Community
The Punjab Music Group organises an event to mark 72nd Independence Day of Pakistan.

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On trial
In Sweden, A$AP Rocky, and a country’s identity, stand trial. P4-6

A$AP ROCKY LONG.LIVE.A$AP

Bollywood
Never wanted to be an actress: Kriti.

Page 14

Hollywood
Comedian Hannibal Buress rips Miami cop.

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**USEFUL NUMBERS**

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**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

**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr: 3.44am
- Shoroq (sunrise): 5.08am
- Zuhr (noon): 11.40am
- Asr (afternoon): 3.09pm
- Maghreb (sunset): 6.12pm
- Isha (night): 7.42pm

**Quote Unquote**

"With the past, I have nothing to do; nor with the future. I live now."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

**The Angry Birds Movie 2**

**DIRECTION:** Thurop Van Orman

**CAST:** Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Leslie Jones

**SYNOPSIS:** Red, Chuck, Bomb and the rest of their feathered friends are surprised when a green pig suggests that they put aside their differences and unite to fight a common threat. Aggressive birds from an island covered in ice are planning to use an elaborate weapon to destroy the fowl and swine way of life. After picking their best and brightest, the birds and pigs come up with a scheme to infiltrate the island, deactivate the device and return to their respective paradises intact.

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

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**Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs and Shaw**

**DIRECTION:** David Leitch

**CAST:** Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Idris Elba

**SYNOPSIS:** Ever since brawny lawman Hobbs, a loyal agent of America’s Diplomatic Security Service, and lawless outcast Shaw, a former British military elite operative, first faced off in 2015’s Furious 7, the duo have swapped smack talk and body blows as they’ve tried to take each other down. But when cyber-genetically enhanced anarchist Brixton (Idris Elba) gains control of an insidious bio-threat that could alter humanity forever — and bests a brilliant and fearless rogue MI6 agent (The Crown’s Vanessa Kirby), who just happens to be Shaw’s sister — these two sworn enemies will have to partner up to bring down the only guy who might be badder than themselves.

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

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**For movie timings and further details please scan the QR code above with your mobile phone camera or visit qatarcinemas.com**
EVENTS

Art Lessons
WHERE: Mathaf Manara Qatar Museums
WHEN: August 16 till August 28
TIME: 4pm – 7pm
Join artist Ismael Azzam for Art Lessons at Mathaf and learn drawing techniques called portraiture using pencil, charcoal and paint. Lessons are offered to people with basic to intermediate sketching and drawing skills. For more information, mathaf_education@qm.org.qa

The Comedy of Tango
WHERE: Katara – the Cultural Village
WHEN: August 28
TIME: 8pm - 9pm
With the support of Katara – the Cultural Village and embassy of Argentina in Doha Tango Pasión Doha presents Los Guardiola – “The Comedy of Tango” on August 28. A show consisting of seven scenes is inspired by famous tangos. Dancers, mimes and actors, Marcelo Guardiola and Giorgia Marchiori, known artistically as Los Guardiola, will project the audience into the fantastic world of their danced pantomime where comedy and tragedy merge into the rhythm of tango.

Yoga Class
WHERE: Lululemon, Mall of Qatar
WHEN: Every Saturday
TIME: 8:30am – 9:30am
Join the complimentary in-store yoga classes. No registration or mat is required. The class runs on first come first served basis.

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 Miheireb
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

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

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.

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

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Saturday – Friday
Mamangam is an art and performance centre started with a vision of spreading our knowledge, interests and experience in various disciplines in arts across different countries for children and adults.
Summer camp at Mamangam has become the children’s favourite centre for learning art and craft, drawing, and learning spoken English. The kids also enjoy Bollywood dance, contemporary and hip hop music. To develop health consciousness, we teach them kids yoga, karate etc. Mamangam has also come up with chess and robotics in the regular batches in an attempt to give a better learning experience.
The first batch of the summer camp began on June 26 continuing until July 25 from Sundays to Thursdays. The second batch will commence on July 28 ending on August 25. Registrations are open to kids between 5 to 16 years. For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in

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 Shakh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change
Caught in the crossfire

Left-wing Swedes are really caught here. Swedes are sympathetic towards the cause of African Americans in the US, and Sweden sees itself as a champion of civil rights. But this was an African American artist charged with assault, and the person assaulted was a refugee, another marginalised person subjected to discrimination. That’s a complication.

— Dag Blanck, professor of North American studies at Uppsala University in Sweden
A brawl caught on Instagram, with foreign policy implications. Federal hostage negotiators sent to monitor courtrooms abroad. Twitter interventions from the president and lobbying efforts from Kanye West.

