**Community**
The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants organises General Assembly and Induction Ceremony.

**P6**

**Community**
Kuwaiti horror-action play Devil Steps brings riveting entertainment at Qatar National Theatre on August 11.

**P16**

**Cover Story**
Divergent

Ralph Rucci is the Philadelphia-bred designer we should all know. **P4-5**

**Glitz & Glam**
The Queen speaks.

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**Showbiz**
The buzzed-about nostalgic game 198X.

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**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr: 3.39am
- Shorooq (sunrise): 5.05am
- Zuhr (noon): 11.41am
- Asr (afternoon): 3.09pm
- Maghreb (sunset): 6.17pm
- Isha (night): 7.47pm

**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: 44490000
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 44392222, 44393333
- Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation: 44845555, 44845464
- Primary Health Care Corporation: 44903333, 44903363
- Qatar Assistive Technology Centre: 44594050
- Qatar News Agency: 44490205
- Qatar Airways: 44490333
- Q-Post – General Postal Corporation: 44464444
- Humanitarian Services Office: 40253371, 40253372, 40253369
- Ministry of Health: 40253370, 40253364
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253368, 40253365
- Qatar Airways: 40253374

**THE KITCHEN**

**DIRECTION:** Andrea Berloff  
**CAST:** Elisabeth Moss, Melissa McCarthy, Domhnall Gleeson  
**SYNOPSIS:** When gangster husbands wind up in prison in the 1970s, their wives take over their organisation and become Hell’s Kitchen’s most powerful mobsters.  
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

**NIGHT HUNTER**

**DIRECTION:** David Raymond  
**CAST:** Alexandra Daddario, Henry Cavill, Minka Kelly  
**SYNOPSIS:** A weathered Lieutenant, his police force, and a local vigilante are all caught up in a dangerous scheme involving a recently arrested, troubled man who’s linked to years of female abductions and murders.  
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

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*Quote Unquote*

“The strong man is the one who is able to intercept at will the communication between the senses and the mind.”  
— Napoleon Bonaparte
**EVENTS**

**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.

**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.

**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 Gymnastics 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 registration@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.

**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 66523871/31326349.
Real haute couture

You can’t quote prices in couture. You can’t sell the same two items to people in the same city

– Ralph Rucci

By Elizabeth Wellington

Ralph Rucci is a name we all should know, but only fashion scholars seem to. The Philadelphia-born designer, 61, is the king of beautiful tailoring and craftsmanship whose understated pieces have been purchased by some of the world’s most important women including first ladies — Laura Bush and Michelle Obama — and celebrities. We’re talking Martha Stewart, Diana Ross, Whoopi Goldberg, and yes, even Kim Kardashian. His work was featured in a 2007 exhibit at New York’s Fashion Institute of Technology.

Monica Machado models a look during a fitting with Rucci.
Rucci is loath to talk about who his clients are. And more loath — if you can believe it — to let celebrities borrow pieces for the red carpet. Some might say this is why the Rucci label never made it to Dior or de la Renta heights, despite Rucci’s remarkable skill.

Rucci attended Waldron Academy, now Waldron Mercy. He has a bachelor’s in philosophy from Temple. He studied fashion design at FIT, completing his studies in the late 1970s.

He launched his line in New York in 1981 and began building a name for himself as a couturier to the city’s rich and famous. In 1994, he renamed his collection Chado Ralph Rucci — Chado refers to a luxury car on one garment, it’s mass-produced like its ready-to-wear cousin, so department stores like Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue — stores that once sold Rucci off-the-rack — do not come. Neither do the stylists or influencees.

When you spend the equivalent of a luxury car on one garment, it’s gauche to talk price. As a result, couture is cloaked in a mystery that Rucci does his part to keep alive. “You can’t quote prices in couture,” Rucci said. “You can’t sell the same two items to people in the same city!”

This is also why Rucci is loath to talk about who his clients are. And more loath — if you can believe it — to let celebrities borrow pieces for the red carpet. Some might say this is why the Rucci label never made it to Dior or de la Renta heights, despite Rucci’s remarkable skill.

