Thousands of people throng Qatar National Convention Centre for Color Run 2020.

Music lovers enjoy Sonu Nigam’s concert at Asian Town despite inclement weather.

Music lovers enjoy Sonu Nigam’s concert at Asian Town despite inclement weather.

Dr F Samadian, CEO, Swiss Events Group, on how his company lights up the sky in Qatar, and what makes the spectators agog.

Shop Qatar 2020: Waltzing it like it’s meant to be.

Grammys diversity task force states support for ousted boss.
Dolittle

DIRECTION: Stephen Gaghan  
CAST: Robert Downey Jr, Tom Holland, Emma Thompson
SYNOPSIS: Dr. John Dolittle lives in solitude behind the high walls of his lush manor in 19th-century England. His only companionship comes from an array of exotic animals that he speaks to on a daily basis. But when young Queen Victoria becomes gravely ill, the eccentric doctor and his furry friends embark on an epic adventure to a mythical island to find the cure.

THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza

Street Dancer 3D

DIRECTION: Remo D’Souza
CAST: Varun Dhawan, Shraddha Kapoor, Prabhu Deva
SYNOPSIS: Set in London, the film is about two rival dance groups who’ve been competing against each other every time they meet, be it at a cafe or at an underground street battle, until they eventually realise that they stem from the same roots and have a common purpose to stand for their people from the Asian subcontinent. Followed by the backdrop of a global dance competition, the film showcases how these underdogs stand strong against all odds.

THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza

Quote Unquote

“I often think that the night is more alive and more richly colored than the day.”
– Vincent Van Gogh

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

Keto Diet at Elite Medical Centre
WHERE: Elite Medical Centre
WHEN: February 8
TIME: 11am
To register for the seminar WhatsApp on 30771895 with your name and telephone number. It is a free seminar.

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.

Qatar Food Fest
WHERE: Sheraton Hotel Park
WHEN: Ongoing till April 30
TIME: 4pm – 1am
The festival is currently happening at Sheraton Hotel Park. Qatar Food Fest features 77 stalls, food trucks, and trolleys, bringing culinary and cultural experiences from all corners of the globe to visitors and residents in Qatar.

Public Speaking Classes for Adults
WHERE: Shaq Capital, C-Ring Road
WHEN: Ongoing till July 1
TIME: 6:30pm – 9pm
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, 66035485, 33232490 or visit www.SmedleyToastmasters.org

After School Activities
WHERE: Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
Music and arts activities for students taking place after they finish their day in school includes Group Music lessons, Hip-hop, Ballet, Drawing and Painting, Drama Theatre & Taekwondo. Ages between 5 and 10 years old after school hours.

Artistic Gymnastic Classes
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm
The Olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

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

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: 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.
We offer regular classes in disciplines like traditional classical dance, art and craft, Bollywood and hip-hop styles, Carnatic music, robotics, percussion instruments, keyboard, yoga, zumba and marital arts like Karate, Shaolin Kung Fu and Kalari. For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamsqatar.in

Makeup Masterclass
WHERE: Msheireb Downtown, M7 Building
WHEN: January 31
TIME: 3pm onwards
Shop Qatar presents The Masterclass by celebrity makeup artist Mario Dedivanovic. Mario will share his trademark beauty tips and secret tricks guiding you into the making of his genius and how he applied it to his highly renowned muse Kim Kardashian West.

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change
“No two fireworks we do are similar”

— Dr F Samadian, CEO, Swiss Events Group

“From conception until clean up at the end of the show, our people work with sheer passion. That is the reason that we have been successfully carrying out fireworks in Qatar for three years”

— Dr F Samadian
It is crucial to choose a professional from land or water is always unique. The stary art in the night sky launching and enchant many people. Fireworks inspire painting the sky with colours, smoke and sound. Fireworks inspire an event to be missed.

I have been working in Qatar for 11 years. My company is also in the business of event management. When I see hundreds of thousands see my firework and enjoy it, I feel encouraged and love to do it again.

The Swiss man, whose team has been lightening up the Qatar skies for three years, recently spoke to Community about his expertise and future plans.

Dr Samadian, who is called Dr Sam by his friends, carries a PhD in structure engineering from UK. “Initially, I got involved in different sorts of temporary structures. I have been working in Qatar for 11 years. My two sons are going to university.”

The Swiss fireworks factory in Lucerne is in the heart of Switzerland. “For 40 years, our factory has dedicated itself exclusively to the subject of fireworks and thanks to successful participation in firework competitions, we enjoy an excellent reputation worldwide. From conception until clean up at the end of the show, our people work with sheer passion. That is the reason that we have been successfully carrying out fireworks in Qatar for three years. Months-long preparation is required behind the 10-minute-long fire show every December 18. We have a master worker who has been working in the industry for over 45 years. No two fireworks that we do are similar.

“Being a Swiss company, the base of our products is only quality. We have very good designers and we also take real care of safety.”

The Swiss man is actually fond of Qatar. “I see Qatar as my second home, a home away from home. I spend over 80 percent of time in Qatar. My company is also in the business of event management. When I see hundreds of thousands see my firework and enjoy it, I feel encouraged and love to do it again. You need to have a passion and feeling to it. You need to love what you are doing. I try to give my best to it. For me, it is like illuminating my house at night.”