The trial of A$AP Rocky in Sweden feels like Straight Outta Compton meets Veep. The case has transfused both the Swedish public and American hip-hop fans since Rocky, born Rakim Mayers, was arrested last month on assault charges stemming from an alleged altercation in Stockholm between him and two companions and Mustafa Jafari, a 19-year-old immigrant from Afghanistan. On Friday, Rocky, 30, was released from jail and returned to the US, pending a verdict expected in two weeks. But underneath the celebrity and American political entanglements, Rocky’s case complicates debates already rolling in Swedish society. Sweden, known for its generous welfare state and status as a peaceful haven for recent migrants from the Middle East and North Africa, is again debating how best to integrate and support them. Right-wing populists have seized on some recent crimes in immigrant-heavy neighbourhoods to try and thwart that mission.

Rocky’s trial has scrambled typical left-right alliances and been a major story in Swedish media for weeks. In left-leaning Sweden, many have sympathy for migrants but also see Rocky as a victim of circumstance. Fear of crime has stirred scepticism on the right about Swedish policing and immigration — along with pushback from the left to avoid such stereotypes. Meanwhile, a far-right US president, known for racist and xenophobic statements, tried to force a wealthy European country to release a black hip-hop artist from jail. Most Swedes loathed President Trump’s interest in the case and want justice to run its normal course.

“Left-wing Swedes are really caught here,” said Dag Blanck, professor of North American studies at Uppsala University in Sweden. “Swedes are sympathetic towards the cause of African Americans in the US, and Sweden sees itself as a champion of civil rights. But this was an African American artist charged with assault, and the person assaulted was a refugee, another marginalised person subjected to discrimination. That’s a complication.”

ON TOUR IN EUROPE

A$AP Rocky surely did not expect to become a flashpoint for arguments around Sweden’s crime and immigration policies. The Harlem-based rapper, co-founder of the larger A$AP collective, has scored two No. 1 Billboard 200 albums and smash singles like F. Problem with Drake, 2 Chainz and Kendrick Lamar. Rocky was on tour in Europe at the time of the alleged incident, which officials said occurred outside a Stockholm restaurant as members of Rocky’s team tried to download an app to rent some nearby scooters.

Rocky testified that Jafari approached the group asking if they’d seen a friend of his, and after being told to leave them alone, Rocky’s bodyguard intervened and a scuffle ensued. Prosecutors alleged that Rocky and his companions beat and kicked Jafari while he was on the ground, possibly using a bottle as a weapon. Rocky and his two associates, Bladimir Emilio Corniel and David Tyrone Rispers, pleaded not guilty to assault charges and testified in Stockholm court that they did all they could to de-escalate the situation before it turned violent. Swedish prosecutors had asked for a six-month sentence if found guilty.

“Me and my crew told them that, ‘Listen, don’t go where we are going. Go the other way, we don’t want any trouble,’” Rocky said in court, in response to questioning. “Four or five people afraid of me, who’s not half of their body size?”

“We’re in a foreign country, we’re approached by two strangers with aggressive behaviour,” he said. “I don’t know what to expect when being attacked by strangers, that’s why I have security.

Swedish prosecutors, however, alleged that Rocky and his companions beat and kicked Jafari after he confronted them about a pair of headphones broken earlier in an argument.

“The bodyguard] pushed me, I was both offended and surprised,” Jafari said in court. “When [the bodyguard] pushed me, I was both offended and surprised,” Jafari said in court. “When [the bodyguard] pushed me, I was both offended and surprised.”

Almost immediately after the arrest, musicians and celebrities including Justin Bieber, Migos and Sean “Diddy” Combs took to the internet under the mantle of #FreeRocky. Trump’s unexpected involvement was inspired by an unlikely friend and ally, West. (One of Rocky’s first stops post-release was West’s Sunday Service concert, and he thanked the rapper for his help).

Trump tweeted a punning reaction to the news of Rocky’s release: “A$AP Rocky released from prison and on his way home to the United States from Sweden. It was a Rocky Week, get home A$AP A$AP!” Rocky, for his part, wrote (in all caps): “I cant begin to describe how grateful I am for all of you this has been a very difficult and humbling experience.”

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COMMUNITY | 5

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

GULF TIMES

By August Brown

CHEERFUL: Rocky, right, leaves the district court after the third day of his trial in Stockholm, Friday, Aug. 2, 2019.
FAMILIAR DEBATES

Beyond the celebrity angle, the case would otherwise seem to be an ordinary alleged street confrontation gone south. But the randomness of the alleged incident (and Jafari’s background) have been portrayed by the country’s far-right Sweden Democrats party and even more centrist parties as examples of escalating tensions.

While crime rates in Sweden are still dramatically lower than in the U.S. (its annual homicide rate is about one-fifth of ours), high-profile incidents have raised fears in the extremely peaceful nation. A spate of grenade attacks largely blamed on weapons smuggled from nearby Baltic countries has law enforcement on edge, as have several incidents involving youth gangs.

“Crime in general is not on the rise here,” said Jerry Sarnecki, a professor at Stockholm University’s department of criminology. “One acute problem is the rise of gang shootings in this country, which we’ve never had before. Hard-right populists create a picture of the dangers of immigration, and that’s just not correct, according to the figures.”