“I just don’t fit in,” Rucci said quite candidly. “I never wanted to fit in. I wanted to do things respectfully. Perhaps that was misinterpreted as being heady or dismissive...” His voice now trails off.

That stubbornness is part of what makes him quintessentially South Philly.

When big-name designers were sending their pieces overseas, Rucci continued to make his collection in New York’s Garment District. And he continued to never give his clothes to celebrities. Then in 2008, the recession hit and it became hard for people to justify couture spending. In late 2012, he found investors in power couple Howard and Nancy Marks. But the relationship soured and in 2014, when it was over, Rucci — like Kate Spade and John Galliano — was a man without a label.

Rucci launched RR331 in 2016, the 331 represents the number of steps in the Chado tea ceremony, and has been quietly working on his new business.

One day during his mediation, Rucci said, God told him to return to Paris. He reconnected with Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, organisers of the couture shows, and secured recommendations from Valentino Garavani — simply known in the design world as Valentino — and Giancarlo Giametti, Valentino’s business partner.

I told you Ralph Rucci was the real deal. Rucci has plans to open a small salon/showroom in New York where he will carry small leather goods and accessories. And, Rucci says, he’s working on a signature unisex fragrance.

“I know I’m never going to be rich,” Rucci said. “And perhaps I would have done some things differently in my life, but I’m proud to represent America as a couturier!”

And for that reason alone, we should all now know who Ralph Rucci is. — The Philadelphia Inquirer/ TNS
PICPA Doha organises General Assembly and Induction Ceremony

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) Doha LLC (G) recently organised its General Assembly and Induction Ceremony for its new office bearers at Wyndham Hotel. The theme of the meeting was aligned with the celebration of Philippines’ Language Month. The members of PICPA were dressed in national Filipino dresses.

The event was led by Sharon C. Dela Cruz, outgoing President of PICPA, and Elmer H. Espiritu, President of PICPA. Alan Timbayan, ambassador of Philippines, along with David Des Dicang, Labour Attaché at the Embassy of Philippines, also attended the event.

The event kicked off with the presentation of the annual report of PICPA, which was followed by the felicitation ceremony of Dela Cruz in recognition of her. Elmer H. Espiritu also spoke on the occasion.

The new office bearers of PICPA, include Alvin R. Polido, Senior Vice President; Abdul Rahim G. Gandamra, Vice President, Pauline Jane U Borja, Secretary, Friedelene P. Magdaug, Treasurer, Rowena T. Cahintong and Christian Dave M. Barrameda, Accountants; Micha Lizette M. Pataueg, Auditor; and Wilhelm I. Jayobo, Press Release Officer.

The Chairpersons of various committees of PICPA, include Terence Jay V Marquez, Chairman for Education, Venie Chris A. Zabala, CPD Accreditation, Marilyn B. Salvador, Community Affairs, Leo Z. Jimena, Sports, Arnold E. Tamayo and Christine Hannah B. Gonzales, Ways and Means; Michelle Eugene L. Baraquiao and Chester C. Mendoza, Membership, Rey E. Dionela, Corporate Social Responsibility; Sherman C. Rushe, Social Media Relations; and Arilas A. Hassan, Governance and Compliance. The outgoing council members of PICPA were also honoured with certificates and plaques on the occasion.

TRAINING:
Division B Toastmasters in Qatar recently organised a special training programme for its Area Directors. The training featured various presentations, including ‘Roles & Responsibilities of Area Directors’ by Riana Pinto, Asst Division B Director Programme Quality, ‘How to Conduct Moments of Truth in a Club’ by Sudhir Gujar, Past Division C Director, and ‘Establish and Support New Clubs’ by Thayalan Kailayappilla, District 16 PQD. The session was compered by Anita Samanta. Ravishankar J, Division B Director, thanked the trainers for their support and wished all the attendees for a strong performance ahead in their respective roles.
Precious grains: Companies look for ways to make desert sand useful

With cities growing worldwide, sand for concrete used in construction is running short. Thieves are stripping beaches or digging in rivers to harvest the precious resource. Some companies are now looking at ways to process desert sand - a giant, as of yet untapped resource, writes Alexander Sturm.

