SCENE OF DESPAIR: Nick Clark, a farmer at Kangaroo Island Wool, walks through an area scorched by the fires.

**Devastation**

Australia in flames tries to cope with an ‘animal apocalypse’. P4-5

**Bollywood**

Engage in debate with students, don’t send police to beat them up: Kabir. 

Page 14

**Hollywood**

Everything you need to know about *Parasite* and its Oscar nominations.

Page 15
PRAYER TIME

Fajr  Sam
Shoroq (sunrise)  6.23am
Zuhr (noon)  11.45am
Asr (afternoon)  2.47pm
Maghreb (sunset)  5.07pm
Isha (night)  6.37pm

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency  999
Worldwide Emergency Number  112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water  991
Local Directory  180
International Calls Enquiries  150
Hamad International Airport  40106666
Labor Department  44508111, 44405537
Mowasalat Taxi  44588888
Qatar Airways  44490000
Hamad Medical Corporation  44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation  44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation  44933333, 44933363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre  44590450
Qatar News Agency  44490205
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation  44464444

Humanitarian Services Office
(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)
Ministry of Interior  40253371, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health  40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation  40253368, 40253365
Qatar Airways  40253374

Quote Unquote

“With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.”
– Eleanor Roosevelt

Community Editor
Kamran Rehmat
E-mail: community@gulf-times.com
Telephone: 4466405
Fax: 44350474
The Colour Run 2020  
**WHERE:** QNCC  
**WHEN:** January 25  
**TIME:** 7am – 10pm  
Your Health First is a five-kilometre, untimed event. At each kilometre mark, Colour Runners are doused from head to toe in a different coloured powder. Participants wear white at the starting line and finish the race plastered in colour. Once the 5k is over, the fun continues at the Finish Festival, a larger-than-life party equipped with music, dancing, photo ops, activity booths, vendors, and more massive colour throws, which create millions of vivid colour combinations.

Gems and Jewels Exhibition  
**WHERE:** Museum of Islamic Art  
**WHEN:** Ongoing till January 18  
**TIME:** 9am onwards  
The exhibition comes in celebration of the Qatar-India 2019 Year of Culture and presents a look at magnificent gems and jewellery from India. Set in Stone: Gems and Jewels from Royal Indian Courts showcases more than 100 pieces from across Qatar Museums’ (QM) collections, including many masterpieces that have never been displayed before.

Metro Street Food  
**WHERE:** DECC Metro Station  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
**TIME:** 12:30pm  
Street Food is the ideal venue for a leisure experience for the whole family offering over 20 dine-in options and 18-hole World Mini-Golf setup.

Public Speaking Classes for Adults  
**WHERE:** Shang Capital, C-Ring Road  
Get trained by experts to be a good speaker. Smedley Toastmasters is conducting a six-month speech-craft programme that teaches new members to speak confidently and develop leadership skills. For more information, 66053485, 33232490 or visit www.SmedleyToastmasters.org

Winter Dragon Boat Festival 2020  
**WHERE:** Museum of Islamic Art  
**WHEN:** January 24  
Row, paddle, hurry up! Qatar’s largest water sports, Winter Dragon Boat Festival is back to show us their fast rowing skills. Dragon boating is a canoe-sport and was originally a traditional festival game dating back 2,000 years throughout Southern China. It has now become a popular sport with competitions held around the world.

Shop Qatar 2020  
**WHERE:** Malls in Qatar  
**WHEN:** Ongoing till January 31  
**TIME:** Entire day  
Shop Qatar has something for everyone, including beauty masterclasses, fashion shows, shopping offers, mall activities and shows, raffle draws, and Chinese New Year celebrations.

Open Evening  
**WHERE:** Cafeteria Stenden University Qatar  
**WHEN:** January 22  
**TIME:** 3pm – 6pm  

Sonu Nigam Live in Qatar  
**WHERE:** Asian Town Amphitheatre  
**WHEN:** January 23  
**TIME:** 7:30pm onwards  
Back by popular demand, Sonu Nigam, returns to wow his fans once again in a one-night only concert. Presented by Q-Tickets the event is part of Shop Qatar Festival and under the aegis of Qatar National Tourism Council. Sonu Nigam has sung over 10,000 songs in different languages and have received over 40 mainstream awards.
Wildfire engulfs wildlife

In terms of human fatalities, Australia’s blazes this year have been less severe than some previous bush fires, but the impact on wildlife this year has been far more devastating, write Joseph Serna and Susanne Rust.

Sam Mitchell balanced himself on a eucalyptus branch 30 feet above the ground as his meaty right fist clutched a koala, which wailed with breathing problems. The dark gray marsupial batted its 3-inch black claws in the air helplessly, and minutes later Mitchell crawled down. He and the animal were safely on the ground.

Across much of Australia, volunteers and professionals are fighting to contain widespread blazes, with many also taking risks to save wildlife being killed by the millions. Kangaroo Island, a popular tourist destination and wildlife park off Australia’s southeast coast, has been home to some of the worst damage to the nation’s biodiversity. Fires have overrun nearly half of the 1,700-square mile island, and rescuers including Mitchell have been going tree to tree, trying to save what they can.

“There’s not much that isn’t threatening koalas at the moment,” said Mitchell, who has owned and run the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park the last seven years.

