Researcher Diego Mosquera dilates on our planet’s ‘lungs’, the stunning recent fires and the fear of losing it. P4-6
**PRAYER TIME**

Fajr  
Shoroq (sunrise)  
Zuhur (noon)  
Asr (afternoon)  
Maghreb (sunset)  
Isha (night)  

4.03am  
5.22am  
11.30am  
2.57pm  
5.38pm  
7.08pm

**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**: 4450811, 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, 44493363
- **Qatar Assistive Technology Centre**: 44594050
- **Qatar News Agency**: 444902205
- **Q-Post – General Postal Corporation**: 44465444

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

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**Quote Unquote**

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."  
— Confucius

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**Gang Leader**  
**DIRECTION**: Vikram K Kumar  
**CAST**: Nani, Priyanka Arulmohan, Kartikeya Gummakonda

**SYNOPSIS**: Nani plays the gang leader of five women belonging to different age groups, helping them to plot revenge.

**THEATRE**: The Mall

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**Dream Girl**  
**DIRECTION**: Raaj Shaandilyaa  
**CAST**: Ayushmann Khurrana, Nushrat Bharucha, Anu Kapoor

**SYNOPSIS**: Desperate to find employment, Karam picks up a job as ‘Pooja’ at a call centre for chats, keeping most people in his life in the dark about the nature of his work. How long can he keep it up before everyone including his love interest and father find out?

**THEATRES**: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Paza
Dr Mary Ellen Weber, a former NASA astronaut who flew on two Space Shuttle flights, will talk about her experiences in space and the future of exploring the final frontier. Dr Weber is a consultant in technology, innovation, strategic communications and high-risk operations, and serves on the NASA Advisory Council for Engineering. She also sits on the board of the Gulf Foundation for Arts, and is on the advisory board of Art in General in New York. She is a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, where she teaches a course on innovation in the arts and culture sector as part of the Ford Foundation’s Global Youth Leadership Initiative. Dr Weber is also a frequent speaker at conferences and events around the world. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the US Chamber of Commerce’s BlogHer Media Group and is also a volunteer for the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association.

**EVENTS**

**The Moon and Beyond**
WHERE: Qatar National Library
TIME: 6pm — 7:30pm
Celebrate 50 years since the moon landing with a special presentation at the Library, in collaboration with the US Embassy in Doha. Dr Mary Ellen Weber, a former NASA astronaut who flew on two Space Shuttle flights, will talk about her experiences in space and the future of exploring the final frontier. Dr Weber is a consultant in technology, innovation, strategic communications and high-risk operations, and serves on the NASA Advisory Council Committee on Technology, Innovation and Strategic Communications.

**HEC Paris International EMBA Info Session**
WHERE: 14th Floor, Tornado Tower, West Bay
TIME: 4:45pm — 6:15pm
HEC Paris invites you to the next information session for its International Executive MBA. Learn more about this world-class executive programme. Discover the international diversity of participants, blended learning and international mobility options. Find out how it will help you transform yourself and your career.

**Zumba Class at The Gate Mall**
WHERE: The Gate Mall
TIME: 7pm — 8pm
Zumba is a fun, high-intensity group exercise class that combines the latest hit music with dynamic dance moves. It’s an excellent way to get a full-body workout and burn calories in a fun and motivating environment. For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in

As a participant in the World Wellness Weekend, there is a free Zumba class that is open to the entire public. Wear blue and come with your family and friends!

**Arabic Calligraphy Workshop**
WHERE: 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

**Painting Class**
WHERE: Qatar National Library
TIME: September 22
Paint with a rolling ball, or a rolling car, or just stomp and drag your fingers, hands and feet! Little children will explore colour and motion using different media in this fun, hands-on activity. Please dress your little ones accordingly.

**Artistic Gymnastic Classes**
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
TIME: Ongoing
Artistic gymnastics is the Olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16. Mamangam has also come up with chess and robotics in regular batches in an attempt to give a better learning experience, as they sharpen their minds and brains too. For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in

For information about the services of Mamangam Performing Art Centre, visit www.mamangamqatar.in or call on 33003839.

**Career Guidance**
WHERE: Right Track Consultants, Al Sadd
TIME: Every Saturday
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.

**The Gate Mall Zumba Class**
WHERE: The Gate Mall
TIME: 4:45pm — 6:15pm
Ongoing
The class runs on first come first served basis. No registration or mat is required. This class is open to the entire public. Wear blue and come together with your family and friends!