Race and country of origin certainly are factors in how these issues are debated in Sweden. The government has taken pains to avoid implications that race or migrant status has any causal relationship with crime.

In 2017, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven stopped updating statistics of criminals’ country of origin, and he has been outspoken about advocating for better integration programs and the virtues of diversity. But even the center-left Social Democrats have announced plans to hire 10,000 new police officers and increase sentences for violent crimes.

“ASAP comes from an American context where African Americans are subjected to potential violent violence,” Blanck said. “There is absolutely much legitimacy around these concerns,” he said. “The issue that’s debated is what the policy implications are.”

However, interventions from Rocky’s unexpected ally _ Trump _ haven’t made anyone’s choices easier.

In tweets tagged “#Free-Rocky,” Trump said he was “very disappointed in Prime Minister Löfven for being unable to act. Sweden has let our African American Community down in the United States. I watched the tapes of ASAP Rocky, and he was being followed and harassed by thugs.”

Trump’s interest in the case almost certainly stems from his friendship with West and his wife, Kim Kardashian, rather than an interest in racial justice in policing. Among myriad other examples, he had previously called for the execution of the Central Park Five, young men of colour unjustly charged by police and later exonerated, and he used vulgar insults to attack Elijah Cumminigs, a black congressman representing the Baltimore area. Hip-hop culture has long been a metonym for the American right wing’s own racist stereotypes about crime in inner cities.

Trump’s tweets and private conversations with the prime minister added to the perception that he was meddling in the criminal court proceedings of an allied country. His decision to send a special envoy for hostage affairs, Robert C. O’Brien, to monitor Rocky’s trial (a case that was no one’s definition of a hostage crisis) only amplified those tensions unnecessarily.

“My guess is that he’ll be sentenced to a mild sentence, and that’s it. All the political discussions here are related to intervention by Trump and the populist right,” Sarnecki said.

“There’s a lot of prejudice towards [young immigrant men], and populists want them to leave the country. The populist right uses this argument of rising crime and the system collapsing.”

Ironically, hip-hop has been a way for Swedish immigrant and minority youth to help bridge gaps and express themselves in this era. Rappers like Silvana Imam (Lithuanian Syrian) and Eboi (Gambian Swedish) are Swedish youth who understand and document the “third culture” that comes from immigration.

On Imam’s song Inmun Cobin, she raps, “You say my love is breaking the law / Go kiss your ... swastika” _ a clear rebuke of parties like Sweden Democrats, whose followers would want her family’s story to be impossible in Sweden. Eboi’s recent album includes a glossary of lyrics for Swedes who might not understand his allusive mix of slang and dialects.

“We’re one of the most Americanized countries in terms of our popular culture. My nephew told me ASAP Rocky is very big in Sweden, and many of his fans were outside the courthouse singing his songs,” Blanck said.

Rocky’s case may well be an isolated, surreal incident. It has little to do with the larger trends in Sweden around fear of crime. It may just be another example of the American president conducting policy on tips from celebrity friends. But it shows that in a tightly connected, perpetual hothouse news cycle, small-scale incidents like this can still swing debates in unlikely directions.

Rocky, for his part, is scheduled to play the Real Street Festival in Anaheim, Calif., on Sunday.

“I don’t think it will have any long-lasting effect on relations,” Blanck said. “Sweden has been nervous, but I think it’s somewhat of a cultural misunderstanding.”

— Los Angeles Times / TNS

Continued from Page 5

MEDIA: Lawyer Henrik Olsson Lilja faces the media following the court decision against Rocky at the Stockholm District Court in Sweden.
COMMUNITY

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS: Punjab Music Group (PMG) recently organised an event to mark the 72nd Independence Day of Pakistan at Habib Hotel. The event featured various national songs along with the speeches and prayer for the prosperity of Pakistan. Muhammed Azhar Rana, Owner of Habib Hotel, was the chief guest on the occasion. Nazakat Ali Khan, Chief Organiser of PMG, welcomed the gathering.

BOOK REVIEW

Stylish memoir of a fashion mogul

By Gene Seymour

You can always trust an auto-biographer who discloses a childhood memory in which he and his siblings “had to smack a cereal box twice on its side ... to make sure we got the roaches out before we started pouring it into our bowls.” This may seem a strange point to begin assessing remembrances as enthralling as those of Daniel R. Day, better known as ‘Dapper Dan,’ fabled Harlem fashion mogul and ground-breaking virtuoso of luxury logo-bearing streetwear. Still, minor anecdotes like the one about the cereal box attest to a finely-tuned sense of detail that one would expect from a legendary clothes designer and culture hero.

Through the 1980s and 1990s, decades rife with crime, crack plagues and economic instability, Dapper Dan built his 125th Street store, along with his brand and reputation, on a method of screen printing such name-brand logos (Gucci, Louis Vuitton and Fendi) for custom-made casual wear and suits. The Harlem gangsters comprising his first wave of high-profile customers were soon joined by such myriad black superstars as Big Daddy Kane, Mike Tyson, Eric B and Rakim, Jam Master Jay, P. Diddy and Jay-Z. How Daniel Day reached this prominence makes for a classic tale of black self-invention, an ‘Up From Slavery’ for the hip-hop era.