“We work very hard on designs, colour schemes and the occasion we are doing the firework. We have to be occasion-specific.”

When asked why fireworks are so mesmerising, Dr Sam said: “The sudden, bright and moving sparks that the fireworks emit are compelling to watch and seem mysterious because we are not used to that type of light travelling directly into our eyes. In general, the colours we see are created by light bouncing off the reflective surfaces of objects around us. As we encounter this reflected light all the time, we have become very good at unscrambling the colours in our brain and, as a result, anything different can seem otherworldly. This could be why other sources of moving light, like shooting stars and fireflies, are also thought of as magical.

“Firecrackers have been around for hundreds of years. They consist of either black powder (also known as gunpowder) or flash powder in a tight paper tube with a fuse to light the powder. Black powder contains charcoal, sulfur and potassium nitrate. A composition used in a firecracker might have aluminum instead of or in addition to charcoal in order to brighten the explosion. “It is very common for fireworks to contain aluminum, iron, steel, zinc or magnesium dust in order to create bright, shimmering sparks. The metal flakes heat up until they are incandescent and shine brightly or, at a high enough temperature, actually burn. A variety of chemicals can be added to create colours.”

Speaking about what safety measures his fireworks company takes, Dr Sam said: “We are dedicated to safety with uncompromising commitment. We work with NTI Audio X12 sound level meter as part of essential quality control. We ensure placing the highest priority on safety and compliance with the applicable regulations for fireworks. The class one X12 sound level meter is ideal for ensuring this. In Switzerland, the legislation requires that a sound exposure level of 115db LAE must not be exceeded.”

In response to a question about effect of firework displays on the climate change, Dr Sam said: “First of all, the quality of the material that we make is very special. We are not using plastics. We are using a type of dissolving material. Like the paper, it goes into water and it dissolves itself. We go more and more for the new technologies to have non-dangerous kind of fireworks. We are focusing on the materials that are less dangerous for our environment.

“In Switzerland, we have the regulation that when it gets dry, we do not get permission for the fireworks. Obviously, we work together with the government in Qatar.”

Dr Sam is upbeat about the future of the industry. “It has been happening (for) over hundred years. It will continue. At the factory, we have an innovation department. The department has always been coming out with new ideas and how we can make the fireworks more climate friendly.

“Our passion is professional pyrotechnics — public displays, sporting events, private events and proximate displays. Our goal is to safely merge technology and beauty with pyrotechnics.”
BSI organises seminar on ‘The Role of Education towards the Change in Society’

Doha Chapter of Bazm e Sadaf International (BSI) recently organised a seminar on ‘The Role of Education towards the Change in Society’ at Radisson Blu Hotel. Ananad Kumar, Founder of Super 30 educational programme, was the chief guest and Obaidur Rahman, a philanthropist and founder of Rahman 30, the guest of honour. Suhail Bukhari, Chief Patron of BSI, presided over the event. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Ashraf, Managing Director of Global Education Centre (GEC); Sri Kumar, Managing Partner of GEC; Manoj Kumar, social activist; and Preeti, Managing Partner of GEC. Pranav Kumar, brother of Anand Kumar also attended the event. The event kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an, which was followed by a welcomed speech by Imran Asad, President of BSI Doha Chapter. Various dignitaries were also felicitated on the occasion. Ahmad Ashfaque, Programme Director of BSI, conducted the first section. Dr Nadeem Zafar Jilani, Vice-President of BSI, compered the seminar.

Shahabuddin Ahmad, Chairman of BSI, in his inaugural address outlined the various initiatives BSI has taken for the promotion of Urdu language and literature over the past year. He announced BSI holding free Urdu classes for anyone interested in learning Urdu in Qatar in collaboration with the Global Education Centre and its pool of volunteer teachers. Shahabuddin thanked all the members of BSI. DVD of last year’s BSI award ceremony and international seminar and poetry symposium was also launched at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Obaidur Rahman spoke about his motivation behind Rahman 30 to help needy Muslim students to get to premier educational institutes. Anand Kumar spoke about how he was helping children from an impoverished background to the world’s top engineering institutions.

Suhail Bukhari congratulated Anand Kumar, Obaidur Rahman and office bearers of BSI and GEC for the promotion of quality education. Maqsood Anwar Maqsood, Vice President of BSI, proposed a vote of thanks.

MES students view live telecast of Pariksha Pe Charcha

The students of MES Indian School recently viewed the live telecast of Pariksha Pe Charcha, a show aimed at reducing the mounting exam-related pressure among students scheduled to appear for the board examinations. The students of Grade VIII-X had the opportunity to view the live interactive session of Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, with a cross-section of students from various schools in India and select countries including Qatar. The topic of the open discussion was Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020. “During the programme, the prime minister spoke about numerous areas relating to exams on even life beyond exams. The prime minister also advised the students to know themselves, their areas of strength, which will enable them to get better equipped to confront the challenges of the outside world.”