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**After School Activities**
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
TIME: 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. Mamangam has become the favourite centre for learning. We offer regular classes in the following disciplines like traditional classical and folk dance forms, art and craft, drawing and painting, personality development and public speaking, Bollywood dance, contemporary, hip hop styles, music both vocals and instrumentals. To develop health consciousness, we train them karate, yoga with special sessions for kids and adults. Mamangam has also come up with chess and robotics in regular batches in an attempt to give a better learning experience, as they sharpen their minds and brains too. For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in

**Ballet Lessons**
WHERE: Al Dafna Tower, West Bay
TIME: 4pm — 8pm
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003839.

For more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in

**Dance and Instrument Classes**
WHERE: TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building
TIME: 4:30pm — 8pm
Ongoing
Dance and Instrument Classes are offered at Gulf Times Building every Sunday — Thursday. 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.

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**Ballet Lessons**
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TIME: 4pm — 8pm
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003839.
Enigmatic Amazon

‘What most people don’t understand is that the Amazon has evolved for thousands of years in very complex ways, so once we lose it, it’s lost forever’, Researcher Diego Mosquera tells Bonnie James

ALARM: A view of the raging fires in the Amazon forest. According to Diego Mosquera, ‘once the forest is burned, 99% of species will be lost’. Wildfires in the Amazon rainforest have hit a record number this year, according to research carried out by Brazil’s space research centre. It cites 72,843 fires, marking an increase of 83% compared to 2018 – the highest since records began in 2013.

We simply cannot “recover” the Amazon by replanting trees, as the ecological integrity of the forest is lost forever

– Diego Mosquera, researcher
We live in an era when the Amazon rainforest, the largest of its kind in the world, is facing a never-before-threat in the form of raging fires on top of the other forms of deforestation happening at an accelerated pace.

The Amazon rainforest, often described as our planet’s lungs, occupies around 7 million square km within nine countries, with Brazil having around 80% of it. Researcher Diego Mosquera, who has lived in the Amazon and studied its biodiversity for the last 15 years, puts that into perspective thus: “One third of the species on earth live in the Amazon, and it is documented as the one of most diverse ecosystems in the world.”

Wildfires in the Amazon rainforest have hit a record number this year, according to research carried out by Brazil’s space research centre. It cites 72,843 fires, marking an increase of 83% compared to 2018 — the highest since records began in 2013.

On behalf of Gulf Times, I had interacted with Mosquera during a trip to Tiputini Biodiversity Station, deep inside the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador in February 2013. The remoteness of the facility can be gauged from the fact that it takes a 40-minute flight from Ecuador’s capital Quito to reach the domestic airport in Coca, followed by a six-hour journey (two hours each by boat, an open bus and again boat) to reach there.

Mosquera, the research co-ordinator at Tiputini with many publications to his credit, conveyed his views about the current situation in the Amazon rainforest, in an e-mail interview:

“Apart from its incredible diversity, the Amazon is responsible for capturing carbon, providing oxygen and it is also a global temperature regulator. “Contrary to what the majority of people think, the Amazon does not have fertile soils and it is not good for agriculture. The fertile soil layer of the Amazon is very small in depth and it consists of mostly clay. “The fact that you see so many trees is because they have evolved nutrient extraction mechanisms over thousands of years. These mechanisms have turned the Amazon into a very complex ecosystem that is not replaceable once it is lost.

“Since the 1970s, about 20% of the Amazon has been deforested, mainly for the conversion of the forest to cattle ranching, which is biggest single direct driver of deforestation. “If you add other activities like large scale industrial agriculture (especially for soy plantations), urban expansion, and timber plantations, the scenario doesn’t look good. “As if that wasn’t enough, in the last decades, the interest in the Amazonia also comes from activities like oil extraction, mining and hydropower plants, bringing not only deforestation, but also high levels of pollution. Continued on Page 6

“It is imperative that the world realise what it is at stake here. We need leaders committed to conservation, better laws, more protected areas and especially, we need to become responsible consumers”

— Diego Mosquera

Wire-tailed manakin.

Channel-billed Toucan.
The fires

“In some ecosystems, the fires are important to maintain the ecological equilibrium. But the Amazon is not one of them, and this is why, historically, fires are not part of the natural cycles of the forest.

“In the Amazon, species are not adapted to fires, and this causes a big problem. When there is a big fire, some species will have more chances to escape, like large animals or some birds, but most of them have no chance to survive large-scale fires like the ones taking place in the last few weeks. There are species that are already seriously threatened, and fires will be the last nail in the coffin for them.

“Once the forest is burned, 99% of species will be lost. And even though we know a lot about the Amazon, at the same time we don’t know much, so we could be losing species that we don’t even know exist.