Dapper Dan grew up hungry in mid-20th century Harlem, “though we didn’t know we were poor because everybody we know was struggling like us.” Vividly, but without sentimentality, he evokes both the pleasures and hazards of living and dreaming in what was once considered the citadel of black America, where “hustling was a normal, often lucrative line of work.” He once aspired to become a writer, and this book, however much its style slips into street colloquialisms, attests to his formidable storytelling chops.

From that point on, the story assumes a more-or-less ascendant curve: Day forsakes a Columbia journalism scholarship for a summer tour of Africa, where he “fell in love” with both the clothing and the tailoring styles he encountered on the continent. African clothes, Day recalls, “fit me better than anything I’d ever bought or shoplifted from a story in New York.” A few years later, he returns to Africa as part of the pop-music festival accompanying the 1974 Muhammad Ali-George Foreman “rumble in the jungle” in Zaire. During a delay in the fight caused when Foreman is hurt in a sparring accident, Day roams other African countries looking for “things to wear” and solidifies his calling to make “people look fly.” And that, on some level, was only the beginning of what was still an arduous advancement to cult fame.

If Dapper Dan is telling his readers anything, it may be nothing more complicated than this: I was often tempted to count myself out, but I didn’t.

– Newsday/TNS
Taking charge of your finances is central to gaining monetary freedom, but there’s a lot more to it than in the past - so what are the new rules for savers and investors? asks Giulia Rhodes

IMPORTANT: If you can afford huge amount, that’s great, but getting started, paying in even a small amount regularly over the long term is equally important.

Today, money management goes beyond Charles Dickens’s much-quoted lesson, as set out in David Copperfield: “Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery.”

So what simple rules can today’s would-be savers and investors follow to ensure they can enjoy the present while also futureproofing their finances?

The 50-30-20 rule: the basics of budgeting
It may sound like another dietary fad, but 50-30-20 is about getting your finances, rather than your body, into shape. A useful rule of thumb, popularised by a range of online money guides, is the 50-30-20 rule. According to the rule: 50% of your income after tax should go to needs, such as your mortgage or rent, food, utilities, commuting costs, insurance, minimum monthly debt repayments and childcare; 30% to flexible expenses – your wants or “nice-to-haves” – which may include streaming subscriptions, flat whites and holidays and whatever else gives you pleasure; and 20% set aside for savings, investments and additional payments to reduce debt (on top of your minimum monthly debt repayments – which come out of needs).

The emergency fund: saving for a rainy day
It pays to expect the unexpected. Redundancy, accident, illness or changes in personal circumstances can affect the amount of money we have coming in. Urgent house repairs, car problems or other unforeseen bills can affect our outgoings. Building up an emergency fund to cover expenses for between three and six months avoids the need for desperate financial decisions in times of need. Keep the money in a separate instantly-accessible account and don’t touch it unless you have to. Consider your circumstances in your planning. The more dependants you have, and the higher your monthly commitments, the more you need to put away.

What do you want? Make a life plan
Know where you would like to be going and when. Setting goals can help you maintain healthy financial discipline by keeping the future in your sights, reminding you what you are saving for and how long you have. Life goals might include buying a home, paying for career training, enjoying your retirement and leaving a financial legacy for your loved ones. Financial life planning should reflect how a person’s saving and investment needs change as we age – for instance, we should reduce the financial risk we take as our retirement approaches.

Get yourself a financial ‘personal trainer’
Lack of financial confidence can lead to a head-in-the-sand attitude to money. A recent report found that 61% of millennials regard saving as difficult but necessary – so why not consider taking on the financial equivalent of a personal trainer? An adviser can help demystify money, give you access to a wider range of products – although they can often cost more than an individual consumer could. Fees apply and will vary – although in some cases an initial consultation is free.

Positive pensioners: plan for fulfilling retirement
Retirement might feel a long way off for many people. Indeed, the finish line keeps moving as the age of retirement gradually rises. But all workers will eventually down tools – and when we do, we need a nest egg in place.

A recent banking research found that only one in six working-age people anticipate no difficulty in managing retirement finances independently, but only 29% are currently saving for this time. It pays to start early, plan for some fun in later life and be realistic about costs. Today’s retirees enjoy better health and higher expectations than previous generations, but longer lives also raise the possibility of expensive care bills.

So it can sometimes be useful to think of retirement as a period made up of two phases: an active early-retirement phase and a later one in which support is needed. If you want to Skydive in your 70s, plan for it now.

Don’t just save, invest
If you want your money to work harder, consider investing as well as saving. At a time of particularly low interest rates, simply sitting on piles of cash may make little sense. Indeed, with the rate of inflation remaining at or around 2%, current low interest rates may result in a negative real rate of return for many savers.