SATCO International to mark 71st Republic Day of India

SATCO International is all set to mark the 71st Republic Day of India. Speaking on the occasion, M S Bukhari, Group General Manager of SATCO International, said, “I congratulate all Indian community residing in Qatar on this day. Republic Day marks the day on which Indian people gave themselves a Constitution to secure all citizens, justice, liberty, equality, and gender and economic equity. I always give a priority to hire both blue and white collared employees from India and give more employments to our beloved nation.”

He added, “SATCO International has over three decades of experience and expertise in Contracting and trading in Qatar. Water-proofing is one of the major business parts of SATCO International since its formation. Our professional way of marketing, well equipped and systemised work handling, quality control system raised our value in the market.”
By Mudassir Raja

The Color Run Qatar is getting bigger and more colourful every year. Thousands of people thronged the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) and got doused in bright colours covering the stretch on foot.

The Color Run presented by Sahtak Awalan: Your Health First yesterday was a sold-out event. According to the organisers, more than 10,000 participants took part in the 2020 Love Tour edition of the ‘Happiest 5k on the Planet in Qatar’.

The record attendance saw the sales closed ahead of the event.

The 2020 edition saw thousands of the participants running, walking and skipping their way around QNCC, making it the largest Color Run ever in Qatar. Colour runners came to share their joy with their friends and families as they made their way round the 5km course.

People of all ages, colours, beliefs, and nationalities were drenched in red, blue, green and yellow colours. It was a whole lot of colourful opportunity to dip ones toe into the world of running.

Arfi Matthew, a young Filipino student, was dosed in green from head to toe. “All the colours are beautiful but I like the green one the most. I really enjoyed because the weather is very pleasant. I ran during the event as my parents just walked [smiles]. I would love to come to the Color Run again. It is a very beautiful event in Doha. All the children just love to run with colours all around them.”

Lydia Barke, a young woman from Virgin Islands, said, “This was my first colour run. I learnt about the event through social media and thought I should attend it. I had a real fun with friends here. It was excited to be drenched in colours and listen music while walking with a bunch of friends.”

The colour runners took part in a lively warm-up before Dana al-Ali, Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) student and Your Health First (YHF) ambassador, officially raised the flag at the starting line seeing the first batch of participants set off from the start line at 8:30am.

The fun didn’t stop at the finish line, but with the finish festival providing the perfect post-5k party as thousands of runners celebrated with world-famous colourful throws.

Nesreen al-Rifai, Chief Communications Officer for Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, said, “We are so excited once again to see so many colour runners at The Color Run. Our aim is to raise awareness on the importance of staying active and its relevance to our overall physical and mental health. We are happy to have succeeded in achieving this and contributing to the fulfilment of Qatar Foundation’s vision for community development.”

Christian Moufarrej, Event Director, added, “The turnout has been absolutely amazing this year. We are so grateful to everyone who supports the event and our charity year after year in Doha. Thank you to everyone for joining The Color Run Love Tour, and we are looking forward to next year already.”

Since its inception in 2012, The Color Run has become a global phenomenon. The event has been experienced by more than 7 million people worldwide in 40+ countries and has donated $5 million to charity to date. This year’s event supported education for out-of-school children by donating a portion of the proceeds to ‘Together’ education project in Qatar.
Shop Qatar 2020: Waltz

Talking about highs the show opened with Naja Saade’s impeccably crafted blinky line and ended with couturier Taoufi k al-Hassan’s artistic, breathtaking ode to futuristic fashion on the first fashion show of Shop Qatar 2020 edition, writes Muhammad Asad Ullah

In its opening flourish, Shop Qatar 2020, organised by Qatar National Tourism Council, delivered a day replete with fashion highs, redeeming itself from the some hit–mostly-miss lineups. It was a day for couture and bridal design, mixing in the old guard with the new, bringing forth statements that managed to set that elusive fashion bar high. Talking about highs the show opened with Naja Saade’s impeccably crafted blinky line and ended with couturier Taoufi k al-Hassan’s artistic, breathtaking ode to futuristic fashion. Sandwiched in the middle was a range of some designers who each held their own, staying true to their silhouettes, dabbling with blink, structure and exquisite hand embroideries. But sadly, not all of day’s fashion offerings were exciting. As those of us who frequent the fashion week circuit know all too well, couture bling can go awry so easily. Crystals and pearls dropped onto the runway in a certain showcase; in others, colours clashed and cutwork meshed uncomfortably with texture and every embroidery under the sun was seen as some of fashion’s hottest name fumbled and faltered.

Zooming in on the fashion, here’s what we loved on the runway:

**Naja Saade**
This was the designer’s first show in Doha for the season and it highlighted the designer’s unmistakable flair for fashion. His bridal designs set the bar high as he presented his couture line that was sometimes head-turning and sometimes loud. The collection was constructed in low necklines, volume and stylised sleeves were well and this, in essence, is why he designs it with such ease. His cuts and finishes are impeccable, making her a hot-seller in the very limited – and finesses are impeccable, making her a hot-seller in the very limited – and every embroidery under the sun was seen as some of fashion’s hottest name fumbled and faltered.