In terms of human fatalities, Australia’s blazes this year have been less severe than some previous bush fires, with roughly 27 people killed this season compared with 75 during the nation’s 1983 “Ash Wednesday” inferno. But the impact on wildlife this year has been far more devastating. Scientists estimate that, so far in...
Australia, fires have killed from hundreds of millions to more than 1 billion native animals. The toll illustrates that, while humans can adapt somewhat to intensifying fires — through better emergency planning, more fire crews and “home hardening” — delicate ecosystems are far more vulnerable.

“Most Australian landscapes are in tune with small-scale summer fires, but not the fires of the proportion and intensity that we are observing now,” said Katja Hogendoom, a professor at the University of Adelaide’s school of agriculture, food and wine.

“W e’re not sure if they’ll be able to come back. It might be the breaking point for them,” said Michaela Haska, the wildlife park’s head keeper, speaking of the splashy coated cockatoos. Males are blackish brown, with red tail bands; females are dark brownish with some yellow spotting.

On Kangaroo Island, Mitchell’s 50-acre property is surrounded by burn scars but was miraculously untouched by the blazes, and skies that had been choked for days with smoke were clear last Monday. For weeks, the wildlife park has become a refuge for animals rescued by volunteers and passers-by.

The carcasses of animals litter the shoulders of the roads that run across the island’s rugged landscape. Most are dead, and others are in such bad shape they uncharacteristically move toward humans, either unable to see or uncharacteristically move toward landscape. Most are dead, and passers-by.

Animals rescued by volunteers and the park has become a refuge for animals. For weeks, the wildlife park has been clear last Monday. For weeks, the wildlife park has become a refuge for animals rescued by volunteers and passers-by.

“The incomprehensibly large and devastating fires are caused by a combination of lower rainfall and higher temperatures, both consequences of climate change, and here to stay and worsen, unless drastic action is undertaken worldwide,” — Katja Hogendoom, professor at the University of Adelaide.

“These incomprehensibly large and devastating fires are caused by a combination of lower rainfall and higher temperatures, both consequences of climate change, and here to stay and worsen, unless drastic action is undertaken worldwide” — Katja Hogendoom, professor at the University of Adelaide.

TREATMENT: Emma Veritay is a volunteer helping to tend to the wounds of koalas at the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park, where a temporary medic tent has been set up to treat the animal bushfire victims.

Rearguard action: On Kangaroo Island, a pilot drops water on a fire on January 13. The bushfires on Kangaroo Island have been devastating for farmers, many of whom have lost sheep and grazing land for their animals.
Students of MHMSC excel in Primary Education Completion and Junior School Certificate examinations


In the JSC examination 67 out 71 students passed and nine students, including Tasnia Binty Azim, Duriya Alisha, Tahmina Newaz, Nusrat Jahan, Shafia Bint Awali, Ayesha Tabassum, Noorjahan Ava, Imam Al Arfeen and Jabid Siddique secured GPA-5.

Lt Commander (Retd.) Anwar Khurshid, Director of MHM School and College, along with Md Jashim Uddin, Principal of MHM, congratulated the students, teachers and parents for the good result.

Ashud Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh and Chairman of the Governing Body of the School, also congratulated the candidates for a successful result.

Students of MHMSC excel in Primary Education Completion and Junior School Certificate examinations

Students with 5GPA in PEC Examinations:

- Shakib Bin Ibrahim
- Malaysia Talukdar
- Faiyaz Shahriar
- Mohammad Mahdi Amin
- Faria Tasrin
- Ramisa Anwar
- Mahjabin
- Adiba Sultana
- Jinan Imam Talukdar
- Israt Jahan Lubna
- Zhabin Binte Hasan
- Afia Anjum
- Samia Akter
- Arubah Khanam
- Ayesha Siddaka
- Nadia
- Nusrat Jahan
- Shafia Bint Awali
- Tasnia Binty Azim
- Jabid Siddique
- Dumiya Alisha
- Nusrat Jahan
- Imam Al Arfeen
- Ayesha Tabassum
- Tahmina Newaz

Students with 5GPA in JSC Examinations:
New book by HBKU Press encourages love for the Arabic language

Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press) recently published the first book of Balsem Amura’s “My Happy Language” that is also showcased at Doha International Book Fair 2020. The book tells the story of Ahmed, a young boy who is bored by his Arabic language books and what to him are their uninteresting stories. Ahmed’s mother soon picks up on this lack of enthusiasm and resolves to change her son’s mind. As the title of the book suggests, Ahmed is shown that Arabic is indeed a happy language that brings his mother immense joy. That is because each word and letter play musical tunes that bring her closer to her hopes and dreams.

Whether it is fiction or non-fiction, most books have a real-life backstory and My Happy Language is no exception. Like many parents, Amura found it difficult to foster a love of the Arabic language in her own children. However, she was not prepared to give up without a fight. Thanks to her steely determination, she was not only able to reignite her children’s interest in their mother tongue, but also join HBKU Press’ growing roster of homegrown and international authors in the process.

Amura was one of several writers to visit the HBKU Press booth at Doha International Book Fair 2020. On both occasions she read extracts and signed copies of her book for an eager audience.

“I had a great experience working with the Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press: they were constructive, professional and helpful in bringing my story to life. I look forward to collaborating with HBKU Press once again to publish other unique works that enrich reading for children and that cover topics that are relevant to today’s youth and parents in an innovative and imaginative way,” said Amura.

PISQ organises Annual Sports Meet

Pakistan International School Qatar (PISQ) recently organised Annual Sports Meet at the school’s football ground. The event was marked by a string of performances presented by the young athletes of all the five wings. Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of PISQ, was the chief guest at the meet.