“What most people don’t understand is that the Amazon has evolved for thousands of years in very complex ways, so once we lose it, it’s lost forever.

“We simply cannot “recover” the Amazon by replanting trees, as the ecological integrity of the forest is lost forever. If carbon sequestered by the Amazon over the centuries is released, it will aggravate the climate crisis further.

“As a researcher living in the Amazon for many years, I have witnessed many changes in the last few years. Even though I work in an area relatively well preserved, some impacts are very notorious. For example, we have noticed serious declines in numbers of birds, amphibians and insects. These are changes that we cannot attribute to specific activities yet, but we presume that are part of a bigger picture, the global climate crisis.

“Extensive human activities are making the problem even worse, because more and more people are having access to the last remnants of primary forest without any sort of management plans.

“In countries where there is a policy that in simple words encourages deforestation for “economic growth”, the situation is much worse.

“It is imperative that the world realise what it is at stake here. We need leaders committed to conservation, better laws, more protected areas and especially, we need to become responsible consumers.”

FACTBOX

- The Amazon rainforest occupies around 7 million square km within nine countries, with Brazil having around 80% of it.
- One third of the species on earth live in the Amazon.
- According to Brazil space research centre, there have been 72,843 fires this year, marking an increase of 83% compared to 2018 — the highest since records began in 2013.
- Since the 1970s, about 20% of the Amazon has been deforested.
- If the Amazon rainforest is burned, 99% of species will be lost.
COMMUNITY

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE: Nepalese People Co-Ordination Committee — Qatar (NPCC) recently organised a blood donation drive at Hamad Medical Corporation to mark the 106th birthday anniversary of BP Koirala, Nepal’s first democratically elected prime minister. Fifty-three people donated the blood. Along with Nepali expatriates, Indian and Sri Lankan community also took part in the drive. Speaking on the occasion, Bimal Subedi, Adviser of NPCC, praised BP Koirala in favour of democracy.

PISQ holds its 7th Annual Inter-Wing Scrabble Tournament

Pakistan International School Qatar (PISQ) recently held its 7th Annual Inter-Wing Scrabble Tournament. Apart from the annual tournament, PISQ also successfully runs the scrabble club for its students. These students meet once a week to learn and play the game. Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of PISQ, was the chief guest on the occasion. The tournament was organised by Reema Rashid, Head of Arts and Culture Department. The students were given one-week vigorous training before the tournament.

The tournament kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an. The students were divided into two different categories, including Junior Category, comprising boys and girls of Grade-IV, and Senior Category, comprising boys and girls from Grade V-XII. The senior category had to play qualifying rounds to reach finals, whereas junior category was already placed in the finals. Each team was allowed ten moves. After qualifying the first round, Maira and Hooran, Hasaan Elahi and Muhammad Asjad and Laiba and Dua Aamir won in the finals. The chief guest felicitated the winners with the certificates. The competition was adjudicated by jury members, including Shahab Gillani, Ahsan Rasheed, Khawar Mehmoood and Azeem Ghani, Teachers Boys’ Wing, Zareen Gul, Uzma Sohail and Saima Khurum, Teachers Primary Wing, and Hira Khan, Teacher Girls’ Wing.
FNJ felicitates newly elected members of NRNA-NCC

Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) – Qatar recently organised an event to felicitate the newly elected members of Non-Resident Nepalese Association – National Co-ordination Council (NRNA-NCC) – Qatar. The event was attended by notable personalities and community leaders, including Kranti Singh, K B Hamal, Yuba Raj Sharma and Sarita Bhandari.

Speaking on the occasion, Muktada Mohamed Musalman, Chairman of NRNA-NCC, thanked all the members of the organisation for electing him. Sarita Bhandari, Female Vice President of NRNA – NCC also spoke on the occasion. Karim Baks Miya, Chairman of FNJ, appreciated the newly elected committee. The event was compered by Dil Kumar Shrestha.

IEI Qatar Chapter conducts 52nd Engineers’ Day Theme Seminar

The Institution of Engineers India (IEI) – Qatar Chapter recently conducted the 52nd Engineers’ Day Theme Seminar on ‘Engineering for Change’ at Oryx Rotana Hotel. The annual engineering seminar, organised prior to Engineer’s Day celebrations, was attended by over 100 members. Abdul Sathar, Chairman of IEI Qatar Chapter, welcomed the gathering. He introduced the guest speakers and highlighted the importance of seminar in engaging the engineering fraternity operating across various sectors in Qatar. Abdul Sathar also spoke about the active role the Qatar Chapter plays in the professional development of its member engineers. He also outlined the forthcoming programmes through which the IEI would contribute significantly to the development of agriculture and food processing, infrastructure, education and healthcare, information and communication technology, critical technologies and defence technology, among others.