**Amgad al-Adab**
Quite tangential to Naja’s finery was Amgad’s well-cut, refreshingly young vibe. Treating crepe and raw silk, the designer rocked a line of ruffled, overlapping, capes and dresses. These were absolutely winter must-haves and are bound to sell like hot cakes when the business-savvy brand shortly brings its collection. A cocktail dress to die for as tassels fizzle around the perfectly tailored ankle. Around these keystone tailoring pieces Fahad charted the collection. Tassels were swirling there – the designer just knew where to stop and create an impact with feathers and anglicised luxe very well. Concerning his collection? Of course ... you want all of them ... and now!

**Fahad al-Obaidly**
Fahad’s monochromatic collection was more urban than it’s been of late, blending the return of tradition in pintstripes and glen plaid with activewear yet chic component. Hello, world! A garden shirt and shorts with a gown are the IT combination. The key looks in this collection were, absolutely, the jackets: Notched- lapel, round, puffed, check print, barely-padded jackets were cut to angle jauntily downward from the back of the skirt down to the front when worn open. The pants below were belted high, generously pleated, and tapered toward the ankle. Around these keystone tailoring pieces Fahad charted an entertaining enough course through his vision of luxury urban casualwear. To transcend barriers is a tall order, but FAO’s designs are done with the notched glamorous mix with activewear yet chic component.

**Taoufi k al-Hassan**
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**Ahmed Talrif**
Ahmed is a designer who has grown from strength to strength, showing frequently at fashion weeks and building his market. More than anything else, his collection exemplified his flair for playing with metals. Bling bling and tightly fitted full length gowns was a proof that nothing can hold back this Tunisian designer when it comes to handwork and zip-line sexy pieces; some fully embellished and some in block plain silk taffetas. And party dresses they were. In a largely subdued palette of champagne, silvery blue, and gold with just a hint of silver, each look was beaded, bejewelled, feathered, and wrapped in the painstakingly detailed arrangements that made up embroideries; as each dress passed you could almost envision the haute vintage fabrics that would’ve inspired them. It was also interesting to consider the necklines and sexy backless dresses in the context of the collection’s muse. A cocktail dress to die for as tassels fizzle around the perfectly tailored couture. Another gown was even more painstakingly embroidered with tiny silvery-gray caviar beads, well when I say it, I mean it – it was just the start of how embellishments are done with the notched glamorous mix with activewear yet chic component.

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**Taoufi k al-Hassan**
After Fahad al-Obaidly the designer who lifted the fashion with a futuristic approach and edgy cut-lines was Taoufi k. Unashamedly and statement pieces. There were digital prints playing with light and shadow, 3D florals hand-stitched into Baroque elements, militant jackets and caps and gothic black, treated with feathers and layered with gold and glitter. Every detail had a story of its own. Popping colours, the prints, particularly, were unique, playing out in swirls and splateters. Taoufi k’s spin on fashion included dresses cinched with belts, Chinese prints with foil detailing, horizontal zippers putting together stripes and quirky cut–out metal rings. It was all quite well thought-out and cohesive – and it all clearly bore the designer’s signature. The jump suit in velvet paired with deep pink embroidery stole the show and so did the tangerine dress that makes us caterwaul – orange is the new black baby!
Amgad al-Adab
Taoufik al-Hassan
Naja Saade
Al Najada Hotel offers gourmet experience with seafood night

Al Najada Hotel Doha has recently announced to present an upgraded seafood extravaganza on every Thursday at Al Baraha. A collection of quality oyster, mussels, lobster will be presented on the ice crustacean bar, served with various sauces. Using the finest ingredients and the highly experienced and talented chefs create extraordinary dishes to take you on a gastronomic journey.

New Land Rover Defender to showcase world-first dual-eSIM connectivity at CES 2020

The Land Rover Defender family is all set to showcase its 21st century dual-eSIM connectivity at CES 2020 in Las Vegas, the world’s largest consumer electronics show, stated a press release. New Defender is the first vehicle with two embedded LTE modems for enhanced connectivity, while Jaguar Land Rover’s new Pivi Pro touchscreen infotainment has an industry-leading design and shares electronic hardware with the latest smartphones.

The fast-responding and intuitive Pivi Pro system allows customers to make full use of New Defender’s Software-Over-The-Air (SOTA) technology, without compromising its ability to connect to apps on the move. With its own designated LTE modem and eSIM, the SOTA technology can operate in the background, without affecting the day-to-day connectivity provided by the separate modem and eSIM in the infotainment module.

The always-on and always-connected Pivi Pro setup sits at the heart of New Defender’s cabin and its 10-inch high-resolution touchscreen allows customers to control all aspects of the vehicle using the same processing hardware as the latest smartphones. In addition, customers can connect two mobile devices to the infotainment head unit at once using Bluetooth, so the driver and passenger can enjoy hands-free functionality concurrently without the need to swap connections.

Peter Virk, Director of Connected Car and Future Technology, Jaguar Land Rover, said, “With one LTE modem and eSIM dedicated to the Software-Over-The-Air (SOTA) technology and the same set-up looking after apps, New Defender has the digital capacity to keep customers connected, updated and entertained at all times anywhere in the world. You could liken the design to a brain, with each half enjoying its own connection for unrivalled and uninterrupted service. Like the brain, one side of the system looks after logical functions, like SOTA, while the other takes care of more creative tasks.”