The chief guest inaugurated the event in the presence of Vice Principals, Academic Heads of all the five sections and HACD of the School.

The event kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an, which was followed by salute to the chief guest by the welcome parade of students of all the five wings. The chief guest cut the ribbon and officially declared the meet open, which was followed by the lighting of the torch by the best athletes of all the five wings. Sarim Khan, best athlete student (Boys Wing), took the formal oath from the participating athletes in the arena, which was followed by a welcome dance.

The students of Kindergarten Wing, wearing butterfly attires and carrying colourful flowers, performed at the event. An instrumental drill by the students of Primary Wing was also part of the event. The students of the Girls Wing demonstrated a PT display. The activities and games at the Sports Meet included a Formula one Race, Crab Race, Sprint Race, Racket Ball and Basket Race, Hoola Hoop Race, Skill Relay Race and Flat Race.

The track events were managed by Adnan, Saira, Hira Aziz, Tariq, Hameed and Timoth, Physical Education Teachers at PISQ. Adnan and Majid guided the large human pyramids and wave formations show performed by the athletes.

Instrumental show presented by athletes of Primary Wing was under the guidance of Sadia Irfan and Sana. Tug of war between the students of Grades XI and XII was also part of the activities, which was followed by a musical chair competition of female teachers and tug of war among male teachers.

The event was concluded with a prize distribution ceremony. The chief guest felicitated the winners with medals. The best athletes from all the wings, included Bareera, KG Wing; Yousaf, Junior Wing; Aisha Bakhtiar, Girls Wing; and Emad Walid, Boys Wing. The event was co-ordinated by Reema Rashid, HACD, and compered by Shohzada Bhutto and Naheed Nadeem.
Suits you: the welcome rise of the influencer blazer

Once considered smart but stuffy, the humble blazer - versatile, affordable and easy to wear - now fills the role previously held by blackout shades and Louboutin pumps, writes Jess Cartner-Morley

In the age of wearing flat shoes to work, an oversize-shouldered blazer brings the stature we once got from our spike heels. After dark, the blazer is at the centre of a slowburn eveningwear revolution that is putting tailoring, rather than the party dress, centre stage. Kylie Minogue took the look to the British Fashion Awards with a Christopher Kane diamanté-trim tuxedo blazer, while the first smash-hit look of the year's red-carpet season was Phoebe Waller-Bridge's Ralph & Russo evening trouser suit, which is beloved and used on eBay to raise money for the bushfire relief effort in Australia.

If you don't think of yourself as blazer material, that makes you the perfect candidate for one. A blazer looks great worn in surprising combinations - over a chunky rollneck sweater and high-waisted jeans, for instance. If you have a pleated skirt that has started to feel a bit basic, a blazer will sharpen it up. High-flying fashionistas looking for advanced modifications will want to experiment with wearing the blazer as shirt and black leggings for the ultimate power-athleisure update.

Being a classic piece, the blazer is ideal for secondhand sourcing. Unlike knitwear or delicate dresses, this is a sturdy required. (No selfie needed.) – The Guardian

The hottest look on Instagram is no longer a bra-digan (sorry, Katie Holmes); it is a blazer. That's right - a sensible, grownup, seasonally appropriate and useful jacket.

Strange, but true.

There is a new breed of style selfie getting major likes. The setting will be an urban street scene: photogenic, but not glamorous. Waiting for the lights to change to cross a cobbled street, say, rather than in a fancy hotel room. The props and pose will be carefully chosen to semaphore busy street-obsessed realism: a reusable coffee cup or possibly an umbrella in one hand; the other hand oh-so-casually in a pocket.

The centrepiece of the outfit will be a blazer, the new uniform of the fashion influencer. Slung over a dress or layered over a cozy sweater, a blazer - a suit jacket in old money - is what oversized blackout shades once were, and what the Christian Louboutin red-soled pump was before that. It is a badge of honour, a membership card of the high-profile fashion tribe who used to be found squished next to each other in the catwalk front row and who now jostle for position at the top of your algorithm-curated social media feed.

The new visibility of the influencer's role in style has changed. A few years ago, the influencers with the most followers were daring, free-spirited dressers whose selfies were good for light relief. They provided a colourful, escapist fashion reel to scroll through on the train home. But as influence has become big business, so influencers have become businesslike. In the top tier, fashion influencers can command a fee of £10,000 for an agreed 'campaign' of two or three posts. The type of ambitious, confident young person who 30 years ago might have set his or her sights on investment banking as a way to get rich young might now set out to be an influencer instead. It is a new intake, a new mindset and a new look.

But please don't let that put you off. Despite the cold-hearted backstory, the Instablazer is a life-enhancing fashion trend that should be welcomed with open arms. It is extremely rare that the most alpha piece of fashion you can buy is so very easy to wear. The bug-eyed shades were tricky to pull off in an office or in a club, but a black blazer as an evening look, with a short skirt and sheer tights. One of the daytime incarnations of the Instablazer can be tongue-in-cheek Sloane Ranger, as seen on Charrière. But it is also to be found (on social media and in real life) worn over a printed mid-length dress or a feminist slogan T-shirt that has been tucked into a long-ish skirt. This is perhaps the most radical repositioning of the blazer: that it is being worn by women who work in publishing or the art world, women who enjoy outdoor swimming, women who belong to a book club. A decade ago, such women would have considered a blazer light years away from what they were not yet calling their personal brand. They would have seen the blazer as smart in its own category. Leopard, for instance, where designer pieces are authenticated and checked for condition, has a good selection of Jaeger blazers for about £40. Vestiaire Collective, for instance, where designer pieces are authenticated and checked for condition, has a good selection of Jaeger blazers for about £40.