One grain measures only 0.063 to 2 millimetres, and yet it is one of the most sought-after goods on the global market. After water, sand is the most traded resource in the world, the United Nations Environment Programme said in a recent report. It estimates that demand stands at 40 billion to 50 billion tonnes per year. Sand is put in glass, cosmetics, car headlights, smartphone displays and toothpaste, among other items. The grains can be used to filter water, blast building facades and help trains brake.

But above all, it is the construction industry that needs sand and the coarser gravel for concrete. Without this grey building material, houses and bridges would be unstable, and roads would be bumpy. Although sand is plentiful, it is growing scarce: Thanks to a global construction boom, the demand for sand and gravel has tripled within 20 years, according to the UN Environment. The world population is growing and increasingly flocking to cities, prompting the boom. The wealthy city-state of Singapore, the largest sand importer in the world, has increased its land area by 150 square kilometres over 40 years. For this alone, it is estimated to have imported around 500 million tonnes of sand in the last 20 years, UN Environment says.

Globally, sand is being used more quickly than it is being produced, for instance through the breaking down of rocks, the UN agency found. In Germany, sand for construction is already lacking. While there are large deposits, they are located in conservation areas and under residential areas, commercial premises, streets and railway tracks. New sand and gravel mines are hard to open: They're seen as eyesores. New sand and gravel mines are hard to open: They’re seen as eyesores.

Berlin, for instance, still have to become frost-resistant and undergo further treatment to withstand heavy loads. An application for authorisation from the German Institute for Construction Technology is also still missing.

“Sand could be partly replaced in buildings, for instance by sawdust, says project leader Pascal Peduzzi. Companies should also develop recycling materials for construction, he says.

“Our society is literally built on sand,” he warns. – DPA
When my daughter put two California colleges on her list, I casually wondered whether it would be cool to take the train there from Chicago and maybe drive down the Pacific Coast Highway from Berkeley to Pomona. Her eyes lit up, and the decision was made. Parenting tip: When your 17-year-old agrees to spend 57 hours on a train with you, followed by three days in a car, you say yes and book the tickets as fast as you can.

This tendency of mine to turn school visits into diversionary adventures might seem like parental avoidance. I look at it as an ageing dad shaking his fist at the modern college-search stress machine.

The plan was this: Sally and I would ride Amtrak’s venerable California Zephyr to the Bay Area, where my wife, Mary, whose love for me does not extend to my fondness for rail journeys, would arrive by air and join us. After a tour of Berkeley and a few days in San Francisco, we’d rent a car and drive south at a leisurely pace, with a short hike in Big Sur and stops in Monterey and Santa Barbara. After a night in the Los Angeles suburbs, the bucolic foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, we’d high-tail it home in the traditional manner, uncomfortably folding ourselves into an airborne metal tube.

The first thing you need to know about taking a 2,438-mile train ride is that patience is both required and rewarded. John Carpenter

**SOOTHING:** There is something lovely about sleeping on a train. The gentle rocking of 2 million pounds of steel surging across the Midwestern prairie at 70-plus miles an hour is oddly soothing. And when you wake, you find yourself in another place. Far from the city, you are reminded of the beauty of the world outside. It’s a moment of calm and contemplation.

Meeting the grandson of a recently deceased literary legend, who was returning from the funeral. Our conversation continued in the cafe car, where he offered my daughter kind and helpful observations on his own college experience. A big allure of the Zephyr is the scenery, specifically the two giant mountain ranges it crosses. After a morning stop in Denver, the train begins its long, wandering path through the Rockies, with breath-taking views around every turn. Later come the Sierra Nevada mountains of eastern California, where we soaked and sauntered at the sweeping vistas through Donner Pass.

In Berkeley, I booked the Graduate hotel thinking it was a playful take on the college town’s role in the famous 1967 movie. Spoiler alert: It isn’t. But it is part of a Chicago-based chain of boutique, college-adjacent hotels. We were able to enjoy a quirky, comfortable home base and get a good sense, beyond the traditional tour, of both the town and the University of California, Berkeley, which was across the street.