Land Rover has also confirmed the first New Defenders will feature more SOTA capability than originally projected. At its Frankfurt Motor Show launch in September, Land Rover announced that 14 individual electronic control modules would be able to receive remote updates, but the first production vehicles will feature 15 control units capable of receiving SOTA updates. Land Rover engineers estimate that in-dealer software updates will be a thing of the past for Defender customers before the end of 2021 as additional SOTA modules come online, rising from the current 16 to more than 45.

Land Rover will showcase its advanced Pivi Pro technology at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, with the New Defender 110 and 90 taking pride of place on the Qualcomm (LVCC, North Hall 5606) and BlackBerry (LVCC, North Hall 7515) stands respectively.

Qualcomm Technologies

Powering the Defender’s Pivi Pro infotainment and Vehicle Domain Controller are two high-performance Qualcomm Snapdragon 820Am Automotive Platforms, each with an integrated Snapdragon X12 LTE modem. The Snapdragon 820Am Automotive Platform delivers unprecedented performance and technology integration designed to support highly advanced telematics, infotainment and digital clusters. It delivers rich, immersive and seamless connected vehicle experiences, while making next-generation vehicles more connected, smart and contextually aware.

Two X12 LTE modems provide parallel high-bandwidth downlink and uplink connectivity across multiple networks, ultra-fast connectivity and lower latency for secure, reliable communications. Additionally, the X12 LTE modem features an integrated global navigation satellite system (GNSS) and automotive dead reckoning, increasing the vehicle’s capability to accurately keep track of its location and position.

BlackBerry QNX

The Defender is the first Land Rover to include a domain controller that consolidates a number of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) and driver convenience functions built on top of the QNX Hypervisor, providing the kind of in-car experience drivers want, with the security, safety and reliability they need. Consolidating more systems onto fewer ECUs is integral to the future of automotive electrical design and will be the model for Land Rover’s next-generation vehicle architecture.

Within New Defender, the BlackBerry QNX operating system helps deliver a smartphone-like experience for Pivi Pro infotainment users. The technology also powers the operating system for the latest generation TFT Interactive Driver Display, which can be configured by the driver to show vehicle instrumentation, navigation instructions and mapping information or a combination of the two.

CloudCar

Jaguar Land Rover is the first global car maker to use CloudCar’s latest cloud-based services platform. Working with the world’s leading developers of connected driver experiences brings new levels of customer convenience to the Pivi Pro infotainment fitted to New Defender.

Bosch

Land Rover is on the road to a connected and autonomous future and New Defender features a raft of safety-boosting technologies developed with Bosch to enhance the driving experience. Alongside the latest Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), which include Adaptive Cruise Control and Blind Spot Assist, Bosch has supported the development of Land Rover’s innovative 3D Surround Camera System, which gives drivers a unique view of the vehicle’s immediate perimeter using four wide-angle HD cameras, each providing a 190-degree field-of-view.
Out at sea, a part of Earth is dying

The Juan de Fuca Plate, one of the slowly moving tectonic plates of the Earth’s crust, is being crushed underground by the Pacific Plate, and it is not going to its doom quietly.

The Juan de Fuca Plate
extends 600 miles (1,000 km) from Vancouver Island to Cape Mendocino, California

An “oceanic plate,” it lies entirely under the Pacific Ocean; none of it is dry land

It is slowly “subducting,” or sliding eastward under the North American plate

Quakes and eruptions as the plate dies

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is the most dangerous part of the plate because this fault line breaks free from time to time, setting off powerful earthquakes

A catastrophic earthquake estimated at 8.7 to 9.2 magnitude occurred there in 1700

An arc of volcanoes, part of the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” stands over the area where the Juan de Fuca Plate plunges into the mantle

The most active volcanoes of the arc are Mount St. Helens, Mt. Baker, Lassen Peak, Mt. Shasta, and Mt. Hood

Recently discovered hole deep in the southern end of the Juan de Fuca Plate is causing a tear that extends eastward and underground

Researchers believe the tear means that the plate is breaking up as it sinks, potentially a cause of increased volcanic and seismic activity there, far into the region’s future

Source: William Hawley and Richard Allen of University of California, Berkeley; Geophysical Research Letters
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
GULF TIMES
Sunday, January 26, 2020

COMMUNITY

CARTOONS/PUZZLES

Wordsearch

| MONACO   | MONIKA   | MONOPOLY  |
| MONAD    | MONITOR  | MONOTONE  |
| MONARCH  | MONKEY   | MONROE    |
| MONDAY   | MONKFISH | MONSOON   |
| MONEY    | MONOCLE  | MONSTER   |
| MONGOL   | MONGRY   | MONGREY   |
| MONGOOSE | MONGAMY  | MOUTH     |
| MONGREL  | MONGRAM  | MONTREAL  |
| MONICA   | MONOLITH | MONUMENT  |

Codeword

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

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The goal is to fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains all of the digits 1 to 9. Each puzzle has only one solution.