Vikash Sananda from Qatar Foundation Research, Development and Innovation, and Dr Yagnesh Gohil, from Lusail City Development, were the guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikash Sananda highlighted the evolution and application of human ingenuity spanning over four million years – from prehistory to the modern age. He said, “Humans have always engineered to bring about change, and that change has moved us to engineer and innovate. Modern approaches to problem-solving, creating, and inventing – all defining characteristics of an engineer – are not mere process-based actions. Instead, they are traits and instincts, refined over thousands of millennia, that are now intrinsic to our very being.”

Dr Yagnesh Gohil spoke about smart engineering on the occasion. “The core vision of developing a smart city is to harness the power of technology to enhance the quality of life and empower businesses and services, while also optimising resources and conserving the natural environment. Technology and engineering are transforming not just infrastructure but also societies and nations as a whole. These integrated transformations are happening across mobility, environment, energy, logistics, and other sectors,” he said.

Abdul Sathar along with the IEI Executive Committee presented the mementos to the guest speakers. Sunil Kulkarni, Executive Member of IEI, compeered the event and Durai Manivannan, Joint Secretary of IEI, proposed a vote of thanks.
Australian embassy officials donate blood at HMC

The Australian embassy officials recently visited Hamad Medical Corporation's Blood Donation Centre for blood donation.

Speaking on the occasion, Jonathan Muir, Ambassador of Australia, said, “I was glad we could help this great cause as a team. I was interested to learn that the Hamad Blood Donation Centre have closely modelled on the system we have in Australia, established by the Australian Red Cross.”

“I would encourage others to consider making the important decision to give blood. I was privileged to also witness the investment Hamad has made on its new advanced pathology and diagnostic laboratories, which opened in 2018,” he added.

“I thank Sadika Ismail al-Mahmoudi and her dedicated team at the Donation Centre for looking after us during the donation; and also Dr Javed Akter, for the tour of Hamad Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology,” the ambassador said.

Maserati supports Fashion For Relief

At recently held Fashion For Relief charity event during London Fashion Week SS20, Maserati added additional style to the evening by chauffeuring VIPs and celebrities including Luke Evans and Naomie Harris as they made their way to the red carpet at the iconic British Museum in London, stated a press release.

Fashion For Relief was founded by international supermodel Naomi Campbell in 2005, hosting its first charity fashion show to raise funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Since its inception, Fashion For Relief has presented fashion initiatives and projects in New York, London, Cannes, Moscow, Mumbai and Dar es Salaam, raising millions for good causes around the world.

Fashion For Relief returned to London for the fourth time since its inception with a spectacular fashion event including a cocktail reception, gala dinner, fashion show, an art auction, musical performances and exclusive after party. Alongside actors Luke Evans and Naomie Harris, singer Eve, actor Damson Idris, and model Nieves Álvarez were amongst the other guests who arrived at the British Museum in the latest Maserati range including the Ghibli and Levante SUV.

Oryx Rotana unveils ‘The Cellar’s’ new innovative menu

Oryx Rotana, the five-star luxury business hotel in Doha, has recently unveiled a new innovative menu of ‘The Cellar’, the renowned award-winning Spanish/Mediterranean restaurant locally and regionally, stated a press release. The menu was revealed during a special dinner prepared for the occasion attended by dignitaries, media professionals and social media influencers. Ghassan Dalal, General Manager of Oryx Rotana, attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Ghassan Dalal said, “We are delighted to welcome our esteemed guests to celebrate together the unveiling of ‘The Cellar’s’ new menu through which we strive to meet all the requirements of our customers amidst the highest levels of 5-star service in a distinctive atmosphere.”

“The Cellar has always been a destination of choice for the food connoisseurs, especially Spanish cuisine. Today, through the new menu, we express our gratitude and appreciation to all our valued customers and reaffirm our commitment to provide the highest quality services to our guests. We will continue to excel our unmatched reputation especially with our attention to the tiniest details, which has made Oryx Rotana and its facilities a preferred destination for the lovers of excellence,” he added.
Qatar is not just about bustling and brightly lit streets but it also has nights beaming with an amazing blend of warmth in the air paired with the uniqueness of the scenic beauty that brings out magic.

The night sings a lullaby to the enervated nature which is heated up by the scorching desert sun. Even in the cool winter daytime in the desert, night always comes as a blanket to keep you warm and yearn for more of these captivating Arabian nights.