A few things make one look like a dorky tourist than participating in a Segway tour. But a sketchy outfit in San Diego once let my daughter ride one when she was 7, so we honoured the memory by joining a tour in San Francisco. Highly recommended, optics be damned.

And shame on you if you visit San Francisco and don’t venture north to Muir Woods. Our hike among the mighty coastal redwoods was sublime.

Our first leg of the drive south was a challenge, as it was a spectacularly good beach day, with all the traffic that brings. We were rewarded in Monterey with a balcony room at the Monterey Plaza Hotel, and my daughter and I soon found ourselves standing over the ocean, mesmerised by the seals and otters playing below.

I was sceptical of the hotel restaurant, as I live by the rule that eaters with spectacular views are often good but rarely great. But Schooners Coastal Kitchen was the latter, especially the Cappuccino, which exploded with flavour.

Day two of our 500-mile drive was everything you’d expect from one of the world’s great motorways. With mountains on our left and the broad, majestic Pacific on our right, it was all we could do to not stop at every scenic turnout.

When researching hiking options along the Big Sur coast, we found the Jade Cove Trail online. But we had to ask some locals for help finding it in real life. A short walk through some thick vegetation later, and there we were at a sheer cliff, peering over a breath-taking green, rocky inlet. We searched in vain for a path down, finally spotting a knotted rope disappearing over the edge. No thanks. Later, we found a more accessible inlet and dipped our toes in.

A sign at our Big Sur lunch spot, Whale Watcher Cafe, declared “No WIFI!” in a polite but scoldy, handwritten scrawl near the cash register. Good for them. We watched for whales instead. (No luck.)

We got our taste of Southern California beach culture in Santa Barbara. Mary used her frequent flyer miles to book the Californian, an upscale, elegantly casual spot across the street from Stearns Wharf. It was worth the splurge, but there were any number of worthy options along Cabrillo Boulevard, the beach strip. Claremont, home to Pomona College, was our final stop. We had to put up with nearly three hours of LA traffic to reach it, but that memory took a backseat as we cruised the streets lined with dreamy purple jacaranda trees. Our hotel, Hotel Casa 425, was another excellent walk-to-campus find.

You might have noticed that in this story about college visits, I haven’t said much about the colleges. They were great. And loving. Far better, though, was the unhurried time for conversation … and silence. And I’ll always remember the smile I had drumming down an old wooden staircase behind my wife and daughter, the kind of women who’d rather stop and put their feet in the Pacific than push through to the next hotel. – Chicago Tribune/TNS
great excuse for a train ride

MUST VISIT: Shame on you if you visit San Francisco and don’t venture north to Muir Woods.

PICTURESQUE: The Sierra Nevada mountains of eastern California.

DREAM LIKE: To reach Claremont, home to Pomona College, you have to put up with nearly three hours of LA traffic, but that memory takes a backseat as you cruised the streets lined with dreamy purple jacaranda trees.

EFFICIENT: The Superliner Roomette is tight but efficient: two comfortable seats facing each other, with a pop-up table between.
HOW TO DEAL WITH STRESS AND ANXIETY

MIND

Accept that you cannot control everything.
Put your stress in perspective: is it really as bad as you think?

Do your best.
Instead of aiming for perfection, which isn’t possible, be proud of however close you get.

Maintain a positive attitude.
Make an effort to replace negative thoughts with positive ones.

Learn what triggers your anxiety.
Is it work, family, school, or something else you can identify? Write in a journal when you’re feeling stressed or anxious, and look for a pattern.
Bullying bosses are not just bad for the morale and well-being of employees — they can also be bad for workplace safety, reveals a study.

According to the study published in the Journal of Applied Psychology, the researchers surveyed 589 airline pilots and 468 manufacturing technicians and found that employees’ safety behaviour can get worse when they are treated in ways that detract from their bonds to a work group.

“Bosses’ behaviour can strengthen or weaken employees’ sense of belonging to the work group by supporting or undermining their status within the group. Poor treatment from a boss can make employees feel that they are not valued by the group,” said Liu-Qin Yang, Associate Professor at Portland State University.