There is a huge range of investment options to suit widely differing circumstances, attitudes and confidence levels – and you don’t need to be a city expert or a wheeler-dealer. A stocks and shares ISA is a tax-efficient and easy way to start a portfolio. But do be sure to have an emergency fund in place and clear any interest-incurring debts (excluding your mortgage) before you start investing.

While investments offer the possibility of higher returns, the value of your investments can also fall, meaning you could get back less than you put in. A longer time frame – a five-year minimum being a good guide – can often help investors ride out volatility.

Embrace the tech
While the image of Wall Street traders, frantically shouting and waving slips of paper, may persist, today’s financial dealings are generally digital. Technology, ever evolving, can make financial planning, saving and investing easier for everyone. Consider accessing planning tools, professional financial advice, account management and direct investments via your computer or smartphone.
10 new rules for money management

Start small: build investment habits
There is truth in the old saying about looking after the pennies – though you will need to account for inflation and up the quantities a bit.

Many are put off investing, believing it to be solely the preserve of those with huge sums to commit. In fact, you can start an investment with £100 or less. If you can afford more, that’s great, but getting started, paying in even a small amount regularly over the long term is equally important.

Take an honest look at your outgoings and potentially consider swapping some unnecessary expenses for investments – ask yourself how much you really need to spend on takeaway coffees, for instance.

How to be more future-minded when it comes to your finances
Diversity: don’t put all your eggs in one basket
Even if you haven’t got a lot, it makes sense to spread your money around a little to maximise growth and minimise risk. The technical term is diversification, but it really just means ensuring that you aren’t holding everything in one savings account or one investment.

Property, tax-efficient ISAs and investments in shares and securities can all be options to consider for diverse financial planning.

Keep up the good work
While managing your finances needn’t be stressful, it does take a bit of ongoing effort. The starting point is a really good budget and a life plan (see above), but the work has to continue. Keep a long-term view on your savings and investments, continuing to research options and review your plans regularly – and make changes accordingly. If you are better informed, you may well be better off.

Make sure you are honest with yourself about what you do and don’t know and seek advice if there are gaps. – The Guardian

PRO TIP: If you want your money to work harder, consider investing as well as saving.

STATISTICS: A recent banking research found that only one in six working-age people anticipate no difficulty in managing retirement finances independently, but only 29% are currently saving for this time.

TECH SAVVY: Technology, ever evolving, can make financial planning, saving and investing easier for everyone.
Guide to Houseplants

Heart Leaf Philodendron (Aplisonema Crispum 'Deborah')
Though toxic if eaten (keep away from kids and pets), this climbing vine is a warrior against pollutants like formaldehyde.

Aloe (Aloe Vera)
This sunshine-loving succulent battles formaldehyde and benzene, chemicals found in paint and cleaning products.

Chinese Evergreen (Aplisonema Crispum 'Deborah')
This flowering plant combats air pollutants and toxins, and can flourish even in a low light environment.

Spider Plant (Chlorophytum Comosum)
Don't let the name scare you—this resilient plant helps to clear the air of benzene, formaldehyde, carbon monoxide and xylene.

Warneck Dracaena (Dracaena Deremensis 'Warneckii')
 Able to grow up to 12 feet, this two-toned plant defends against airborne toxins from household varnishes and oils.

Snake Plant (Sansevieria Trifasciata 'Laurentii')
Also known as mother-in-law's tongue, this formaldehyde-filtering plant thrives in a low light, high humidity locale like the bathroom.

Houseplants add fresh greenery to your space, but they also create a healthier living environment by clearing many airborne pollutants commonly found in homes.

To purify the air throughout your home, you'll need approx. one large potted plant (6- to 8-inch pot) or two smaller plants (4- to 5-inch pot) for every 100 square feet.

Follow our guide to fight indoor pollutants with these powerful plants!
Hookah more toxic than other forms of smoking tobacco: study

While the popularity of hookah (tobacco pipe) has increased in recent years, researchers say it may be more dangerous than other forms of smoking tobacco.

Using a custom-built testing device, the researchers analysed emissions during a typical hookah session and found that one draw from a pipe contained as many noxious substances as a cigarette.

Hookah mainstream smoke, which is directly inhaled, has many toxic and harmful chemicals, like nicotine that can lead to tobacco addiction, irritating carbonyl compounds, and benzene, a known carcinogen,” said study lead author Veronique Perraud from University of California.

“Due to the greater volume inhaled in every puff and the longer duration of a smoking session, the hookah often delivers a higher dose of those chemicals to the smoker,” Perraud said.

It also produced large quantity of carbon monoxide, mainly from the burning of charcoal to heat the tobacco or herbal mixture in its bowl. The study, published in journal Aerosol Science and Technology, also referred to several cases of carbon monoxide intoxication.

In addition to testing ordinary tobacco, the group also studied a nicotine-free herbal mixture, marketed as a healthier alternative, and discovered that it produced even higher levels of toxic gases. The study is the first to characterise ultra-fine particles (with a diameter smaller than 100 nanometres) in the inhaled smoke.