The Guardian

The centrepiece of the outfit will be a blazer, the new uniform of the fashion influencer. Slung over a dress or layered over a cozy sweater, a blazer - a suit jacket in old money - is what oversized blackout shades once were, and what the Christian Louboutin red-soled pump was before that. It is a badge of honour, a membership card of the high-profile fashion tribe who used to be found squished next to each other in the catwalk front row and who now jostle for position at the top of your algorithm-curated social media feed.

The new visibility of the influencer's role in style has changed. A few years ago, the influencers with the most followers were daring, free-spirited dressers whose selfies were good for light relief. They provided a colourful, escapist fashion reel to scroll through on the train home. But as influence has become big business, so influencers have become businesslike. In the top tier, fashion influencers can command a fee of £10,000 for an agreed ‘campaign’ of two or three posts. The type of ambitious, confident young person who 30 years ago might have set his or her sights on investment banking as a way to get rich young might now set out to be an influencer instead. It is a new intake, a new mindset and a new look.

But please don't let that put you off. Despite the cold-hearted backstory, the Instablazer is a life-enhancing fashion trend that should be welcomed with open arms. It is extremely rare that the most alpha piece of fashion you can buy is so very easy to wear. The bug-eyed shades were tricky to pull off in an office or in a restaurant; those Louboutins were treacherous to walk in anywhere. A blazer, on the other hand, can be worn work or weekend with trousers, with a dress, with a skirt, with leggings - in other words, with the clothes you already own.

To get yourself an Instablazer, you take a simple suit jacket, make sure it is slightly oversized (or just broad at the shoulder) and wear it with a smidge of attitude. Tamu McPherson, a Jamaica-born, Milan-based blogger, should be on your mood board here: find her on Instagram (@alltheprettybirdsofficial). The fashion influencer Camille Charrière posted blazer-wearing selfies two days running over the Christmas break. In the first, she wore a checked blazer with blue jeans, cowboy boots, a white shirt and a scrunchie, tagging the Princess Diana fan feed @ladydiirenegeeklooks in the caption. The next day, she wore a tailored black blazer as an evening look, with a short skirt and sheer tights.

One of the daytime incarnations of the Instablazer can be tongue-in-cheek Sloane Ranger, as seen on Charrière. But it is also to be found (on social media and in real life) worn over a printed mid-length dress or a feminist slogan T-shirt that has been tucked into a long-ish skirt. This is perhaps the most radical repositioning of the blazer: that it is being worn by women who work in publishing or the art world, women who enjoy outdoor swimming, women who belong to a book club. A decade ago, such women would have considered a blazer light years away from what they were not yet calling their personal brand. They would have seen the blazer as smart in its own category.

The one-piece, the Instablazer is a front-of-house finishing touch. It adds immediate polish, a jazzy touch to whatever you off. Despite the cold-hearted backstory, the Instablazer is a life-enhancing fashion trend that should be welcomed with open arms. It is extremely rare that the most alpha piece of fashion you can buy is so very easy to wear. The bug-eyed shades were tricky to pull off in an office or in a restaurant; those Louboutins were treacherous to walk in anywhere. A blazer, on the other hand, can be worn work or weekend with trousers, with a dress, with a skirt, with leggings – in other words, with the clothes you already own.

To get yourself an Instablazer, you take a simple suit jacket, make sure it is slightly oversized (or just broad at the shoulder) and wear it with a smidge of attitude. Tamu McPherson, a Jamaica-born, Milan-based blogger, should be on your mood board here: find her on Instagram (@alltheprettybirdsofficial). The fashion influencer Camille Charrière posted blazer-wearing selfies two days running over the Christmas break. In the first, she wore a checked blazer with blue jeans, cowboy boots, a white shirt and a scrunchie, tagging the Princess Diana fan feed @ladydiirenegeeklooks in the caption. The next day, she wore a tailored black blazer as an evening look, with a short skirt and sheer tights.

One of the daytime incarnations of the Instablazer can be tongue-in-cheek Sloane Ranger, as seen on Charrière. But it is also to be found (on social media and in real life) worn over a printed mid-length dress or a feminist slogan T-shirt that has been tucked into a long-ish skirt. This is perhaps the most radical repositioning of the blazer: that it is being worn by women who work in publishing or the art world, women who enjoy outdoor swimming, women who belong to a book club. A decade ago, such women would have considered a blazer light years away from what they were not yet calling their personal brand. They would have seen the blazer as smart in its own category.
AIRLINES

Fly to over 50 destinations with Oman air
Book now on omanair.com

CARGO AND TRAVEL

Let's Travel...
Cruising down the coast from Doha
7 Nights Arabian Gulf Cruise
Tawfeeq Travel
Tوفيق للسفريات

Our Services
- Freight Forwarding
- Door-to-Door Services
- Cargo GSA (Salam Air - Jazeera Airways)
- Customs Clearing

Tawfeeq Logistic
توفيق لوجستيك

EDUCATION

SAT | SAT Subjects | PSAT | ACT | GRE | GMAT | TOEFL | IELTS | Languages

Next Stop: College
We can get you there.

