall Cinema (2):**

- Toy Story 4 (2D) 2:30pm
- Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion (2D) 4:30pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 6pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 8:30pm
- El Mama (Arabic) 1pm

**The Mall Cinema (3):**

- Oh! Baby (Telugu) 2pm
- One Day: Justice Delivered (Hindi) 4:45pm
- Aaladin (2D) 7pm
- Raatchasi (Tamil) 9:15pm
- O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**Landmark Cinema (1):**

- Raatchasi (Tamil) 2pm
- Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion (2D) 4:30pm
- O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 6:15pm
- Oh! Baby (Telugu) 8:45pm
- O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**Landmark Cinema (2):**

- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 2:15pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 4:30pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 7pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 9:15pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 11:30pm

**Landmark Cinema (3):**

- Oh! Baby (Telugu) 2:15pm
- Toy Story 4 (2D) 5pm
- Toy Story 4 (2D) 6:45pm
- El Mama (Arabic) 8:30pm
- Kalavani 2 (Tamil) 11:30pm

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**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):**

- O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 2:15pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 4:45pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 7pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 9:15pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 11:30pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):**

- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 2:15pm
- Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion (2D) 4:30pm
- Malaal (Hindi) 6:15pm
- El Mama (Arabic) 8:45pm
- O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3):**

- Kalavani 2 (Tamil) 2:15pm
- Toy Story 4 (2D) 4:45pm
- Oh! Baby (Telugu) 6:30pm
- One Day: Justice Delivered (Hindi) 9:15pm
- Raatchasi (Tamil) 11:30pm
**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 registrations@atelierqatar.com

**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.
Indian artist and art teacher Shajee P Madhavan on the secret to become a successful art teacher

“Frankness to deal with contemporary issues”

(Art) is a way of preserving your feelings and observations in a beautiful way forever

— Shajee P Madhavan
Be they the desire to create is one of the deepest yearnings of the human soul. Art is a form of creativity that provides a sort of expression to the very sensitive stratum of the society.

This creative strain becomes the strongest when an individual has no other way to vent out his or her feelings and observations. The art is not only a creative way for catharsis, it can also bring recognition and appreciation for the artist. There is a sense of achievement.

Shajee P Madhavan (pen name Shajee Che lad), a Doha-based artist and art educator from Kerala, India, can be seen as an embodiment of how art can bring both self-satisfaction and recognition.

Community talked to Shajee to learn how he became a creative artist.

Shajee, head of the Fine Arts Department at Scholars International School, does not come from a very rich or successful background. “We are six siblings; five brothers and a sister. My father was a mason but he did everything to encourage me and support my school education. He along with my elder brother supported me in pursuing fine arts studies.”

As a child, Shajee was a very keen observer. He was very good at drawings. “I used to pick the left-over pieces of chalks from the classroom in school. I use to draw with the chalk pieces on the floor of my house. I used to draw with the chalk pieces on the floor of my house. I used to draw with the chalk pieces on the floor of my house.”

The endorsement of his potential was discovered by a writer who lived in the same village. “There is was a writer — that is all I remember about him now — in our village. He told me that I was very good at drawings and if I kept on drawing and painting, I could become a successful artist. He suggested that I study art as a subject.”

The endorsement of his talent led him to pursue art in a professional institution. “After realising that I had potential, my father and elder brother gave me a lot of inspiration and guidance. That inspiration culminated in me getting admission in Fine Arts College, Trivandrum in 1991. I completed my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1996 with first rank. Consequently, I got admission in Sarojini Naidu University, Hyderabad, for a Master’s degree in fine arts. I was, however, not able to take the course up because of my adverse financial circumstances. However, the immense support from my family and friends gave me a lot of energy and enthusiasm to continue pursuing my dream as an artist. Shajee later took up arts as an educator and started teaching in different schools in India. He moved to Doha in 2012 as an art teacher and joined Scholars International School. He has now become a mature artist and taken part in different group exhibitions, both national and international.”

“At present, I am mainly concentrating on surrealism and upstart type of metaphysical style. My taste is to present visuals perceived in a different perspective. Before coming to Qatar, my subjects were mainly creative paintings.”

As an art educator, Shajee believes in continuous learning and upgrading. “We need to have immense interest and continuous practice. Observing objects and things in a detailed manner, extensive reading, experiencing different aspects of life and frankness to deal with contemporary issues are some of the things that one has to do to become a successful art teacher. Continuous efforts to improvise and improve one’s own style and the ability to appreciate the contemporary works of the other artists are essential for developing a visual language.”

The artist defines art as a medium of expression. “It is a creative medium to express one’s innermost feelings and emotions. It is a creative expression of everyday observations. It is like expressing your feelings in a novel way every time. It is a way of preserving your feelings and observations in a beautiful way forever. Art is my profession and teaching it to children is my passion.”