This makes them more self-centred, leading to occasionally forget to comply with safety rules or overlook opportunities to promote a safer work environment.

According to the researchers, this was especially true among employees who were not valued by the group, “said Liu-Qin Yang, Associate Professor at Portland State University.

The study recommends implementing transparent performance evaluation processes that can improve leadership skills while interacting with their employees so as to provide feedback in a way that are neither offensive nor threatening.

The study also suggested promoting a more civil and engaged work environment that strengthens social bonds between employees and creates a buffer against the negative consequences of their boss’ bad behaviours.

According to researchers, implementing transparent performance evaluation processes are required so that employees have less uncertainty about their social standing within the group. “When people are less sure about their strengths, weaknesses and their status within the group, they become more sensitive. They are more likely to respond negatively to their boss’ bullying behaviours,” she said.

Workplace safety is a critical issue — and more so in an environment where one employee’s failure to behave safely can create circumstances where other people are likely to be injured, said the researchers.

The study recommends implementing training programmes that can improve leadership skills while interacting with their employees so as to provide feedback in a way that are neither offensive nor threatening.

The study also suggested promoting a more civil and engaged work environment that strengthens social bonds between employees and creates a buffer against the negative consequences of their boss’ bad behaviours.

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Aries
March 21 — April 19

It’s time to take charge, Aries. There’s fuel for your fire, and the scope of your influence is virtually unlimited. Don’t hold back in any way. Confidently attack every project knowing that things will work out in your favour. Expand your mind and the rewards will be tremendous. Stay active. You will attract beneficial people and situations.

Cancer
June 21 — July 22

It may seem like people aren’t taking things as seriously as you’d like them to. Cancer. If so, take it as a hint that perhaps you’re the one who needs to lighten up. Life is a game. In the grand scheme of things, we’re merely specks of dust floating in space. Our lives are but the blink of an eye in relation to the universe. Don’t take yourself so seriously.

Libra
September 23 — October 22

Go for the gold. Libra. Don’t settle for less. There’s an expansive energy on your side urging you on to prosperity in every aspect of your life. Take control of the situation and act on your emotions. Don’t refrain from doing something because you think it’s going to hurt someone’s feelings. Other people can take care of themselves. You’re responsible for you. Do what’s best for your well-being.

Scorpio
October 23 — November 21

The more you vacillate, the more valuable time and energy you waste. Scorpio. Take a decisive stance and be confident about your choice. Give it everything you’ve got. If it doesn’t work out, try a different approach. Don’t be paralysed by indecision. Things are moving too quickly. Take control of your life or someone else will. Arguments could quickly turn into declarations of war today.

Capricorn
December 22 — January 19

Your life is taking off in many different directions, Capricorn. Everything seems to be expanding at once. It may be difficult to get a solid grip on any one thing. Try not to get overwhelmed. Take it one step at a time and remember to maintain a good sense of humour in every situation. Keep things light and energetic.

Taurus
April 20 — May 20

Don’t concern yourself with getting more. Concentrate on what you already have, Taurus. Work with whatever resonates within you. You instinctively know what does and doesn’t work. Don’t waste your time on meaningless issues. Focus on priorities. The more balanced and stable your emotions can be today, the more prosperity will come into your life.

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18

This is a great day for you, Aquarius. There’s a terrific feeling of expansion in the air. This is one of those times in which a small germ of an idea can grow into something big right before your eyes. Projects are moving quickly, and information is being rapidly dispersed. Catch the energy and set your dreams in motion. You can accomplish a great deal if you try.

Sagittarius
November 22 — December 21

Things could get blown out of proportion if they aren’t handled with care, Sagittarius. The key lessons for you are about balance and communication. Things will move quickly, so make sure you have your seat belt fastened. Let your vivacious spirit lead the way to new adventures.