“Over 4 out of 5 Princeton Review Graduates were accepted into at least one of their top-choice schools”

INVITING
Universities, Colleges and Schools

Participate in Feb 2020 Issue of Gulf Times EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT & reach your target audience
Call: 5569 7390 sanjai@gulf-times.com

ENTERTAINMENT

MUSEUM OF ILLUSIONS
The Gate Mall
Tel No: 974 40206273
https://museumofillusions.qa/

Be a part of Society
Contact 4446 6620
advr@gulf-times.com

Published by the leading English Newspaper of Qatar
The health benefits of coconut oil

- Lowers cholesterol
- Improves digestion
- Stabilizes glucose levels
- Defends against viruses
- Regenerates cells
- Balances hormones

- Increases thyroid production
- Reduces weight
- Increases metabolism
- Fights infections
- Staves off memory loss
- Kills bacteria

easyhealthoptions.com
Women repulsed by lice and fleas less likely to find beards attractive

By Nicola Davis

Pince Harry sports one, Justin Trudeau has recently grown one, and Brian Blessed’s almost its own being. But are beards attractive? As the old adage goes: “Depends on the man, depends on the beard.”

New researchers have found there might be another factor: whether a potential partner fears there might be something living in it.

Scientists say women who are more repulsed by the idea of lice, fleas, ticks and other such ectoparasites, are less likely to find beards attractive, possibly because such pests might carry diseases.

“This is likely to be the case for the majority of our evolutionary past,” said Anthony Lee, of the University of Stirling, a co-author of the study.

“In modern times, with increased grooming and overall better hygiene, this link between hairiness and carrying ectoparasites may no longer exist, but the evolved tendency may still persist.”

Whether facial hair boosts men’s pulling power or is a turnoff has long been a matter of contention, but previous research from the same team found women rate bearded men as a better bet for a long-term relationship.

Writing in the journal Royal Society Open Science, researchers from the University of Queensland, and the University of Stirling, report how they asked 919 predominantly heterosexual women to rate the attractiveness of three male faces for both potential short and long-term relationships.

Each face was shown with and without a beard, and with five levels of “masculinity” – while beardedness is seen as masculine, the trait includes a range of other features such as a thick jawline, a prominent brow, and deeply set narrow eyes. The women also completed a set of questionnaires which measured attitudes including their revulsion in response to parasites that live on the body, and their desire to become pregnant.

In general, women deemed masculine-style faces more attractive than feminised ones. The same trend was seen for both short and long-term relationships and whether bearded or not, although differences in attractiveness relating to masculinity were less pronounced for bearded men – possibly, the team say, because the beard can hide some “unattractive” features.

For each level of masculinity, bearded men were deemed more attractive than clean shaven men, a result found for both short-term and, to a slightly greater degree, long-term relationships.

But not everyone was drawn to a hairy face. Among other results, the team found that women who had higher levels of disgust for ectoparasites found beards less attractive, although the reverse was true for those concerned about picking up harmful bacteria or viruses. – The Guardian

COMMUNITY/LIFESTYLE/HOROSCOPE

ARIES

March 21 — April 19

A goal that you’ve been working toward for a long time and in which you’ve placed a lot of hope and confidence, may suddenly seem in doubt today, Aries. This doesn’t mean it’s dead in the water by any means. It only means that for now you just need to work a little harder and rebuild your faith in it. Tomorrow your doubts could well be a thing of the past. Work hard and hang in there.

TAURUS

April 20 — May 20

A partner or colleague might be going through some changes right now, causing you to wonder if you have a future with this person. It might appear that you’re moving ahead while this person is lagging behind. This could be just a temporary condition, Taurus, so take care not to jump to any conclusions at this time. Offer your assistance and do what you can, then let the person work things out on their own way.

GEMINI

May 21 — June 20

At this time you might be in the space where you tend to doubt concepts and attitudes that you’ve accepted all your life. You generally tend to be a service-oriented person, Gemini, and today you might want to help someone close to you, yet this person may have deep buried issues that only he or she can deal with, and therefore might give the appearance of being unappreciative.

CANCER

June 21 — July 22

Dreams and visions might give rise to the desire to be especially artistic and creative today, Cancer. Ideas for new artistic projects could be popping in and out of your head all day, and you might go into a panic doubting that you’ll ever have the time to make any of your ideas a reality. At this time, you can only write down whatever pops into your head in order of your own preference.

LEO

July 23 — August 22

Successes over the past several weeks, along with an increase in money, might give rise to the desire to improve your living situation, Leo. You might have doubts, however, as to how best to go about doing it. Should you move or should you simply remodel? Should you move close by or to a different area? It’s best to simply list the pros and cons of each option and then consider them all carefully.

LIBRA

September 23 — October 22

Blocks and obstacles that you may have reached with regard to your projects might cause you to wonder if you have what it takes to get them done at all, Libra. This is OK, but don’t get caught up in doubting your abilities. Step back, be objective, and work out the most practical and efficient ways to get past the obstacles and attain the results you want. Don’t let your insecurities get the best of you.

CAPRICORN

December 22 — January 19

Today you might feel as if you’re living in a fog, Capricorn. Some interesting but puzzling news may come your way today. It might be information of such a bizarre nature that you find it difficult to accept, yet your source could be more than reliable. Conversations with others might seem vague and uncertain, as those around you aren’t really feeling all that communicative.

AQUARIUS

January 20 — February 18

Today you might feel as if you’re living in a fog, Aquarius. Some interesting but puzzling news may come your way today. It might be information of such a bizarre nature that you find it difficult to accept, yet your source could be more than reliable. Conversations with others might seem vague and uncertain, as those around you aren’t really feeling all that communicative.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22 — December 21

Today you might find yourself at a loss as to how to proceed with a particular task or project in which you’re involved, Sagittarius. There might be a number of options open to you, all workable, and this could prove confusing. If all options are efficient and practical, don’t agonize over your decision. Flip a coin if you have to! Success is strongly indicated if you don’t stress yourself out in the process.