Adam

I'm sorry your magic show had some problems, Sam.

But you know magicians practice a lot.

I know, but that's why you're here.

You like for that? (??)

Pooch Cafe

A cookie jar? What's that for?

To store cookies in.

Cookies are stored in your stomach

I know this is an outlandish concept for you, but some creatures don't necessarily want to eat all the food they have right away. They might want to save some for later. Do you understand?

You're cute when you're babbling.

Garfield

Look, Jon. Cats don't wear shoes.

So we don't go shoe shopping.

Nyah, nyah, nyah.

Coming, Jon?

Bound And Gagged

Have you or a loved one been maimed by a snowplow? Call Jack Frost Law today.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Sailor with coat and first man to cover a road? (10)
7 Article about performance (7)
8 New husband is a stable man (5)
10 Top of skirt has new waistband (4)
11 Doubt set in quotes (8)
13 Be united with company present (6)
15 Moves after I left cagebirds (6)
17 Where schoolchildren bought food for friar’s dance? (4-4)
18 Norse god with some authority (4)
21 A girl of the Indian Empire (5)
22 One tail wagging with great joy (7)
23 Lasting well in its present form (10)

Down
1 Parasites making right marks (5)
2 The ceremony is correct, we hear (4)
3 Using maximum power, everyone is on strike (3-3)
4 Roman emperor giving a month to us (8)
5 Loving a party call (7)
6 Writing censored by editor taken to court (10)
9 Cook sent in more soup (10)
12 People who work backstage making furniture? (8)
14 Replacement for the acre! (7)
16 Do they pull tall buildings? (6)
19 Uplift one gets in a crowd (5)
20 Get a poor number of spectators (4)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
How stress makes your hair go gray

Those annoying gray hairs that tend to crop up with age really are signs of stress, according to a new study.

The research, published in the journal Nature, found that stress activates nerves that are part of the fight—or-flight response, which in turn cause permanent damage to pigment-regenerating stem cells in hair follicles.

“We wanted to understand if this connection is true, and if so, how stress leads to changes in diverse tissues. Hair pigmentation is such an accessible and tractable system to start with — and besides, we were genuinely curious to see if stress indeed leads to hair graying,” said study senior author Ya-Chieh Hsu from Harvard University in the US.

Stress affects the whole body, researchers first had to narrow down which body system was responsible for connecting stress to hair color.

The team first hypothesised that stress causes an immune attack on pigment-producing cells. However, when mice lacking immune cells still showed hair graying, researchers turned to the hormone cortisol. But once more, it was a dead end.

“Stress always elevates levels of the hormone cortisol in the body, so we thought that cortisol might play a role,” Hsu said.

“But surprisingly, when we removed the adrenal gland from the mice, they couldn’t produce cortisol-like hormones, their hair still turned gray under stress,” Hsu added.

After systematically eliminating different possibilities, researchers honed in on the sympathetic nerve system, which is responsible for the body’s fight—or-flight response.

Sympathetic nerves branch out into each hair follicle, certain stem cells act as a reservoir of pigment-producing cells. When hair regenerates, some of the stem cells convert into pigment-producing cells that color the hair.

Researchers found that the norepinephrine from sympathetic nerves causes the stem cells to activate excessively. The stem cells convert into pigment-producing cells, prematurely depleting the reservoir.

“With this study, we now know that peripheral neurons powerfully regulate organ function, blood vessels, and immunity, but less is known about how they regulate stem cells,” said study researcher Isaac Chiu.

“With this study, we now know that neurons can control stem cells and their function, and can explain how they interact at the cellular and molecular level to link stress with hair graying,” Chiu added. — IANS

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**ARIES**

March 21 — April 19

Some unusual dreams may come to you tonight, Aries, and you might awaken with the idea that they’re very important. The images should be very clear, however, and you won’t have much trouble working out what they mean. Intellect joins with intuition today in a rush of insightfulness. Make the most of this advantage now, and later decide how best to act on your revelations.

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**TAURUS**

April 20 — May 20

Relationships of all kinds should be thriving at this time, Taurus. Mind and emotions join together in a beneficial partnership, enabling you to increase your understanding of those close to you. An understanding of your partner’s values, attitudes, and motivations becomes clearer to you. Make your new insights known to everyone around you, preferably in a subtle rather than verbal way. The latter might sound patronising.

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**CANCER**

June 21 — July 22

Love blossoms today as communication with your family and friends is enhanced by an increased understanding on both your parts, Cancer. You feel more at ease and you project a united front in the company of others. At some point, you will probably go out with a group of friends. Expect some exciting and fascinating discussions with the others, which you’ll probably continue once you’re alone together. Have fun!

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**LEO**

July 23 – August 22

A number of visitors might come to your house today, Leo, perhaps to discuss matters of interest to all of you. Some intense disagreements could arise, but you’ll be able to keep it all together. An intellect enhanced by intuition enables you to understand and explain complex ideas, and you’ll also be able to derail misunderstandings before they even happen.