At Souq Waqif, the heart of the city, we meet an enchanting experience which has a fusion of tradition and modernity. The markets at souq are filled with shops of spices, clothing, souvenirs, antiques, and then there are restaurants with authentic food and an area dedicated to various animals, including birds.

At the Corniche, we enjoy the breathtaking dhow cruise along the majestic shores that exhibit the marvellous skyline of the peninsula and discover its ancient Islamic architecture and explore centuries of history at the Museum of Islamic Art, which has the world’s most complete collections of Islamic artefacts.

— Text and photos by Nidhal Abdunasir, Birla Public School, Class XII
Give your master bathroom a luxurious look with these tips

If you’re thinking about remodelling your small bathroom, you may know that studies show updating a bathroom of any size can increase the value of a home. Enlarging a small master bathroom is often impractical; you may need to take space from another room, or extend an exterior wall to accomplish an expansion. Both options have disadvantages and costs. The truth is, you don’t need to move walls or spend like a home improvement show host in order to create big luxury in a small master bathroom. Here are five ways to make a small bathroom feel lavish and spa-like:

- **Rethink the shower stall versus tub debate**
  Many large luxury bathrooms have a separate shower and soaking tub. In a small bathroom, which may be used by multiple members and generations of a household, creating an upscale feeling by separating the tub from the shower might not be a realistic option. Instead, look for ways to boost the tub from the shower area. You might not be a realistic option in a small master bathroom, but if you’re thinking about remodelling your small bathroom, you may know that materials like travertine tile or granite countertops can be costly, but when you’re renovating a small bathroom, you need less of those materials. Adding marble tile above a small tub/shower area will cost far less than outfitting a large walk-in shower. Replacing a modestly sized vanity with a new cabinet and granite countertop won’t be nearly as expensive as redoing a large, double-sink vanity. When you have less real estate to refurbish, high-end materials can be a cost-effective choice. For a reasonable price, you can use quality materials to significantly boost the upscale feeling of your small bathroom.

- **Add pizzazz to functional elements**
  You can increase a small bathroom’s feeling of extravagance by adding some flare to functional items like faucets, mirrors and cabinet hardware. For a modest investment, you can turn everyday items into elements that underscore the overall beauty of the room.

- **Lighten up the space**
  Finally, adding more natural light into a small master bathroom can make the space seem larger and more appealing. If your small bathroom already has a window, forgo blinds or shades in favour of easy-to-apply privacy film. Readily available in home improvement stores or online, a breath of simplicity or fancy patterns, this opaque film allows light to enter the room while providing the necessary privacy.

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### Horoscope

**ARIES**
March 21 – April 19

If you’ve been planning to set off on a trip soon, Aries, make a list of what you need to do beforehand and check off each task as you complete it. Otherwise you might panic at the last minute because you’ve forgotten something important. Stay calm even if it seems impossible. You’re less likely to forget anything if you stay focused.

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**TAURUS**
April 20 – May 20

You may have been worried about money lately, Taurus. Today a family member could make an expenditure that you view as unnecessary and irresponsible. Before you become angry know that all of those materials. Adding marble tile above a small tub/shower area will cost far less than outfitting a large walk-in shower. Replacing a modestly sized vanity with a new cabinet and granite countertop won’t be nearly as expensive as redoing a large, double-sink vanity. When you have less real estate to refurbish, high-end materials can be a cost-effective choice. For a reasonable price, you can use quality materials to significantly boost the upscale feeling of your small bathroom.

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**GEMINI**
May 21 – June 20

Today you might find it necessary to turn down an invitation to a social event, Gemini, and the host might for some reason seem offended. Your friend is probably overworked and stressed and apt to overreact to just about any situation. Relax a little. Explain things to your friend and then propose that you get together at another time. That’s all you can do now.

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**CANCER**
June 21 – July 22

Have you been doing a lot of walking lately? If so, Cancer, your feet may be sore. This could affect your energy level considerably, not to mention your ability to get any work done. Concentrate on routine tasks that require little thought and can be done sitting down. Stay out of any squabbles! Relax in a hot bath tonight.

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**LEO**
July 23 – August 22

An event could find a current or potential love partner paying a lot of attention to others, Leo. You might feel neglected and unloved, as though your friend is doing this to hurt you. This probably isn’t the case. Your partner is just trying to be sociable and doesn’t realise that it upsets you. Do some mingling. Your friend might have the same reaction as you and come running!