PISCES

February 19 — March 20

Unexpected premonitions and gut feelings might prove too strong for comfort, Pisces, especially if they sense upcoming events that aren’t all that pleasant. These feelings are sent to you not to worry you or cause upset but to give clues as to how to deal with the possibilities. You may also have to deal with your own self-doubt. Dig in, do what you can, and assure a positive outcome.
Wordsearch

M M H V Y G T T H B P T S P E
L P O T O D F E E T M E Y I N
D G R M U P S L S C A P C S I
T A B L E D T E D U L R H K R
Y R U P N R P V I S A A B C U
E T Y I I A R I A H C C Y I G
E O L N R O Y S O I D A R T I
R B K D A G E I Y O A C U S F
U E D R S K O O B N L T G E M
T C O O I L L N R O S P S L P
G E P R B N I I C O S H F D L
I S O R R V V K F O H O H N A
P F Y I Y H G A I E E T R A N
T N E M A N R O S U L O T C T
C U N U R N W F O E F I A D T

BLINDS  SOFA  PICTURE
FIGURINE  CARPET  TRAY
RUGS  ORNAMENT  CUSHION
BOOKS  TABLE  PLANT
LAMP  CHAIR  TRINKET
SHELF  PHOTO  DRAPES
CANDLESTICK  TELEVISION  RADIO
MIRROR  CLOCK  VASE

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

```
9 5 3
2 6 1
7 3 8
```

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 every number from 1 to 9 exactly once.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 A club for the motorist (6)
4 A survey has nothing on a Greek god (6)
8 Crackpot, going back, is getting capital in Africa (5)
9 Rearranges holiday locations (7)
10 Wandered off, wasting rest day (7)
11 Regions taking off on a cause (5)
12 Those who seek rare chess moves? (9)
17 Eye make-up from a ship? (5)
19 Spanish princess in Spain - fantastic! (7)
21 Sure to have new crate at home (7)
22 Providing some collateral afterwards (5)
23 Fish have them and musicians play them (6)
24 Don’t go out with marine (6)

Down
1 Dislike of French examination (6)
2 Takes no notice of new regions (7)
3 It’s awfully easy to hold a pole. Try! (5)
5 Father’s wise, in a way (7)
6 Great Elgar composition (5)
7 Haunt wicked bosses? (6)
9 Introduce change - money off! (9)
13 Extent of land, or a cage re-entered? (7)
14 A star turn in a star turn (7)
15 Bend, we hear, to find spots (6)
16 Sponsor two little boys (6)
18 Strange man or woman (5)
20 It’s not true about fleas (5)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
Engage in debate with students, don’t send police to beat them up: Kabir

By Ahana Bhattacharya

I

f the government feels that students are wrong, then it can engage in a debate with them, but it is absolutely not right to have them beaten up by the police in their campus, feels filmmaker Kabir Khan.

Khan was recently speaking to the media, when he opened up on the incident of police brutality on the students of Delhi’s Jamia Millia Islamia University last month. The students were beaten up by the police while staging a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act or CAA.

Khan, an alumnus of Jamia, said: “I feel strongly about these issues. It was, for me, a very uncomfortable visual when I watched those students of Jamia walking out with their hands in the air. I feel students have an absolute right to dissent, students have a right to protest. If you stop students from protesting, then it is the death of democracy. How can you prevent them from expressing dissent?”

The filmmaker recently took to the streets of Mumbai along with several other Bollywood personalities to join the common people protesting against the CAA.

Talking about the incident of police brutality on Jamia students, he added: “If the students don’t like something and they want to talk about it, you cannot stop them from doing so. If you think they are wrong, you can debate with them. But don’t have the police suppress them and beat them up in their campus. That’s not the culture we want.” Khan also expressed shock at the thrashing of JNU students by masked outsiders in Delhi last week.

Talking about the incident he shared: “All of us, as we grow up, as we start working, we will become a little corrupted and indifferent. But students are the idealistic future of our country. Our university campuses are the future of this country. What they produce will be the way India will be in 10, 20 or 30 years from now. On. I think it’s very important to respect that.”

The filmmaker also feels students are showing us the path to become more brave and courageous as a society. He expressed: “I’m so glad that students across the country are registering their protest, making all of us braver and more courageous in being able to express our opinion.”

On the work front, Kabir Khan is also readying for his upcoming web series ‘83. “I’m quite excited to be part of Poison Season 2 as I’ve always wanted to play an edgy character and the script of Poison gave me just that. I’m also excited to work with ZEE5 as well as director Vishal Pandya who has been a friend for a long time. Also, the workspace is something I haven’t explored so far so I’m happy to explore that too,” said Aftab.

Poison 2 will also feature Raai Lakshmi, Pooja Chopra, Gautam Gulati and Taher Shabbir.

The show streams on the OTT platform ZEE5 from April. – IANS

It’s always work in progress: Rasika

Actress Rasika Dugal stayed with a senior police officer for a few days in Chandigarh to prepare for her role in season two of the web series ‘83.

The actress says she doesn’t feel she can ever be fully prepared for a part. “I don’t ever feel I can be fully prepared for a part. It’s always work in progress and that’s what’s exciting about it.”