Shajee is all praise for the art scene in Qatar. “The spirit of art is infinite in Qatar. It is a country which gives a lot of promotion to the artists coming from all corners of the world.”

“I am confident that this land will give me a lot of inspiration to spur my growth. Qatar gives a lot of platforms for national and international exhibitions. There are numerous organisations, which are supporting fine art.

“One such organisation is MAPS International that has given me certain opportunities. The office-bearers and members of the organisation continue to support and encourage me here.”

When asked about his future plans, the artist said: “It is my great ambition to organise a solo exhibition in Qatar soon. I am making a lot of effort towards that end. I would like to make my mark in Qatar and be known for my creative paintings.”
Officials from the Goa Department of Tourism visit Doha

The officials from the Goa Department of Tourism recently visited Doha to further promote Indian tourism and culture among Qatar residents and other enthusiasts. The western Indian state of Goa, known for its pristine beaches, incredible Portuguese-era architecture, scrumptious food and throbbing nightlife, has a place of its own among tourists in the Middle East. Year 2019, being Qatar-India year of culture efforts from various government and non-government institutions of both the countries are in place to explore their long heritage and cherish their shared values.

The delegation was headed by Dhiraj Vagle, Assistant Director of Tourism at Government of Goa, and Deepak Narvekar, PRO Goa Tourism Development Corporation. An event was held at Radisson Blu Hotel to give an insight to the tiny state’s cultural diversity and abundance of holiday options it has to offer.

“Gulf region as whole, Qatar in special, has a high priority in our tourism calendar. We host many visitors from this region and have been witnessing an upward trend in the recent years. Apart from its natural splendour, Goa has much offer in terms of medical tourism, especially Ayurvedic treatment and yoga sessions are gaining traction among majority of visitors,” said Vagle.

He added, “Though it’s a small state, Goa has high-end infrastructure developments in place and it’s visible for all the moment you land in our international airport. Our government is also keen to support and guide the potential investors to Goa. There are plenty of opportunities for NREs to explore and the current dispensation will gladly support you in view of state’s overall growth.”

Narvekar thanked the Goan community in Qatar for their support and contributions in the welfare of the state and keeping the quintessential Goan values alive abroad through cultural programmes and events. The session was followed by a felicitation ceremony for prominent Goan community leaders in Qatar, including Simon D’Silva and Walter Dias.

D’Silva is the president of Goan Welfare Association, Doha for the past 20 years and also the recipient of Global Goans Community Service Leadership award from the Government of Goa. Dias is an NRI Goan active in the tourism industry and the executive director of Unique Choice.

BPS mourns B K Birla’s demise

The management, staff and students of Birla Public School (BPS) recently gathered to mourn the demise of B K Birla, the founder of BPS and a noted Indian philanthropist and a lector industrialist. B K Birla is the author of several books, including an autobiography Swanthah Sukhaya, where he recounts his early childhood experience of growing up in pre-independence of India, and especially, his time with Mahatma Gandhi. B K Birla was the Chairman of various charity trusts which runs Engineering colleges and schools in India. He established Birla Public School, Doha in 2004.

Gope Shahani, Vice Chairman of BPS, paid his tribute to the departed soul and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family. Dr Mohan Thomas, Director of BPS, cherished his meetings with Birla and remembered the wholehearted support extended to the school. Birla had visited the school several times in spite of his old age. C V Rappai, Director of BPS, offered prayers for the departed soul and urged everyone to continue to strive for fulfilling the educational mission and vision of the late founder. He commented that our children should be taught about Birla’s life, struggles, success and his contributions. A P Sharma, Principal of BPS, led the assembly summing up the great services the late B K Birla had rendered to the community in the field of education for over about half a century in India.

Past president of TI delivers training sessions and speeches in Doha

Balraj Arunasalam, an eminent Sri Lankan entrepreneur and only the third man of Asian origin to have been the International President (2017-18) of the 95-years old Toastmasters International, recently visited Qatar to deliver a series of training sessions and keynote speeches.

He delivered a speech on “Position is not the pinnacle which is attended by over 200 people. Drawing from his life experiences, within and outside of Toastmasters, he exhorted the listeners not to consider a position as a source of power, but as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people, especially in a service-oriented organisation like Toastmasters.

Arunasalam said a leader should be mindful of Purpose. “Don’t lose sight of the purpose; the purpose is the starting point of your position,” he stated. Another point of emphasis was on humility. Balraj said, “The first responsibility for a leader is to know duty over position.” He added, “Identifying potentials of people is a priceless treasure.”