The researchers measured the chemical composition of gases and solids emitted during a hookah session in real time.

“Through our technique of testing emissions in the beginning, midpoint and end of a smoking session, we were able to show that a smoker is exposed to a higher quantity of ultra-fine particles during the first 10 minutes compared with the rest of the session,” she said.

According to the study, these minuscule particles can pose significant health risks by making their way deep into the pulmonary system and by readily crossing the blood–brain barrier. – IANS
Codeword

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

Alder  Redwood  Magnolia
Fig  Birch  Willow
Palm  Larch  Cypress
Aspen  Sequoia  Maple
Fir  Cedar  Yew
Pine  Linden  Elm
Birch  Spruce  Oak
Hickory  Chestnut  Eromacs

Wordsearch

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

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine 3x3 squares. You are given a selection of values and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains all the digits 1 to 9. No digit may be repeated.

Bound And Gagged

Pooch Cafe

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Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Old people getting confused, for instance (8)
5 Young bird, not completely fashionable (4)
8 Get up in brook (5)
9 Clear up broken axle-pin (7)
11 Ted and Rita prepared to get dressed (7)
12 In the past it helped to support the church (5)
13 Straightforward letters of credit (6)
17 The endless contest for northern Greece (6)
18 Political leader told stories and carried on (5)
20 Small creature biting quiet vet (7)
23 A hat? Let it stay, boy (7)
24 Exclusive portion of ice-cream? (5)
26 Nut found by bird at the end of the line (8)

Down
1 Where one may find flounders floundering (2,3)
2 Part of book showing group of clergymen (7)
3 Source of berries for community leader (5)
4 Die in the attempt, like dedicated followers of fashion? (6)
6 Male skill and courage (5)
7 Some academic once denied a grant (7)
10 Way to include constant repair (5)
13 Plant is set up in store (7)
14 Company man works as a programmer (5)
16 First-class chaps raised single flower (7)
17 Woman carried by Arabian camel (6)
19 Ernie’s funny girl (5)
21 Material for sails? (5)
22 Lukewarm food served up, including pathetic starter (5)

Solution

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword
Never wanted to be an actress: Kriti

A
ctress Kriti
Kharbanda, who
is quite busy with
upcoming films
including Housefull
4, Pagalpanti, Chehre, and the Tamil film Vaan, says she never
wanted to become an actress.

“I never wanted to become an
actress, rather I wanted to get
married and have kids. So, when it
comes to working in Bollywood or
in the South, I do not choose films
based on language. When I started
working over there, I did not look
at the south Indian film industry
as a stepping stone to Bollywood.
Even now, when I am acting in
a Tamil film, or a multi-starrer
film, I am doing it with
no difference,” Kriti said.

Earlier she has appeared in
Bollywood films like Guest
IN London, Shaadi Mein Zaroor
Aana, Sarhad and, and Yumla Puga
Drewaun: Phir Se. She gained
popularity as an actress in the
south Indian film industry with
films like Googly, Super Ranga,
Bruce Lee: The Fighter.

Apart from appearing in films,
she has become a favourite face
on magazine covers for her style
statement.

Asked how she defines style,
Kriti said: “My style statement
is an outcome of years of
experiment, mistakes and
collaborating with stylists. Over
the year I have realised I tend to
opt for comfort over trend. When
we wear anything, whether it is a
dress, a pair of shoes or jewellery,
we are not always comfortable
with the latest trend. If we want
to look trendy, we have to find
comfort and feel confident in
what we wear.” “Having said
that, one should not highlight
everything too much as it looks
like, you are overdressed,” added
the actress on the sideline of the
launch of the wedding collection
of Charles & Keith shoes and bags
in India. – IANS

Naseeruddin Shah’s short film Half Full in race for Oscar entry

The short film Half Full, starring
veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah,
has gotten a step closer for an entry
into the race for the prestigious
Oscar awards.

Half Full, also featuring Vikrant
Massey, and Counterfeit
Kunkoo were declared winners at
ShortsTV’s Best of India Short
Film Festival 2010 in Los Angeles.
The victory has got it closer to
Oscars.

“The fact that it turned out to
be a good film is what matters to
me more than any award. I guess
it (winning the award) is of great
importance to get the film high
profile...to make sure it gets seen,
so naturally I am happy about it.
This way the film will gain a lot of
attention,” Naseeruddin said.

Half Full, directed by Karan
Rawal, is a 12-minute short
film that focusses on the trials
and tribulations of a young
man (played by Vikrant) who is
undergoing an internal conflict.

One night, he encounters an old
man (Naseeruddin) and a strange
vibe develops between the two,
throwing up some sarcastic and
vague questions.

The veteran actor found it a real
pleasure to work on this movie.