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**VIRGO**
August 23 – September 22

Do you sometimes go about things backward, Virgo? Are you caught up in the rat race of trying to have more money and security with the idea that eventually you’ll earn the freedom to do what makes you happy? The happiness factor actually works in reverse. You must first be who you are and then take the necessary actions in order to have what you really want.

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**LIBRA**
September 23 – October 22

An angry call from someone who lives far away might catch you off guard today, Libra. In your mind, the person has no reason to be angry and is blowing things out of proportion. They probably won’t listen to reason. Say as calmly as you can that you’ll get in touch tomorrow and then hang up. Give this person time to calm down before even trying to straighten things out.

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**SCORPIO**
October 23 – November 21

Today you might spend a lot of time looking for a lost object, Scorpio. This item may only have sentimental value. Still, it’s important to you that you find it. This isn’t a good day to search. You’re in a rather frenzied state and could look right at it without seeing it. Wait until tomorrow to look. What you seek is probably nearby and just hidden in some way.

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**SAGITTARIUS**
November 22 – December 21

A minor quarrel or separation could take place with a love partner, Sagittarius, probably over something that seems trivial. It’s likely to get your dander up to the point where you may never want to see this person again. Go for a workout or brisk walk to clear your head, get the endorphins going, and view the situation more objectively. Then phone your friend and work it out.

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**CAPRICORN**
December 22 – January 19

Too much stress from overwork could have your nerves on edge today, Capricorn. When someone makes an offhand remark, you might see insult where none is intended. Don’t get so jumpy that you imagine traitors behind every door. Work alone if you can, and take a walk to clear your head. This will put you in a better frame of mind and a more relaxed space.

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**AQUARIUS**
January 20 – February 18

Squabbles may break out among members of your group, Aquarius. You might wonder what the big deal is since what they’re arguing over seems rather silly. Apparently it’s important to them! If you feel up to it, get your friends out of their emotional chaos and view the subject more objectively. It might not calm them down, but at least you’ll have done something!

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**PISCES**
February 19 – March 20

Someone may skip out on responsibilities today, Pisces, causing extra tasks to fall to everyone else, including you. This might stir up some anger and resentment and it’s definitely going to cause more stress. Delegate tasks if you can. Put yours in order of urgency and then take them one at a time slowly and carefully. If the less important ones have to wait until tomorrow, so be it!
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.

BUFFOONERY  JOCULARITY  WITTICISM
JAPES  SLAPSTICK  PARODY
RAILLERY  COMEDY  BURLESQUE
BURLESQUE  JOKES  GAGS
JESTS  WISECRACKS  FUNS
SATIRE  DROLLERY  CLOWNING
CLOWNING  NONSENSE

Codeword

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is 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, row and box contains every value exactly once, in a repeated pattern.

Bound And Gagged

CARTOONS/PUZZLES
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Turn round for drinks (4)
3 Traverse part of London for weapon (8)
9 Well-bred man possibly shocking swimmer (7)
10 Encouraging word for Charlie's predecessor (5)
11 Fish finger's last to be consumed by solicitor (5)
12 High-pitched sound made by hikers when shaken? (6)
14 Norseman versus island ruler (6)
16 He follows fool in dress (6)
19 Not just lacking in beauty? (6)
21 Adorable saint swallowing very little (5)
24 Down-to-earth soldier gets married in Italian city (5)
25 Capital unknown before taking lead (7)
26 Dark hen's dicky bird (8)
27 Man, for example, held back by travel sickness (4)

Down
1 No tea given out (8)
2 Seasonal entertainment on tap, perhaps (5)
4 Enjoy dressing (6)
5 Flowing robes, not at all tight? (5)
6 Showing two undergarments is most valiant (7)
7 Timber, would you say? (4)
8 Old scientist in novel put on weight (6)
13 Judge's declaration in a few words? (8)
15 Generous ruddy family (7)
16 Large roses ordered for beaten contestants (6)
17 Artist may use this light in study (6)
20 A western wood is flooded (5)
22 Dead singer somehow lives (5)
23 Pole not entirely free (4)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
Yohna Mitchell is the vocalist with whom Native Harrow, singer / songwriter Devin Tuel is often compared. The duo of Devin and her multi-instrumentalist bandmate Stephen Harms even create the kind of folk-rock songs which could never combine. I want to see these different entities being able to work with him at some time, if the opportunity ever arose.

The songs on the S.L.P. are so different from Kasabian’s material. But Kasabian fans should not be concerned about any possibility that his attention has been turned away from the band.

The other guys are totally supportive about what I’m doing. They know I love being in the band. Making my own record has actually inspired me to work on more songs for Kasabian.