Speaking on the occasion, Rajeswar, also a past District Director, said, “Our District’s first-year success story is unique. It is unprecedented. We, the toastmasters of Qatar, have indeed, created history. Throughout the term, many suggestions influenced me, guided me, and remained as a student. This leadership role made me a better leader and more importantly, a better human being. I realise that becoming the District Director was a blessing in my life. My abundant gratitude to all.” Balraj visited several Toastmasters club in Qatar, including a couple of surprise visits.
ICTM organises Annual Premier Awards Night

Indian Club Toastmasters (ICTM), one of the leading toastmasters clubs in Qatar, recently organised its Annual Premier Awards Night along with installation of its new Executive Committee for the 2019-20 at Oryx Rotana. Balraj Arunasalam, Immediate past International President of Toastmasters International, was the guest of honour. Chaitanya Halgekar, Toastmaster of the day, spoke on the occasion on the theme of words, which was followed by a speech by Anita Samanta. Chandrashekar Dudhe conducted a Table Topics session. Ten club members were presented awards for their outstanding performance during the year on the occasion. Tripti Saha bagged the award for Toastmaster of the Year.

Alarmel Mangai, Director of Area 7, installed the new Executive Committee of the club. The members, include Kumaran C S, President of ICTM; Sekhar Thangavel, Vice President-Education, Tripti Saha, Vice President-Membership; Kumar Natarajan, Vice President-Public Relations; Nived Ratheesan, Secretary; Bhaskar Rao, Treasurer; and Mohammad Sulaiman, Sergeant-at-Arms. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Rajeswar Sundaresan, District Director; Raghavan Menon, Programme Quality Director, Manzoor Moideen, Administration Manager, and Sunita Saini, Division B Director.

Students of PSSC excel in SSC-I examinations

The students of Grade IX of Pak Shamaa School and College (PSSC) recently excelled in the SSC-I examination organised by Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Islamabad. The school position holders, include Shermin Bokhari, first position, with 498 marks; Shayan Ahmad, second, 477 marks; M Usman Shahzad, third, 475 marks; Muhammad Hassan Zeb, fourth, 468 marks; Laiba Zubair, fifth, 460 marks; Aisha Nadeem, sixth, 457 marks; Anfal Aman Khan, seventh, 455 marks; Nawar Karabili, eighth, 454 marks; Sadeqa Asad, ninth, 433 marks; Abdullah Mohammad, 10th, 428 marks; Muhammad Farhat, 11th, 427 marks; Subhana Malik, 12th, 423 marks; Hammad Ahmed, 13th, 422 marks; and Anam Nadeem, 14th, 407 marks.

Nabila Kaukab, Principal of PSSC, congratulated the teachers, parents and students for their excellent performance. M A Shahid, President of Management Committee of PSSC applauded all the members of the staff for showing remarkable progress. He also appreciated the Management Committee.
Students of PISQ excel in SSC-I examinations

The students of Grade IX of Pakistan International School, Qatar (PISQ) recently excelled in SSC-I examination organised by Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Islamabad with the pass percentage of 96%. One hundred and fifty nine students out of 166 passed the examination. The school scored 43 A1 and 42 A grades. The school position holders include Mohammad Shaheer, 503 marks; Hasan Shahid, 497 marks; and Jawairia and Asra Sher Khan, 489 marks.

Other A1 grade holders include Abdur Rehman, 484 marks; Wafa Amir, 482; Usman Waqar, 480; Habibullah, 478; Mamoona Attaria, 478, Mirza Wasaam, 473, Fareeha, 473, Anas Qayyum, 472; Khawaja Taha Anees, 465, Dua Fatima, 465; Javaria Usman, 459; Tehreem Younas, 455; Bibi Hawa Noor, 452 marks; Syeda Zahra Batool, 451; Fareedah, 448; Anood, 448; Aimen, 447; and Syeda Arisha Hafeez, 446.

Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of PISQ, congratulated all the students, parents, and teachers on the success. She said, “PISQ is thoroughly committed to get its students the best possible learning experience and it is all set to excel more academically down the road.” Syed Ahsan Raza Shah, Ambassador of Pakistan, also extended his wishes to the students, teachers, and parents. He remarked, “Education is surely the only decent means for individual and collective development; hence, it should be the foremost priority of any civilised nation anywhere all the time.”
Cape Town’s luxury pet hotel contrasts with city’s poverty

Four-legged guests at Yanic Klue’s pet hotel can get pampered at the spa or take a water gymnastics class. For some people, though, it’s hard to square this luxury Cape Town spot with the city’s poverty, writes Tycho Schildbach.

**Luxury:** Ziggy the dachshund, right, and his friends sit in the Fritzidential Suite at the AtFrits luxury pet hotel in Cape Town.