“I was a night’s shoot. I found
it enjoyable. It’s very effective
and makes its point very cleverly,”
he said. – IANS

Kamal Haasan’s Indian 2 rolls as actor’s career turns 60

Monday marked the completion of Kamal Haasan’s 60 years in the
film industry, and the actor-filmmaker’s latest project, Indian 2, went
on the floors on the day.

Announcing the start of the film, actress Rakul Preet Singh posted
a boomerang video on her Instagram page. In the video, Rakul is seen
getting ready for shoot in the makeup room, dialogue sheet in hand.

“Indian 2 begins”, she captioned the video.

The ambitious project marks the reunion of Kamal and filmmaker
Shankar after two decades, and also features Rakul, along with Kajal
Aggarwal, SiddhARTH and Priya Bhavani Shankar in crucial roles.

In the film, SiddhARTH is reportedly playing Kamal Haasan’s
grandson, and is paired opposite SiddhARTH.

Indian 2 will mark the return of Kamal Haasan as ruthless vigilante
Senapathy, a character that became popular on the release of the
first film in 1996. Last week, Kamal Haasan revealed during one of
the episodes of Bigg Boss Tamil 3 that he has gone clean shaven
to commence shooting for Indian 2. He also said he will retain the same
look for his other upcoming project, Thalaivian irukkindraum, which
is a Tamil-Hindi bilingual to co-star Saif Ali Khan.

The first-look poster of Indian 2 was released earlier this year on
the occasion of Pongal. The poster features Karma displaying Varma
Kalai skills in his avatar as the octogenarian vigilante, Senapathy. –
IANS

EXCITED: Naseeruddin during a press announcement for ‘Films For Change’
initiative organised by Good Pitch India in Mumbai

NEW PROJECT: Kamal Haasan

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UPSIDE DOWN: Ishaan Khatter might be seeing the world upside
down, but his fans think he is no less than Spider-Man.

Ishaan does a Spider-Man stunt

Ishaan Khatter might be seeing the world upside
down, but his fans think he is no less than Spider-Man. The Indian actor, after all, was
able to hang from a rock like the masked superhero.

The DhadaK actor posted a photograph in which he is seen
executing the dangerous stunt. It was taken in Grossglockner in
Austria.

“Somewhere 6,223 kilometres away,” he captioned it.

While some suspected it to be photoshopped, other couldn’t stop
praising him and calling him Spider-Man.

One fan even tagged actor Tom Holland, who plays Spider-Man
in the latest set of Marvel movies, and wrote that Ishaan could give
Holland a run for his money.

Another broke into a Hindi song: “Issspiderman tumne churaya
mere dill ka chain”. Others simply called him “Hey Spider-Man”.

Ishaan is currently on a bike tour with elder brother Shahid Kapoor
and actor Kunal Kemmu. – IANS
Comedian Hannibal Buress rips Miami cop

By David Ovalle

Comedian Hannibal Buress, once arrested by a Miami police officer for disorderly intoxication, returned to the Magic City over the weekend for a show – and he didn’t hold back.

On stage during an extended bit on Saturday night, Buress ripped the Miami police officer who arrested him in a case that was quickly dropped by prosecutors. On a big-screen, the comedian showed body-camera footage of the arrest.

Then, he gave a shout-out to his Miami defense attorney, Brian Bieber, even putting a photo of the lawyer on the screen. He found Bieber in the crowd. The lawyer stood up to loud applause.

“Brian Bieber in the building, everyone,” Buress said.

“Certainly, my wife and two children, they got a kick out of it,” Bieber said on Monday morning.

If you weren’t there, you’ll see it eventually. Buress was taping a new television stand-up special during Saturday night’s show at the Olympia Theater in Miami.

The comedian has starred in numerous standup-comedy specials, on the show Broad City, and as an actor in movies such as Spider-Man: Homecoming and Baywatch.

He is also known for talking on stage about rumours of assaults by comedian Bill Cosby, who was later accused publicly by several women.

It was in December 2017 that Miami Police Officer Luis Verne arrested Buress in Wynwood in December 2017, after the comedian asked him to call him an Uber.

That prompted a number of exchanges caught on police body camera.

“Hey, what’s up?! It’s me, Hannibal Buress,” he told the cop, laughing. “This cop is stupid. Hey, put this camera on.”

Verne arrested Buress on a misdemeanor charge of disorderly intoxication. Bieber successfully argued that asking a police officer to call you an Uber was free speech protected by the First Amendment.

I wish happiness for Miley: Liam

After breaking up with singer-actress Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth wishes “health” and “happiness” to his former wife.

“Hi all. Just a quick note to say that Miley and I have recently separated and I wish her nothing but health and happiness going forward,” Liam wrote on Instagram yesterday.

Liam and Miley got married in December last year, but decided to separate within seven months of marriage.

Liam also clarified that he has not spoken about his separation to any media outlet.