“The songs on the S.L.P. are so different from Kasabian’s material. They are like two different entities which could never combine. I want to play my S.L.P. songs to audiences but the band so it probably won’t be too long before we’re recording the next Kasabian album.”

Audio postings of other songs from the album plus videos and audio tracks from Sorores and their debut album, Ghost, can be accessed by typing ‘Native Harrow band in the YouTube search box.’

**Daniel Johnston**

Most music fans probably don’t know Daniel Johnston. Chart success was not for him. Indeed, he would often give cassette tapes to anyone he met on the street. But the 58-year-old singer / songwriter, who succumbed to a heart attack last week, was revered by numerous artists within the music industry who often recorded cover versions of his songs. Lana Del Rey, Death Cab for Cutie, The Flaming Lips and Beck are just a few of those who covered Daniel’s songs. There were many from which to choose. He recorded 20 studio albums with another almost completed before his death. But Daniel was a troubled soul. He suffered from bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. His mental instability caused him to refuse a contract with Elektra Records because he believed the band Metallica, who were signed to the label, were possessed by Satan. He then fired his manager who he also believed was possessed by Satan. Daniel’s craziest stunt was to remove and throw away the ignition key from the light plane in which he and his father were flying. He also injured himself after he believed the band Kasabian was possessed.

**UNANTICIPATED:** Sergio Lorenzo Pizzorno’s musical experimentation has borne fruit in a manner which he did not anticipate.

I’m done with the creative process so I’m back in Kasabian mode for that. I’m already working on new songs for the band so it probably won’t be too long before we’re recording the next Kasabian album.”

**Native Harrow**

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A JOINT COLLABORATION OF

GULF TIMES COMMUNITY

&

ISTITUTO di Moda BURGO
QATAR

www.imbqatar.com

DEIGN YOUR DREAM CAREER

Guidelines of the Contest:

Following the given mood board/theme board, participants need to design any two unisex sample of a T-shirt for a sporting event.

Eligibility to Apply:

1. Grade-XII pass students.
2. Each participant is only allowed a submission of two designs.
3. Designs should be strictly hand sketched and coloured.
4. Strict plagiarism rules apply. Any inspired/plagiarised design can lead to the disqualification of the contestant.
5. No digital designs would be accepted.

About the Mood Board:

From historic eras to the present day fashion trends, the visuals in the theme board highlight Qatar’s architecture to its glitz-glam ever changing fashion trends and colours. What’s new? What’s classic? And is everything collaborating and coming back together? We leave it to you, to your perception and view of fashion in Qatar.

Dress Making

Couture garments are some of the most beautiful clothes you can possibly imagine. The attention to detail is almost overwhelming — and so are the prices. So here’s a radical idea: Sew your own!

Dress Making courses are based on a simple and intuitive concept with just one aim: making every kind of clothing. All bases are made freehand without the use of pre-built templates or graduated squares. At the end of the course, after having made many patterns, the student is able to produce any outfit from a simple shift to an elegant suit, from a skirt to a coat, from lingerie to wedding gowns.

Before you scoff at the idea, know this: couture sewing essentially refers to anything that has been designed and sewn to an individual’s specifications and measurements. So think of studying dress making course as honing your skills and taking your craft to the next level. While the specific couture sewing techniques you’ll use vary based on the project, these have a wide range of applications. Master them and soon enough you’ll have clothes that fit better, look more polished, last longer and make you super proud of that hard-earned craftsmanship.

Techniques involved in Dress Making:

1. Muslins

With fashion sewing, you can usually get away with cutting your pattern based on your pattern pieces. But with couture sewing, you really want to start by creating a muslin, or toile. It’s a test garment that lets you fine-tune the fit of your final look, while making sure the pattern works before you start diving into the real thing. To get the most out of a muslin, cut the main body sections of your outfit, doing away with all facings. Then adjust the seam allowances so they’re 1/4 instead of the usual 5/8. Baste the garment together, try it on and tweak to suit your needs. Yes, it may seem like a colossal time investment, but we promise it’ll be worth it.

2. Marking Fabric

When you’re sewing couture, the raw edges are rarely used as a guide for seaming. This makes marking your fabric extra important. You can do this with chalk, with a tracing wheel and carbon paper, or with thread. Thread-tracing or tailor’s tacks are rarely used as a guide for seaming. This makes marking your fabric extra important.

3. Sew-In Interfacing

If you’ve ever used interfacing, chances are you reached for a synthetic fusible option because it’s easy to use. But interfacings on couture garments are always made from a natural fibre and are not fusible, so they need to be sewn into your garment. They’re perfect in sheer garments, textured and novelty fabrics that won’t press well (think beading or faux fur) and in structured tailored jackets.