**Exercises:** Animal therapist Tineka Kriel does swimming exercises with a terrier named Clara at the pet hotel in Cape Town.

**Treatment:** A golden retriever gets a spa treatment at the AtFrits luxury pet hotel in Cape Town.

Old-framed portraits of dogs, hand-sewn bed covers, a chandelier – Ziggy’s temporary home leaves little to be desired. While his owner is sliding in France, the dachshund is spending two weeks being pampered at what could be the world’s largest pet hotel: Guests enjoy trips to the spa, the groomer and water gymnastics classes.

But the AtFrits hotel isn’t in New York or London; it’s in Cape Town. There’s a lot of poverty in South Africa – the amount it costs to spend one night in the hotel would be enough for a whole family to live off for several days. While many animal lovers love the hotel, others find the luxury reprehensible.

“It was really nice to know that in the suites and play areas they have carpet there’s a green lawn and in the lobby there are shelves with dog treats and outfits. Instead of numbers on the room doors there are names like “Catwoman” and “Jurassic Bark.”

The hotel “might be decadent. But when pets are pampered in a rehabilitation centre. In the pool why she also markets the hotel as a luxury pet hotel in Cape Town.

The exercises help the animals after injuries or operations, she says. Affrits isn’t alone in offering luxury pet care services – it’s a growing trend worldwide. Germans, for example, spent 4.8 billion euros (5.5 billion dollars) on their pets in 2017, compared to 3.3 billion euros in 2007, according to the industry association Heimtierbedarf.

In the basement, Klue explains why she also markets the hotel as a rehabilitation centre. In the pool for example, spent 4.8 billion euros (5.5 billion dollars) on their pets in 2017, compared to 3.3 billion euros in 2007, according to the industry association Heimtierbedarf.

And in the United States, there is a chain of luxury pet hotels called The Barkley.

Klue believes that with 2,400 square metres of space, AtFrits is the biggest pet hotel in the world and has even requested that the Guinness Book of Records verify it.

But when pets are pampered in Cape Town, it’s more frowned upon than it would be in Berlin or New York. Almost a fifth of South Africans lived under the poverty line of 1.90 dollar a day in 2015, according to the World Bank.

Four-legged guests at Yanic Klue’s pet hotel can get pampered at the spa or take a water gymnastics class. For some people, though, it’s hard to square this luxury Cape Town spot with the city’s poverty, writes Tycho Schildbach.

**Luxury:** Ziggy the dachshund, right, and his friends sit in the Fritzidential Suite at the AtFrits luxury pet hotel in Cape Town.

**Exercises:** Animal therapist Tineka Kriel does swimming exercises with a terrier named Clara at the pool in the AtFrits pet hotel in Cape Town.

**Treatment:** A golden retriever gets a spa treatment at the AtFrits luxury pet hotel in Cape Town.
Qatar’s growth as witnessed by my lens

I moved to Doha in February 2004, right after my marriage with my husband who had also relocated only a couple of months before me. Qatar at that time had a very small town feel to it, with only a few malls, very basic infrastructure and buildings (on the current skyline) that could be counted on your fingertips. But in the last 15 years, Qatar’s growth has been phenomenal!

Qatar has not only grown in terms of the addition of concrete but has emerged as a prominent country on the world map. Though the country has seen huge economic growth and urbanisation, they have still managed to stay grounded and connected to their roots, values and culture. And that itself shows the amazing leadership that’s driving the country!

Qatar is not my hometown, but I have a very special connection with the country. Not only because we started our married life here, had our three children and are raising them here. But also because we have been a part of the incredible transformation that this country has seen. I feel proud to be a tiny part of this humongous change. Qatar has become home for us. We moved with the initial plan to live here for five years, save money and then move on. Yet, it’s been 15 years and we are still here!

— Text and photos by Shehar Bano Rizvi (@thepmpmom)
A small-town boy with long hair and a heavy bat was run-out for a golden-duck on his international debut. It was depressing beyond words. In just his fifth ODI, Mahi was promoted up the batting order at No 3. He repaid the team management’s faith by smashing 146 of 123 balls, leaving no doubt the sprightly Jharkhand lad was destined for greatness. Later that year, and on his 22nd ODI appearance, MSD was again promoted to accelerate the scoring in a huge chasing –cause against Sri Lanka and ended the game with an unbeaten 183 off 145 balls, winning the game for India. The innings was a tale studied with landmarks, including the highest individual score in ODI cricket in the second innings. The innings was described in Wisden Almanack (2006) as ‘Unhindered, yet anything but crude!’