“This is a private matter and I have not made, nor will I be making, any comments to any journalists or media outlets. Any reported quotes attributed to me are false. Peace and love, the Prowoizor actor added. – IANS

K-Pop sensation BTS is taking an extended break

This won’t be music to the ears of BTS fans. The record-setting Korean pop group is taking an “extended” break so its seven members can recharge and prepare to present themselves anew as themselves towards their goal since their debut, to the members of BTS, who have relentlessly driven the group to international fame and was the first K-Pop group to reach No 1 on the Billboard 200 chart with last year’s Love Yourself: Tear album.

“W e could not be more excited to deliver these digitally re-mastered episodes to theatres – for the first time ever – so that together, in a shared experience, our loyal fans can enjoy some of their favourite Friends scenes in a new way.”

The companies have not yet announced which films will be shown. The list of participating venues is set to be released soon. The same day tickets go on sale on the Fathom website.

Buress rips Miami cop

The Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office agreed. Buress didn’t hold back going after Verne, even reading a portion of a Miami New Times story on Verne’s history of discipline, which included a drunken attack at a bar-restaurant. – Miami Herald/TNS

Friends to celebrate 25th anniversary by showing 12 episodes

The sitcom Friends will commemorate its 25th anniversary this year by showing 12 episodes in more than 1,000 movie theatres across the United States.

Four episodes will be shown each day on Sept 23, Sept 28 and Oct 2 in participating theatres to celebrate the milestone, Warner Bros. and Fathom Events announced on Monday.

“It is so amazing to know that the series is still bringing people of all ages together,” Lisa Gregorian, president of Warner Bros. Television Group, said in a statement.

“We could not be more excited to deliver these digitally re-mastered episodes to theatres – for the first time ever – so that together, in a shared experience, our loyal fans can enjoy some of their favourite Friends scenes in a new way.”

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Sept 22 is the actual anniversary of the first episode of Friends, which aired on NBC for 10 seasons and starred Jennifer Aniston, Matthew Perry, Courteney Cox, David Schwimmer, Lisa Kudrow and Matt LeBlanc as pals living in New York City. – New York Daily News/TNS

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There have been a lot of entertainment and edutainment activities especially for children this summer. Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC) and its summer in Qatar campaign ushered in multifarious indoor activities to keep the people engaged.

We have seen music and comedy shows. There were special screenings of movies for children, and there have been different virtual reality gaming activities, playing facilities and cultural shows at different shopping malls.

However, the most popular and the busiest summer-related event so far has been the reopened Summer Entertainment City. The organisers were compelled to reopen the facility after over 55,000 people visited Doha Exhibition and Convention Center where the SEC earlier concluded on July 13. The 29,000sqm facility, which has been dubbed as the Summer in Qatar campaign’s centrepiece, will again feature an array of rides, skills games, virtual reality (VR) and video games, live entertainment shows, food court, and pop-up shops.

During a recent visit by Community to the Entertainment City, that will run until August 23, the interest of the people during the Eid al-Adha holidays was visible as families – mostly Qataris – thronged the arena to enjoy various play areas for kids, dining corners, shopping souq and cultural shows.

The organisers of the City have brought new attractions for the visitors along with the popular old facilities. The young children seemed to take interest in virtual reality gaming area and the different inflatable rides. Chatting with different visitors revealed that the place has been a centre of attention for children and families during all the long summer days.

Abdulazeez Deeb, a Jordanian expatriate, was visiting the Entertainment City with his family. “I feel pretty relaxed with my wife as our children are enjoying different rides. This is the best place to be with your family in the evening during Eid holidays.”

Abdulazeez Deeb expressed his happiness over the availability of different inflatable rides and slides. “I see a majority of visiting children prefer to enjoy the inflatable material. They enjoy climbing up and sliding down with huge cries. I think this is the best area to play as the children get a lot of physical activity by jumping up and down and running around on the inflatable material with bare feet. It is fun and it is exercise. There is a scarce risk of children being injured as the inflated play area is very soft and bouncy.”

The visitors also spoke high about different edutainment activities for the children. “I liked the idea of having different scrambles and box games for the children. Once the kids get physically tired, they can enjoy these games. I see young children build houses with the blocks and try to solve different puzzles.”

Alexandria Busch, a South African expatriate, was crazy about the virtual reality gaming section. “I think the VR area provides the best entertainment to young adults and other children.”

Games such as PUBG and Fortnite are very popular among the adults. We have seen groups of men coming and challenging each other at these games. Other popular video/arcade and VR gaming options for both children and adults include Pac-Man, Beat Sabers and FIFA.”

The South African has also shown her interest in the small souq that offers a variety of products from South Asian and Middle Eastern countries. “The souq is very unique for me. I see very colourful and traditional Arab clothes and attractive handicrafts. As majority of these items come visiting to Qatar and the souq provides a rare opportunity to buy unique things, I personally like different hand-made items such as handbags and utensils.”

The visitors also appreciated QNTC for organising a host of indoor and outdoor activities for the residents during summer. They termed the SEC the best place to keep the children busy during their free days.

VR games and Inflatable slides, attract children to SEC on Eid