Pisces
February 19 — March 20

You may feel like someone caught in a tornado, Pisces. Things are whirling around you and everything seems out of control. Don’t get stressed out. There’s nothing you can do about it. Allow the storm to do what it will. You will only get hurt if you try to stop it. Accept things you have no control over. The storm will settle down soon.
**Wordsearch**

ADA  ASSEMBLER  LMX
COMAL  FORTH  HTML
JOVIAl  LOGO  PROLOG
ALGOL  AUTOCODE  COBOL
LISP  FORTRAN  JAVA

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 boxes. 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 each digit only once.

Bound And Gagged
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Graduate going to New York a lot (4)
3 Chuck holds animal, looking displeased (6)
9 Spooner’s low bit is over the top (3,4)
10 French king giving us oil (5)
11 Some of the victims kick out (5)
12 Iraqi and Syrian leaders call out for insurrection (6)
14 Bird with silver in shallow lake (6)
16 Listen out for decoration (6)
19 Tablet broken in struggle (6)
21 Goat in cooking pot (5)
24 You may hear a tidler girl (5)
25 Bishop’s warning about a prairie province (7)
26 Military accommodation providing storage for bottles? (8)
27 Instrument required by Simply Red (4)

Down
1 My! her lot could be maternal (8)
2 Woman I complain about (5)
4 Stick with present company at first (6)
5 Country and Western drinks (5)
6 Big lizards alarming us again (7)
7 Surprised reaction when girl’s first met snake (4)
8 Arranged with precision – like Kipling’s stories? (4,2)
13 Kid’s companion put down floor covering in gym (8)
15 Endless large ice formation? (7)
17 Taking part in climb, I begin to drink (6)
18 Something said about stain (6)
20 Moriah Peters and her new band (3-2)
22 Vehicle runs into parrot (5)
23 Pointed remark in pub? Bravol! (4)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword

Answers
Mahta Khan enters the board room at a picturesque hotel in Islamabad where I’m waiting for her with my questionnaire. She is dressed in a red knee length silhouette, and with her voluminous blow-dried hair, her delicate features are accentuated. Her makeup artiste gives her last touches, she looks in the mirror swiftly and dabs at her lips; hers is a classic beauty befitting a Pakistani movie star. Then she suddenly turns to me with a bit confused look, momentarily, and hugs me recognising we had met almost four years ago, when she was promoting her film Bin Roye (2015), that was her comeback on the silver screen post her successful appearance in Bol (2011), and in that moment I’m in awe of her memory. Now Mahira is all done with the promotions of her upcoming film Superstar, that is scheduled to release this Eid al-Adha, but apart from Superstar she’ll also making a special appearance in Asim Raza’s Paray Hut Love, that is also scheduled to release this Eid.

I ask her, if she’s going through any sort of pressure since both of her films are releasing simultaneously. She responds, “A lot of pressure. My cameo in Paray Hut Love is super special to me. Morre Saiyan, my song in the film, is something me and Asim wanted to do for a long time and I would say it’s an ode to our friendship.”

Mahira was very young when she felt in love with cinema and when she decided to be a part of the screen. She’s been mulling it over since forever, but it wasn’t until her teens that she decided to take action. Khan did what any enthusiastic teenager would do – jump into the bandwagon of auditions before landing up to something substantial and luckily everything did fall into place. Mahira started her career as a Video Jockey with the Pakistan’s show MTV Most Wanted in 2006, and everything else is a history. She made her acting debut with the 2011 drama Neeyat, however, it was her performance in Humafar (2011), Pakistani drama serial on entertainment channel HUM TV, that won her immense praise and is considered to be her shot to fame. If Mahira wouldn’t have been an actor, which career she would’ve opted for we wonder. “I would’ve been a junior artiste. Standing in the back doing something, in the hopes that I’ll get spotted. But I would’ve been in the show business still,” Mahira says.

Mahira’s all time favourite film is Dilwale Dhalia Le Jayenge which is not a secret to anyone. But which actors Mahira is rooting for these days, she tells, “I’ve got a lot of favourites but Sajal Aly is just outstanding. I like all these new faces, I like Imran Ashraf and Iqra Aziz. And in my time, I like Fawad Khan and Humayun Saeed. I want to work with Nauman Ijaz though.”