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**THERAPY**

September 23 – October 22

Using computers either to increase your income or manage your money may have seemed like Greek to you, Libra, but today you’ll probably catch on very quickly. Your natural practicality joins with an enhanced intellect and heightened intuition to give you an advantage you don’t usually have. If you concentrate on learning it all today, it’ll probably continue to be useful for you for a long time. Go to it!

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**SCORPIO**

October 23 – November 21

Intelect and feelings are totally joined today, Scorpio, especially when dealing with friends. Your basic understanding of others is also enhanced by a keener sense of intuition. You might become interested in a cause of some kind, perhaps metaphysical, social, ecological, or humanitarian in nature. Use your expanded mental and emotional capabilities to discern which are best for you.

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**SAGITTARIUS**

November 22 – December 21

A focused and enhanced practical turn of mind, strengthened by intuition, may be of great help to you today when considering career matters, Sagittarius. A change is in the wind and you might want to give considerable thought to different options that may be opening up to you. Don’t think you have to rush into making a decision. It might be a good idea to let different possibilities simmer in your subconscious.

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**CAPRICORN**

December 22 – January 19

You probably won’t want to spend much time at home today, Capricorn. Most likely you’ll want to be out and about, perhaps at a large gathering, perhaps just strolling down a city street watching the people go by. Insights and revelations come to you that you’ll probably be able to make more sense of than you usually do, because mind and feelings are joined in a very effective partnership. Write your ideas down!

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**AQUARIUS**

January 20 – February 18

Your imagination is flying high today, Aquarius. Intellect and intuition join together in a vivid and explosive union where the whole is definitely greater than the sum of the parts. Don’t waste this energy. Get busy and work on whatever creative projects you’re involved with, or start one if there aren’t any. This energy may not come around again for a while and you’ll want to make the most of it. Have fun!

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**PISCES**

February 19 – March 20

Thoughts of travel could be on your mind today, Pisces, and you might think of the idea of actually taking time off and going somewhere that you’ve always wanted to visit. A friend or love partner might want to accompany you. The only problem might be figuring out what place you want to see the most. This could involve a rather difficult decision. Don’t let it become obsessive. Follow your heart.
When Salman forgot to pay Rs1.25 to a cycle mechanic!

Superstar Salman Khan has recently shared a funny anecdote from his childhood days when he had forgotten to pay Rs1.25 to a cycle mechanic.

On Umang: A Mumbai Police Welfare Fund’s Initiative event, Salman revealed to comedian Kapil Sharma about how he owes Rs1.25 to mechanic.

And Salman got to know about his loan when he paid a visit to the same mechanic to get his cycle’s tyre fixed recently.

"I was wearing shorts and had no money on me. So. I told Kaka to repair it and that I would pay him later. That’s when he told me that "Tu bachpan mein bhi asa hi karta tha. Tune ek baar bhi pehle cycle theek karaya tha aur aaj tak uske paise nahi diye. Tera aaj bhi Rs1.25 uchchhar hai’ felt so embarrassed," Salman said.

The Dabangg star also mentioned that later when he returned him his money, the mechanic refused to take it. Salman even narrated a story when he used to drive a scooter with half kerosene and half petrol to save money. – IANS

Grammys diversity task force states support for ousted boss

By Randy Lewis

The Recording Academy’s task force on inclusion and diversity in the music industry issued a statement last Thursday tacitly siding with many of the stinging criticisms levelled at the Grammy Awards organisation by former President and CEO Deborah Dugan, ousted last week after less than six months at the helm.

“These new changes reinforce just how important and urgent it is that the Academy implement all of the changes in the report that we deliver without any delay," the statement said, referring to the report the 15-woman, three-man task force released in December under Dugan’s predecessor, Neil Portnow.

Last week, just 10 days ahead of the 2020 Grammy Awards, the academy’s board of trustees placed Dugan on “administrative leave." The reason cited was a misconduct complaint filed against Dugan in December by Claudine Little, the academy's director of administration, who had worked for nearly two decades under Dugan’s predecessor, Neil Portnow.

Little accused Dugan of fostering a “bullying and abusive" environment in the workplace.

Dugan, however, through her lawyer denied the charge, and said the complaint was made in retaliation for concerns she raised about voting irregularities, financial mismanagement, "exorbitant” fees paid to outside legal firms and conflicts of interest on various fronts.

On Tuesday, her legal team filed its own complaint, also specifying sexual harassment and retaliation, with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Over the course of a 44-page EEOC filing, Dugan recounted in extensive detail her experience with the academy since, and just before, she took office on August 1, succeeding Portnow. He stepped down after 17 years following a firestorm of criticism he unleashed backstage after the 2018 Grammy Awards by saying women needed to “step up” to receive parity at the heavily male-dominated awards event, a comment for which he quickly apologised and said was taken “out of context.”

The task force’s 47-page report made 18 recommendations aimed at remedying what it found to be systemic lack of diversity within the academy’s 25,000 total membership, its 40-member board of trustees and the select committees appointed by the board’s executive committee to curate many of the more than 80 categories in which awards will be presented on Sunday (today) in a national telecast from Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The statement cited the task force members’ “shock and dismay at the allegations surrounding the Recording Academy and its leadership that surfaced this week.”