“Spending even a day at the police station watching police officers at work, I hope this experience reflects in the work but it was a priceless one anyway. “I am excited and nervous to be Neeti again. It’s like meeting an old friend – you know the basics but there’s still a lot of catching up to do,” she added.

In the Netflix show, Rasika played the role of a police officer named Neeti Singh. Based on the Nirbhaya gang-rape case that shook the nation in 2012, the series chronicled how DCP (South) Chhaya Sharma (played by actress Shefali Shah) and her team solved the case and managed to catch the culprits despite several hiccups.

Rasika will also be seen in upcoming projects ‘Loot Case’, ‘Mirzapur 2’ and Mira Nair’s upcoming project ‘A Suitable Boy’.

It’s an art form and in today’s world sadly, it has become important. I want them to enjoy the sport and the benefits will come as and when they are supposed to happen. I feel amazing doing this as well. The kids in my society have taken to this looking at me and I feel it’s important to inspire the next generation. It’s all the way better as the kids train with me,” she added.

The actress has featured in hit TV shows such as ‘Bade Achhe Lagte Hain’ and ‘Qubool Hai’.

– IANS

EXCITED: Aftab Shivdasani is happy and excited to explore the web space.

Aftab to make digital debut with Poison 2

Bollywood actor is excited to make his digital debut with the upcoming web series Poison: 2.

“I’m quite excited to be part of Poison Season 2 as I’ve always wanted to play an edgy character and the script of Poison gave me just that. I’m also excited to work with ZEE5 as well as director Vishal Pandya who has been a friend for a long time. Also, the workspace is something I haven’t explored so far so I’m happy to explore that too,” said Aftab.

Poison 2 will also feature Raai Lakshmi, Pooja Chopra, Gautam Gulati and Taher Shabbir.

The show streams on the OTT platform ZEE5 from April. – IANS

TRAINER: Chahatt Khanna says, ‘In today’s world sadly, martial arts has become important.’

Chahatt encourages kids to learn mixed martial arts

Actress Chahatt Khanna is learning mixed martial arts and also inspiring kids in her society to take up the combat sport.

“It was important for the kids to learn. They listen less and observe more. So I took it on myself to learn and eventually the kids followed. It’s lovely to see them so focused,” Chahatt said.

“It’s an art form and in today’s world sadly, it has become important. I want them to enjoy the sport and the benefits will come as and when they are supposed to happen. I feel amazing doing this as well. The kids in my society have taken to this looking at me and I feel it’s important to inspire the next generation. It’s all the way better as the kids train with me,” she added.

The actress has featured in hit TV shows such as ‘Bade Achhe Lagte Hain’ and ‘Qubool Hai’.

– IANS
Everything you need to know about *Parasite* and its Oscar nominations

By Christie D’Zurilla

It was clear from Times critic Justin Chang’s radiant enthusiasm coming out of Cannes in May: *Parasite* was something special – a movie to be seen, and then to be watched as it took the awards circuit by storm.

It’s a journey that will culminate February 9 at the Oscars, where the Korean-language film now stands nominated in six categories, including best picture and director.

But for those who’ve missed the *Parasite* train thus far, here’s a short course in why director Bong Joon Ho’s movie is such a buzzy big deal.

The reviews Chang called the flick “deviously entertaining” and “a thriller of extraordinary cunning and emotional force,” qualities that have helped propel it to $134 million at the worldwide box office, per Box Office Mojo, including $25 million domestically.

“The first hour or so of *Parasite* is simply the most dazzling movie about the joys of the con I’ve seen in years,” Chang wrote in his review, before the movie opened in the US. “It’s a heist thriller of the quotidian, in which no everyday object – a piece of fruit, a child’s drawing – is too trivial to be weaponised. Bong, his camera at once ecstatic and controlled, brings the pieces together with the brio of a conductor attacking a great symphony!”

When that review came out in October, *Parasite* had already taken home the Palme d’Or from Cannes – or the “Bong d’Or, as it must henceforth be known,” Chang said back in May.

“If there is a particular reason why *Parasite* prevailed,” Chang wrote, “I think it’s because it delivered the competition’s single most original and entertaining approach to a subject – the rebellion of the underclass, the return of the repressed – that ran through many other films in competition, including several other prizewinners.”

The movie now has a 99% “fresh” rating from critics on Rotten Tomatoes, with a 93% score from audiences. Ultimately, *Parasite* topped Chang’s list of the best films of 2019.

The story of the movie follows the Kim family, four adults who live in a basement and eke out a living assembling pizza boxes. Then the son gets a tutoring gig for the wealthy Park family, and the game begins.

“Parasite”"<br>[Image 611x452 to 733x767]<br>BY CHRISTIE D’ZURILLA<br>Parasite. By Christie D’Zurilla<br><br>times film reporter Jen Yamato talked to the director in October, noting that some people would see *Parasite* said it made them feel uncomfortable. Bong said he “didn’t dislike that response” to his newest effort, which, as *Snowpiercer* did, invokes class differences.

“I think it will be very meaningful to reflect on where that discomfort comes from – why do we feel uncomfortable?” he said. Hey, the class divide is a hot movie topic this year.

The favourite actor Song Kang Ho, who has worked with Bong four times, including *Parasite*, knows the drill by now.

“It’s thrilling but at the same time agonising. I always expect the project will turn out great,” he told The Times last week.

“However, to carry out my assignment and meet director Bong’s expectation, I have to put out my very best effort to address every detail that he hands out. So there’s always those two sides of the coin when you work with Bong Joon Ho: great and agonising.”