When asked for what has changed in her more than a decade journey in Pakistan entertainment industry, Mahira responds, “So much. First and foremost: Social media! Everything is out there. Other thing that has changed is, look at where the films are and how many options we have now. You are no more looking and five people, but in double or triple digits of talented people.”
The buzzed-about nostalgic game 198X

By Todd Martens

Booting up 198X, a 1980s-styled genre mash-up, I knew I was in for a heavy dose of nostalgia as well as a romanticised view of game arcades. I didn’t expect a sense of loneliness nor the confusion, anxiety and unease that permeate adolescence, all of which 198X lovingly brings to the fore.

In my nostalgia, I wasn’t sentimental over the games or culture of another era. What I missed was an overriding sense of fear and excitement for the possibility of the unknown, which 198X creates by focusing on Kid, who longs for the escape from suburbia offered by the lights of the big city and the malleable worlds of video games.

What’s made 198X linger long after its short two-hour play time is the way the game explores how interactive experiences shape our worldview.

A narrative adventure with condensed versions of arcade games (a beat ‘em up, a racing game, a ninja game, a sci-fi shooter and a role-playing game), 198X impresses in the diversity of its offerings.

But 198X isn’t a simple celebration of the ‘80s aesthetic: now in vogue with the likes of Stranger Things.

Its pixel art is gorgeous, with details down to puffy orange foam on headphones and its emphasis on neon as a contrast to cookie-cutter homes and as a beacon into something unknown. As Kid experiences the difficulty of growing up, 198X uses its retro games-within-a-game as metaphors.

Some are relatively simple. Young and coddled by the familiarity of suburban life, the urban brawler represents the fear and danger that may or may not exist beyond the walls of our home. But when Kid, whose gender is undefined, falls for a punk rock girl who appears unattainable, the racing game turns into an endless drive on city highways, a plea to be somewhere and with someone else.

Any sense of competition disappears as 198X turns into a cinematic experience and Kid narrates a dream of embarking on a more personal quest to explore and learn from heretofore undiscovered people, places and cultures.

While Kid at this point has graduated from childhood games, 198X never abandons its thesis that there’s poetry in video games, their imaginative worlds a gateway to self-discovery as potent as any other medium.

The masks, the skeletons and the bamboo forests that Kid’s avatar explores in the ninja game make it clear there’s plenty to see and hear beyond whatever worldview we grew up with. – Los Angeles Times / TNS

NOSTALGIC: 198X, a game by Hi-Bit Studios.

Varun gets into comic mood for Coolie No. 1

After finishing shooting for Street Dancer 3D, actor Varun Dhawan is now all set to get into a comic avatar for the remake of Coolie No.1.

Varun yesterday took to social media and shared a BTS video in which he can be seen getting ready for his character Raja.

“Good morning people. Dropping a new video on my YouTube channel. Thoda smile bhi zaroori hai hope it makes you smile,” Varun wrote on Twitter.

From making funny facial expressions to using different types of filters and opting a clown face, Varun leaves his fans in splits with the video.

In the background, Varun can be heard saying, “Aare bhai, yeh log daadi banaa rahen hain. Galaa sambhal ke bhai. Aap se dikhra rahen hai ki shaving kaise hoti hai.”

Varun will be seen sharing screen space with actress Sara Ali Khan in the remake of the 1995 comedy film Coolie No. 1.

The original film, which starred Govinda and Karisma Kapoor in the lead, was directed by Varun’s father and filmmaker David Dhawan. – IANS

REMAKE: Varun Dhawan will be seen sharing screen space with actress Sara Ali Khan in the remake of the 1995 comedy film Coolie No. 1.

MEMORY: Sonam Kapoor’s Aisha has completed nine years of its release.

Aisha was a crazy adventure: Sonam

Actress Sonam Kapoor says her film Aisha, which has completed nine years of its release in Hindi cinema, was “crazy adventure”.

Sonam on Tuesday shared a small video from the film on Instagram. “Aisha was less a role for me and more like a best friend. This movie is close to my heart as are the people associated with it. Be it googling around on sets, shooting at different locations, or just playing our parts, it definitely was a crazy adventure. Happy nine years Aisha,” Sonam wrote, as caption of her video.