“We understand there are ongoing investigations about the issues raised over the last week," said the statement, “our experience and research tells us that if the Academy leadership, its staff, and the nominating committees that govern the Awards were more diverse and inclusive, there would be better processes for resolving problems and more trust in the Academy as a whole. Those seeking to make such reforms need to be supported, not impeded.

“Change is hard," the statement continued. “It won’t be easy to make these changes. But we are deeply disappointed at the level of commitment by some of the Academy’s leadership in effecting the kind of real and constructive change presented in our report. We are confident that they can do better.”

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Among Dugan’s most explosive allegations were an accusation of sexual harassment against prominent entertainment lawyer Joel Katz, who serves as the academy’s general counsel and is a past board chairman. Katz has denied engaging in any harassment.

She also said that shortly before formally starting her new job, she was informed by the board of a previous allegation of sexual assault leveled against Portnow, for whom she was asked to approve a consultation contract for $750,000. She declined.

Portnow responded by saying the assault charge was “ludicrous and untrue” and that the incident had been the subject of an internal investigation that “completely exonerated” him. Dugan made the rounds Thursday appearing on several network TV news programs, alleging that the voting processes that determine Grammy nominees and winners is “rigged.”

The task force was headed by Tina Tchen, former chief of staff to first lady Michelle Obama and now president and CEO of Time’s Up Now, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organisation aiming to address issues of gender-based discrimination in the workplace.

The Grammy Awards will begin Sunday (today) at 5pm Pacific time. Among this year’s top nominees are Billie Eilish, Lizzo and Lil Nas X. – Los Angeles Times/TNS
Music lovers enjoy Sonu Nigam’s concert despite inclement weather

By Mudassir Raja

The musical sensation Sonu Nigam did not let the high spirits of a huge crowd get dampened by rain and winds while the Indian singer performed at an open arena recently.

The amphitheater in Asian Town witnessed a huge gathering, mainly expatriates from South Asian countries who thoroughly enjoyed the melodious songs by the celebrated Bollywood playback singer.

It was unfortunate that intermittent rain with chilly winds kept interrupting the concert that was overwhelmingly received by the audience in the beginning.

Overall, the weather conditions did not have much of an effect on the show as the enthusiastic audience continued enjoying the music till the end of the show.

The event was organised by Q-Tickets under the aegis of Qatar National Tourism Council as part of Shop Qatar 2020.

Besides the musical show, the families and children seemed to enjoy the traditional food offered at multiple outlets set up outside the arena.

“I knew there was going to be rain. We noticed the weather forecast. Despite that fact, I along with my family decided to attend the concert as we are huge fans of Sonu. I grew up listening to his romantic songs in the 1990s. It has been a long time that the singer has successfully been entertaining the music lovers in India,” said Sandeep Chaudhry who was present along with his wife and two kids.

Arthi Himraj, who was excited to listen to Sonu Nigam’s concert despite inclement weather, was not much bothered about the cold night.

“Both rain and Sonu are rare in Doha. We are enjoying both. We are concerned about the kids but the rain is not heavy. Of course, we could have been enjoying more, if there had been no rain.”

Even the 47-year-old Sonu Nigam himself appreciated the spirit and love of the audience for the music. “It is cold out here. Yet, there is this huge crowd. I am humbled to see how much people love Bollywood music.”

The singer started with some of his new songs that have featured in recent Bollywood movies. He also sang his most popular songs. Majority of his songs were sung by the audience along with the singer.

Prior to the concert in a press conference, the singer said that he enjoyed the project which he was part of and recalled that he had been coming to Doha since 1995 and would love to sing in Arabic if he got the right opportunity.

Nigam was awarded ‘Best Playback Male Singer’ in Annual Central European Bollywood Awards, India for his songs, Kurbaan (2010) and Main Agar Kahoon (2009).

Furthemore, he received the Apsara Film Producers Guild Awards as ‘Best Playback Singer’ in 2003 for his all-time famous song, Kal Ho Naa Ho.

In 2012, he reaped another recognition for his song, Abhi Mujhe Mein Kahin (Agneepath). The music maestro was also the ‘Best Singer’ for Dill Mill Gayye Indian Television Academy Awards in 2017. He was honoured as ‘The Lord of the Chords’ by The Times of India and awarded as the Best Playback Singer of National Film Awards for his song Kal Ho Naa Ho once again.

The top 10 famous songs by Nigam are: Kal Ho Naa Ho, Abhi Mujhe Mein Kahin, Kismat Se Tum Hum Ko Mile, Ke Ghar Ab Aange, Sandese Aate Hain, Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna, Aye Dil Mein Ro, Suraj Hua Maddham, Dard Song, Saathiya, Pehli Pehli Baar Baliye.

Sonu Nigam was born on July 30, 1973 in the city of Faridabad, Haryana. His father was from Agra and his mother was from Garhwal. His sister Teesha Nigam is also a professional singer. Nigam began his singing career at the age of four, when he joined his father Agam Kumar Nigam on stage to sing Mohammed Rafi’s song Kya Hua Teri Wada.

ENTHRALLED: Sonu Nigam himself appreciated the spirit and love the audience showed for Bollywood music.

Photos by Shemeer Rasheed