On Monday, *Parasite* moved a few steps closer to conquering the world as it racked up six Oscar nominations: best picture, director, international feature, original screenplay, production design and film editing.

The best picture nod was history-making: The movie is the first South Korean nominee ever in that category.

*Parasite* was chosen as best picture by the Los Angeles Film Critics and the National Society of Film Critics. In another history-making moment for a Korean film, the Hollywood Foreign Press Assn. gave it a Golden Globe for foreign language motion picture earlier this month.

It was also nominated for outstanding movie ensemble cast at the SAG Awards and on February 2 will learn its fate at the BAFTA Awards, where it’s up for best film, director, original screenplay and non-English-language movie. Nominations and wins among smaller organisations are almost too numerous to count.

Bong has used the opportunities presented by his film’s success to bring attention to world cinema, most recently at the Golden Globes, where – speaking mostly in his native Korean – he urged English-speaking audiences to “overcome the 1-inch tall barrier of subtitles” and be rewarded with access to a new world of amazing films.

Tune in February 9 to the 92nd Academy Awards, broadcast by ABC, to see how the movie’s journey ends – or potentially begins for a whole new audience.

— Los Angeles Times/TNS

**RADIANT:** So-dam Park, left, and Woo-sik Choi in a scene from *Parasite.*

**INJURED:** Rachel Brosnahan got her ribs fused together during shooting for *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.*

Brosnahan has ‘fused ribs’

**INJURED:** Rachel Brosnahan got her ribs fused together during shooting for *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.*

Actress Rachel Brosnahan’s casset for her role in The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel has caused some of her ribs to fuse together.

Speaking on *The Late Late Show,* Brosnahan said: “We talk so fast on the show that to get all the words out you can’t really take very many breaths. I think I wasn’t breathing a lot and I was a bit constrained, and apparently some of my ribs are sort of fused together a little bit.

“And I can’t take super deep breaths anymore. It’s really fine guys.”

Although she’s been left with an injury, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* has bagged Brosnahan numerous awards – including a Golden Globe and an Emmy, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

However, she doesn’t have much room in her New York City apartment so to make space for her awards she has put them on her “toilet shelf”, but she thinks it’s a good spot for her visitors because they can take photographs with the gongs in private.

— IANS
Doha International Book Fair continues to attract overwhelming number of visitors at Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) where a variety of literary, musical and entertaining activities welcome the book lovers.

The fair is regarded as one of the largest international book fairs of the region with extensive participation from different countries around the world. It goes beyond saying that the fair serves as a platform to exchange cultural diversity and a space to inspire dialogue and share knowledge.

Organised by the Ministry of Culture and Sports every year, the salient feature of the 30th edition is various books that are being launched. There are many books related to Qatari literature that are being translated in different languages. The books are duly launched by the representatives of the ministry at different booths in DECC.

One such book launched recently was *Samarat*, collection of selected stories of Qatari writers. The collection contains 12 short stories by different Qatari writers and the stories are on different topics. The stories are translated by Abdullah Kamal, an Indian expatriate working with the Ministry of Culture and Sports every year, the salient feature of the 30th edition is various books that are being launched. There are many books related to Qatari literature that are being translated in different languages. The books are duly launched by the representatives of the ministry at different booths in DECC.

One such book launched recently was *Samarat*, collection of selected stories of Qatari writers. The collection contains 12 short stories by different Qatari writers and the stories are on different topics. The stories are translated by Abdullah Kamal, an Indian expatriate working with the Ministry of Culture and Sports every year, the salient feature of the 30th edition is various books that are being launched. There are many books related to Qatari literature that are being translated in different languages. The books are duly launched by the representatives of the ministry at different booths in DECC.

The selected stories introduce cultural and social life of Qatar to a totally strange reader. The publication of the stories in Urdu further highlights the fact that Qatar is a place where Urdu is a major means of communication. The book was formally launched by Sheikh Mohamed al-Kuwari, Director of Translation and Publication department. The project was spearheaded by Sheikha Rashid al-Kuwari, Head of Translation and Publication department. The project was spearheaded by Sheikha Rashid al-Kuwari, Head of Translation and Publication department.

Talking to Community, Abdullah Kamal said, "The stories were selected by the Ministry of Culture and I only translated them into Urdu. Most of the stories deal with social subjects focusing on family and society. I like translating literary books and I plan to translate more books in future."

"Such translated books help Urdu speaking people who live in Qatar to understand and appreciate the local literature and culture. They say that there are around 2 million people in Qatar who can communicate in Urdu and Hindi. Such books are beneficial and are of interest for a large segment of Qatar’s population.”

Abdullah who himself is an Urdu poet and writer has been writing articles for newspapers regarding the current affairs and political issues. “I often write in Urdu the politics and current issues. I also love writing Urdu ghazals and poems.”

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Mohamed al-Kuwari said that it was good to see the interest of expatriate communities in Qatari literature. He said that the ministry is happy to see the interest and trying to tap it. He noted that different Qatari literary books have been translated in different languages. The director also stressed on the point that the ministry will continue translating literary books in different other languages. The ministry has also been translating books from other countries into Arabic to enhance cultural exchange.

Separately, the ministry officials formally launched another book that is translated into Urdu. The book *Hisar Qatar* is published by Al Jazeera’s research centre. The book is translated in Urdu by Nadeem Mahir, who himself is an Urdu poet. The book is published by Ashraf Siddique, a known member of the Pakistani community.