Aisha, directed by Rajshree Olja, also stars Abhay Deol, Cyrus Sahukar, Arunoday Singh, Ira Dubey and Amrita Puri.

The film is set in the upper class society of Delhi, and is an adaptation of Jane Austen’s 1815 novel Emma. It bears the same tone as the 1995 cult Hollywood film Clueless, which was also adapted from Austen’s novel. – IANS

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COMMUNITY SHOWBIZ

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Kuwaiti play **Devil Steps** brings riveting entertainment to Doha

By Mudassir Raja

The two and a half month long festival, dubbed as ‘Summer in Qatar’, has been witnessing a variety of summer experiences, retail offers and entertainment – from the start of Eid al-Fitr to the end of Eid al-Adha.

The campaign has so far offered lots of different attractions such as music concerts, stand-up comedy shows, community programmes, activities for kids at shopping malls, game parks, movie awards, special movie screenings for children, different outdoor tours and desert safari.

The purpose of the campaign has been to offer attractive indoor and outdoor activities to the residents during the summer days. The primary focus has been to keep the children and the families busy during the summer vacation. As far as the families are concerned, one big attraction is coming up for them in the form of a horror comedy stage show from Kuwait.

**Devil Steps**, a stage show, is being organised by Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC) at Qatar National Theatre (QNT). The show will be organised daily from August 11 to 18.

According to the organisers, the action-horror comedy show is 180 minutes long. The audience of seven years and above will be allowed to enter the theatre. The ticket price ranges from QR100 to QR1,000.

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Than 30 partners to launch the summer programme, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Municipality and Environment, Qatar Museums (QM), Qatar Airways, Katara – the Cultural Village, Qatar Foundation, Private Engineering Office, Katara Hospitality, Al Rayyan Hospitality, Marriott International hotels, nine participating malls, and other event partners, including QSports, Social Studios, Alchemy and Radio One FM Qatar.

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Authored by Abdulaziz al-Musallam, **Devil Steps** is based on a story by Mohamed al-Kandary. The play starts from the verse, “O ye who believe! Do not follow the footsteps of the Shaytaan, and whoever follows the steps of the Shaitaan, he will order vilification and evil”.

The family of Saleh, who lives in modernity, is exposed to Satan in all ways, tempting them from weak faith towards sin and decorating it, and paves the way for it. While the act of doing so cannot be strengthened by the strong faith, it is permissible for him to neglect some acts of worship until he follows him.

Evil laughs, between the frightening and funny events reveal the secrets of the family of Saleh looking forward to tomorrow with all aspirations, dreams and ideas while the play reveals the truth that these aspirations and ideas initiative of the human soul or the thought of an outsider.

This play is not just a play but it reveals the reality of the human soul and sheds light on the fear and the danger to the individual and human communities through the horror comedy show based on fun and purposeful entertainment.

The setup is done by Sami al-Ali. The play is directed by Abdullah al-Musallam. Mohamed al-Mahdi is an executive director of the play. Lyrics are given by Shaikh Duaij al-Khalifa al-Sabah. Melodies are given by Ade Alfarhan and Hady Khamene. Mishari al-Jamaan has given the composition. Music and sound effects are done by Eng Khalid Al-Ajlan. Vocal execution is provided by Abdulaziz al-Qadeeri. Lighting and décor are designed by Eng Mohammed al-Rubaiaan and Eng Ayman Abdulsalam. Hessa al-Abbad is the costume designer and Abdulaziz al-Juraib is the makeup artist. Fahad Laili works as the motion expression designer.

Ahmad Ali Dashti is the production manager and other production management team include; Abdullah Al-Ali, Abdulla al-Nasser, and Mohsen AlEnezi.

QNTC has gathered more than 30 partners to launch the summer programme, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Municipality and Environment, Qatar Museums (QM), Qatar Airways, Katara – the Cultural Village, Qatar Foundation, Private Engineering Office, Katara Hospitality, Al Rayyan Hospitality, Marriott International hotels, nine participating malls, and other event partners, including QSports, Social Studios, Alchemy and Radio One FM Qatar.