The ICC World Twenty20 (2007), the ICC Cricket World Cup (2011), the ICC Champions Trophy (2013) and Asia Cups (2010 and 2016) – Mahendra Singh Dhoni has done everything humanly possible as a captain and a finisher par excellence. MSD is the only captain in world cricket to win all three major ICC trophies – the T20 World Cup, One Day World Cup and the ICC Champions Trophy. MSD holds the record for playing the most number of international matches as captain (331) and is the third captain in world cricket to win more than 100 ODI matches after Australia’s Ricky Ponting and Allan Border.

RECORD: MSD holds the record for playing the most number of international matches as captain (331) and is the third captain in world cricket to win more than 100 ODI matches after Australia’s Ricky Ponting and Allan Border.

Dhoni is known for his passion and contribution in every aspect of the game for India. The innings was described in Wisden in its annual ‘Time 100’ list as ‘Most Influential People in the World.’ In June 2015, Forbes ranked him at 23rd in the list of ‘The most influential 100 people in the world’%

1. Acervuline: (a) canine (b) aggregated (c) sharp (d) right pink
2. Fuchsia: (a) extreme hunger (b) weed (c) aura (d) bright pinkish purple
3. Ludens: (a) asterisk (b) element (c) shining brilliantly (d) moldable
4. Eleemosynary: (a) elegance (b) relating to charity (c) unique example (d) self-sacrifice
5. Morceau: (a) a short literary or musical piece (b) Moorocan (c) kind of dog (d) superficiality
6. Quotidian: (a) three times an hour (b) lukewarm (c) hostile (d) to polish
7. Hostile: (a) soft (b) excessively hostile (c) to polish (d) cavity
8. Intransigent: (a) soft (b) excessively hostile (c) to polish (d) cavity
9. Bellicose: (a) soft (b) excessively hostile (c) to polish (d) cavity
10. Atectonic: (a) baby swan (b) short (c) everyday (d) something wanted

He will let his bat do the talking, as he always has, help India win the trophy once more with a last-over six, silence his overly chirpy critics – and retire like the champion sportsman that he truly is. Welcome to Youty’s Infotainment. YAY! Your time starts now.

Which famous ‘trade- secret’ did Dhoni learn from his former Jharkhand teammate Santosh Lai?

His trademark helicopter shot.

Gilechrist, Viv Richards and Kapil may have better strike-rates than Dhoni. Tendulkar, Jayasuriya and Ponting would always be out of his reach by way of runs. But it’s difficult to think if these legends could have done as many hats as Dhoni does – a batsman, keeper, captain and a finisher – and have done brilliantly over a long period of time. What is the contribution of Travis Dowlin to Dhoni’s career achievements?

Dhoni has picked one international wicket and that is of Travis.

Dhoni’s brilliance behind the stumps has stunned the cricket world and made him a heartthrob of a nation where cricket is another religion and the most unifying. The innings was described in Wisden in its annual ‘Time 100’ list as ‘Most Influential People in the World.’

MSD is the only captain in world cricket to win all three major ICC trophies – the T20 World Cup, One Day World Cup and the ICC Champions Trophy.

Which lesser-known Australian holds the record for most stumpings in Test cricket?

Bert Oldfield (52 stumpings in 54 tests between 1920 and 1937).

Dhoni is known for his passion for motorcyclics. His enviable collection of 23 bikes includes Yamaha RD350, Harley Davidson Fatboy, Ducati 1098, Kawasaki Ninja H2 and the super exclusive Confederate Helicat X132 (he is the only person to own this bike in South East Asia). Dhoni also co-partnered Telugu star Akkineni Nagarjuna in buying a Supersport World Championship team. What is its name?

Mahi Racing Team India.

What position does Dhoni hold at India Cement, the owners of IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings?

Vice President, Marketing.

What is this board game named after?

11. Quotidian: (a) soft (b) excessively hostile (c) to polish (d) cavity

Analyze the contribution of Dhoni in world cricket. How has he influenced the sport?

Dhoni has been a significant figure in world cricket. His contributions include:

1. Innovative captaincy: Dhoni is known for his innovative captaincy style, which has been widely appreciated. He has been able to lead his team to victory in several high-pressure situations.
2. Innovative shot: Dhoni’s helicopter shot has been a game-changer in cricket history.
3. Record: Dhoni holds several records in international cricket, including the most number of international matches as captain.
4. Leadership: Dhoni is known for his leadership qualities, which have been evident throughout his career.
5. Charisma: Dhoni is loved by fans all over the world for his charismatic personality.