4. Hand Stitches

From cross-stitched hems to hand-picked zippers, this type of close work is done by hand in the world of couture. Skipping the machine gives you more control over the fabric, and there are a variety of stitches that help create different looks. Once you get into the rhythm of needlework, it can even be relaxing!
Afghan embassy hosts reception for 100th Independence Day anniversary

By Mudassir Raja

The Embassy of Afghanistan recently observed their 100th Independence Day with national pride as noted Qatari dignitaries, prominent members of the international diplomatic corps and Afghan expatriates attended the celebrations.

Held at Sheraton Hotel, the Independence Day reception started with the national anthems of both Qatar and Afghanistan. The cake cutting ceremony was held in presence of the Qatari dignitaries. A short documentary film was also shown for the gathering highlighting the achievements and success of the present Afghan government.

The prominent dignitaries among those present at the occasion were namely: HE Dr. Issa Saad al-Jafal al-Nuaimi, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for the Council of Ministers Affairs; HE Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, Minister of Municipality and Environment; HE Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah Al-Thani, HE Ambassador Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhr, Director of Department of Protocol in the MoF; and HE Ambassador Ali Ibrahim Ahmed, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

Abdul Hakim Dalili, ambassador of Afghanistan to Qatar, made an elaborate speech and highlighted the positive role of the present-day government and bilateral ties with Qatar. Towards the end of the programme, few young Afghan men performed traditional dance to the tunes of melodious music.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Dalili welcomed the gathering and said: “Before 100 years from today, Afghanistan to Qatar, began between Afghanistan and Qatar, when the Embassy of Afghanistan opened in Doha. Qatar opened its embassy in Kabul this year.”

Expressing his optimism about the future of his country, Dalili said: “While the Afghan security and defence forces continue their fight against the Taliban, Daesh and other extremist groups, the country keeps the peace doors open for all who want to engage in the peace process.”

“Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has suggested conducting non-conditional negotiations with the Taliban that reflects the Afghan government’s commitment to peace. It is worth mentioning that the Loya Jirga (Grand Council) in April 2019 where 3, 200 representatives from across Afghanistan gathered in Kabul introduced a roadmap for the Afghan government to be committed to conduct negotiations with the Taliban Movement to achieve a durable and honourable peace.”

He added: “While the government and people of Afghanistan seek everlasting peace in the country based on pride and dignity, they are committed to all exerted efforts aiming at achieving peace; we find that continuation of violence by the Taliban against the Afghan nation represents a major impediment to peace. The Afghan government has always asserted that real peace could only be achieved when the Taliban stop the killings and accept ceasefire and conduct direct negotiations with the government.”

Appreciating the role of Qatar for the peace efforts, he said: “I must note here that the Afghan government continuously commends the sincere efforts that the Government of Qatar and international community exerted and still exert on the track of the desired negotiations and reconciliation with the Taliban.”

Highlighting the achievements of the Afghan government, the ambassador said: “You are well aware that during the past two decades, Afghanistan has made remarkable achievements in some areas, importantly in education, agriculture, media and freedom of expression, human rights and political arena and parliament which is comprised of women and men. The young generation in Afghanistan is not willing to compromise the gains which the Afghan nation has so far achieved. The Afghan government is also committed to hold the presidential elections on September 28, 2020 to assure the inspirations of the Afghan nation to continue reinforcing both democracy and peace process.”

Sharing the highlights of the bilateral ties with Qatar, Dalili said: “The government of Qatar presented financial support through its Afghanistan Fund in the some areas, importantly education and school book printing, building teachers’ training centres, health, drinking water supply and other humanitarian aids. “Qatar Red Crescent Society has also started its humanitarian activities five years ago in collaboration with the Afghan Red Crescent. “We can also refer to the humanitarian activities of Al Gharrafa Foundation, a private Qatari foundation which invested tens of millions of dollars in the west of Afghanistan, in different sectors such as building schools, health clinics and other public utilities. The Foundation now plans to build a big residential compound in Kabul which includes all amenities and necessary services. “Notably, the efforts of the Embassy of Afghanistan in Doha have produced the signing of multiple agreements with Qatar in various areas, and these new agreements are pending signing in the near future.”

He added: “Here, we also sincerely thank the Government of Qatar, the hospitable Qatari nation, especially His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, for hosting peace talks and their hospitality towards the Afghan community, as we have a community mounting to 5,000 Afghan citizens, who entertain all rights. “They have been working sincerely in various sectors in Qatar for more than four decades.”