In conclusion, Dhoni has been a significant contributor to world cricket and has left a lasting impact on the sport. His legacy will continue to inspire future cricketers.
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

Garfield

Sudoku

Bound And Gagged
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Old man’s time is tense (4)
3 Able rise? That's wrong for one who lets himself down (8)
9 Do alter unusually tight-fitting garment (7)
10 Leading characters in rifts (5)
11 Short letters from Battersea (5)
12 Very keen shooter - he's foremost in game (4-2)
14 Missing seaman dispatched (6)
16 Heavyweight with boy or girl (6)
19 Country that could provide us with sari? (6)
21 What thief does in police stations? (5)
24 Bear I had trapped in Lincoln? (5)
25 Stream must be present (7)
26 Noise made when stealing cattle? (8)
27 Island that sounds like heaven (4)

Down
1 Like a grand house - one in La Plata, possibly (8)
2 Search thoroughly to find first bit of custard in tart (5)
4 Chap, for example, with a wine store (6)
5 Small and delicate female in river standing up (5)
6 Charles chopped trees (7)
7 Legal documents, reportedly, for eminent hotelier (4)
8 Provide accommodation for kid (4,2)
13 Estate in trouble with liqueur (8)
15 It’s used in a new form for scholastic work (7)
17 Interior coverings for ships (6)
18 Tintin’s dance? (6)
20 Short period of enchantment (5)
22 Verify the squared pattern (5)
23 Barber will take care of this musical (4)

Yesterday’s Solution

Colouring

Wordsearch

Codeword
Self-driving cars can be game-changer for older adults

Self-driving cars can be a potential game-changer for older adults aged above 60 and can help in minimising the risk of accidents, say researchers.

“There are several levels of automation, ranging from zero where the driver has complete control, through to level five where the car is in charge... this will allow the driver to be completely disengaged, they can sit back and watch a film, eat, even talk on the phone,” said Shuo Li from the Newcastle University in the UK.

“But, unlike level four or five, there are still some situations where the car would ask the driver to take back control and at that point, they need to be back in driving mode within a few seconds,” Li said.

For the study published in the journal Transportation Research, the researchers examined 76 volunteers, divided into two age groups (20-35 and 60-81), and studied the time it takes for older drivers to take back control of an automated car in different scenarios and also the quality of their driving in these different situations.

They experienced automated driving for a short period and were then asked to take back control of a highly automated car and avoid a stationary vehicle.

It was found that in clear conditions, the quality of driving was good but the reaction time of older volunteers was significantly slower than the younger drivers. It took older drivers about 8.3 seconds to negotiate obstacles compared to around 7 seconds for the younger age group.

“At 60mph, that means older drivers would have needed an extra 35m warning distance – that’s equivalent to the length of 10 cars,” said Li.

It was also found that older drivers tended to exhibit worse takeover quality in terms of operating the steering wheel, the accelerator and the brake, increasing the risk of an accident, Li added.

The researchers concluded that fully automated cars which are unlikely to require a license and could negotiate bad weather and unfamiliar cities under all situations without input from the driver can be a potential game-changer for older adults and help in avoiding accidents. – IANS

ARIES
March 21 – April 19

This is a terrific day for you, Aries. Your mood is good and everything is flowing your way. The fire within is burning hot. You will take the lead role in every production. Love is definitely in the cards for you. Be yourself and remember that it's OK to laugh at your mistakes. Humility is good for you.

CANCER
June 21 – July 22

A close loved one may express displeasure with the way things are. Cancer. Maybe there's some tension in the air. Things could get rather explosive. There's a feeling emerging others to act. A certain restlessness that demands that you take action. Unfortunately, this action is likely to meet with opposition if you aren't careful.

LIBRA
September 23 – October 22

There may be tremendous changes in store for you, Libra. Connect with something futuristic and far out. There may be some roadblocks in the way. Maybe your heart is impeding your progress. You don't need another person to fill in any voids in your life. Your confidence is what you need to bolster your self-esteem.

CAPRICORN
December 22 – January 19

Certain relationship matters may cause some tension. Capricorn. Inflated egos may get in the way of important communication that needs to take place for harmony between you and your partner. You're a bit more argumentative than usual. Sparks of disagreement are likely to flare into bonfires if you aren't careful. Keep a fire extinguisher handy.

TAURUS
April 20 – May 20

Other people may steal the spotlight from you today, Taurus, but don't let it get you down. The key is to learn from the ones who take charge. Have fun and don't worry about the details. A definite dynamism is helping you transform certain areas of your life that need to change. Get out of the rut you're in.

LEO
July 23 – August 22

Fire up today, Leo, and let your spirit fly. You have a great deal of ammunition that encouraging you to take charge. Let your adventurous spirit roam wherever it pleases. Communication with loved ones will be clear. You can expect all social encounters to go smoothly. You will be the hit of any party.

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It may seem like close loved ones are trying to pick a fight with you today, Gemini. There may tend to be a “me first” attitude stirring up a pot of trouble. Don't automatically assume that the other person is wrong. There's a valuable lesson to be learned in every conflict. Take each disagreement as an opportunity to learn something about yourself.

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MAD Magazine to end publication after 67 years

By Nancy Dillon

MAD Magazine is folding – but not for fun this time.

The highly influential humour magazine – famous for its gap-toothed mascot Alfred E Neuman, social satire and fold-in back covers – is due to stop publishing newstand issues after its upcoming October edition, multiple people close to the title claim.

After that it’s expected to become a reprint title only, ending its illustrious 57-year run publishing original content.

Contributors got the bad news via e-mail late Wednesday and shared their sorrow online.

“I find it deeply sad to learn that there will be no new content, but knowing history repeats itself, I have no doubt that the vintage pieces will be highly, if not tragically, relevant,” former editor Allie Goertz tweeted.

“I think it’s a huge mistake,” freelance Mark Evanier said in a post that faulted new owner Time Warner for not investing more in the beloved brand.

“I have to think that someone there is pondering what MAD 2.0 might be like. At least, I hope someone is,” he wrote.

Attempts to reach a spokesperson for Time Warner’s DC Comics were not successful Thursday. MAD illustrator Tom Richmond said “we all knew this was coming” after DC laid off three of the four remaining editors last week.

“Not too many magazines can keep publishing without any staff,” he wrote on his website Thursday, tipping his hat to the magazine’s list of famed former cartoonists including Jack Davis, Mort Drucker, Wally Wood, Will Elder, Al Jaffee, Sergio Aragones, Don Martin and Paul Coker.

“I am profoundly sad to hear that after 67 years, MAD Magazine is ceasing publication. I can’t begain to describe the impact it had on me as a young kid – it’s pretty much the reason I turned out weird. Goodbye to one of the all-time greatest American institutions,” musician Weird Al Yankovic tweeted.

“It’s very sad. It’s the end of an era,” jazz guitarist Grant Geissman, who wrote a biography of former MAD editor Al Feldstein, told the Daily News.

“It appears to be the end. Now that it’s part of a corporation, it’s all about the bottom line. They have 67 years of material to regurgitate. Why pay for anything new?” he said.

“For many generations of adolescents, MAD pointed the direction toward a counter culture. It held a fun house mirror up to pop culture,” he said. “It was a fascinating look at an adult world you didn’t necessarily understand.”

Star Wars actor Mark Hamill tweeted it’s “hard to imagine a world without MAD magazine.”

“My older brother’s collection helped me learn to read. It taught a generation how to question & mock the status quo. An honour & career highlight to be ridiculed mercilessly by that ‘usual gang of idiots’,” he wrote, signing off as Lube Skystalker. Comedy writer Tony Barbieri said he’ll never forget working for MAD in the 1990’s, penning a serial comic called Monroe for former editor John Ficarra.

“They were all geniuses. It was really edgy for a while, so much fun,” he told The News.

“How are kids going to live in a world with no puns?” he joked. “It feels like an entire generation of incredible comedy has just been folded into a picture of a toilet.” – New York Daily News/TNS

Kevin Spacey accuser abruptly drops lawsuit that was filed last week

The man who says Kevin Spacey harassed him in a Massachusetts club in 2016 has abruptly dropped a lawsuit he had filed against the embattled actor just over a week ago.

The suit, filed June 26 in Nantucket Superior Court, accused Spacey of “touching and fondling” the young man after buying him alcohol at the Club Car Restaurant in Nantucket in July 2016.

Mitchell Garabedian, an attorney for the accuser, told the Associated Press on Friday that the lawsuit has been voluntarily dismissed, but he offered no reason for the sudden decision.

The Oscar-winning actor still faces criminal charges over the same incident. He has denied the allegations and has pleaded not guilty to indecent battery and assault.

Meanwhile, the accuser has until Monday to turn over a cellphone that Spacey’s lawyer claims has evidence supporting the actor’s innocence claim.

The young man, who was 18 at the time of the alleged abuse, claims he has been unable to find the phone.

He’s one of several men to accuse the former House of Cards star of misconduct since former actor Anthony Rapp, known for his role in Star Trek, went public with allegations against him in 2017.

A massage therapist in Los Angeles is also suing Spacey, 59, for misconduct. – New York Daily News/TNS

END OF AN ERA: MAD Magazine Editor in Chief John Ficarra speaks with Mad artists and writers Sam Viviana, Al Jaffee, Nick Meglin, Dick DeBartolo, Mark Fredrickson, Teresa Burns Parkhurst, Joe Raska, and Charlie Kochau at New York Comic Con.

SPECIAL LOOK: Ranveer Singh unveils his look from the upcoming film on his 34th birthday

Ranveer Singh in ‘83

On his 34th birthday on Saturday, actor Ranveer Singh unveiled his look from the upcoming film ‘83 in which he will be seen playing the iconic cricketer Kapil Dev.

Ranveer took to Twitter to share his look. In the image, the Padmaavat star is seen sporting a bushy moustache and hairdo. He can be seen flipping a leather ball in his hand.

The actor captioned the image: “On my special day, here’s presenting the Haryana Hurricane Kapil Dev.”

The movie will trace India’s historic victory at the 1983 cricket World Cup. Ranveer will be playing the role of former Indian skipper Kapil Dev and actress Deepika Padukone will essay his wife Romi.

This will be the first time Ranveer and Deepika will be seen featuring together in a film after their wedding. The star couple have previously worked in films like Padmaavat, Bajirao Mastani and Golpion Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela.

The rest of the cast includes Saqib Saleem, Adinath Kothare, Chinag Patli, Harddy Sandhu, Anmy Virk, Jatin Sarna, Pankaj Tripathi, Tahir Raj Bhasin, Dinker Sharma, Jiva, Sulay Khattar, Dhairya Karwa, Nishant Dahiya and R Radure.

‘83 is being presented by Reliance Entertainment, and will release on April 10, 2020, in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. – IANS

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DISGRACED: Kevin Spacey has been in the spotlight for numerous charges of misconduct.

By Nancy Dillon

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TIMING: The summer camps running this summer start every day at 7:30am and end at 2:30pm.

Making learning fun for children

QSports’ summer camps for children at Dana Club and Kempinski provide both education and entertainment

By Mudassir Raja

Summer camps can be one of the most exciting parts of the summer holidays for some children. Being in a summer camp is something that we come to miss the most as we grow older. Those few days or weeks, promise the memories that last a lifetime because summer camping is all about learning, making friends and having fun.

In Qatar, summer is unique in the sense that it offers multiple choices for children to enjoy summer camps. As the kids here spend most of their time indoor during summer, the camps provide some activities in a controlled environment that provide both fun and learning for the young children. QSports, a private company promoting different sports activities in Qatar, has been running two summer camps this season – one at Al Dana Club and the other at Marza Malaz Kempinski The Pearl – Qatar. This is the fourth consecutive year that the company has been arranging summer camps in Qatar.

The summer camps have become a big attraction for young children with the organisers offering multiple activities providing both mental exercises and physical education in a way that are fun and exciting for the children. The camps offer both outdoor sport activities and indoor activities that focus on the mental and social aspects of grooming children through a fun-diverse programme.

The camps that started on June 30 will run until August 15. Kids from 4 years till 14 years can enjoy many activities every day that range from sports, arts and crafts, robotics, lego and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). The camps start every day at 7:30am and end at 2:30pm. The sports include; basketball, football, handball, tennis, badminton, swimming, volleyball, karate, taekwondo and much more activities are a part of the daily programme for the children.

The summer camps at Marza Marza Malaz Kempinski, QSports in association with the hotel is offering the participants a high quality and healthy variety of food menus each day, parents can be sure that their kids will receive fresh and delicious food and will have the privilege to have fun in Kempinski’s own secluded island.

Ana Milena Gomez is head of sports academies at QSports. She is a Columbian national athlete and professional swimmer. She has won many accolades for her country at international stage in swimming.

Talking to Community Ana said: “We take children outdoor early in the morning for sports. We select three different spots each day. As in summer, the children remain indoor at their house most of the time; we therefore provide them an opportunity to have some physical activity while indulging in different sports.”

She added: “By noon and afternoon, we start our indoor activities. These activities focus on mental and social parts of the overall learning of a child. They learn how to cope with different issue of daily life emotionally. The kids get the chance to meet different other children every day and they learn how to get along with each other. It helps in building of their personality.”

“The kids are also offered different art and craft activities as well. They are pushed to use their creative force as well. The children are also taught science, math and technology through different fun activities. They learn – for example – how universe works and how a car’s engine moves.”

The athlete, who has also got formal degree in physical education, further said: “QSports started in a company seven years ago with the aim of promoting different sports in Qatar. We have as many as 11 professional coaches for different sports. Further, we have qualified physical education teachers to deal with the kid during summer camps and other sports projects. They also know the psychology of children and how to educate them while getting them involved in different sports and physical activities.”

Ana, who moved to Doha two years ago and also specialises in zumba dance, added: “We have been running summer camps for four years. We also have been running different sports related activities with different schools in Qatar. So, we have very strong relations and bonding with many children and their parents. They prefer our camps over other activities as we focus on education through fun. Our efforts and activities encourage learning through happiness. We do not set certain goals for the children to achieve. Our activities are not competition but a fun.”