Health is wealth

Qatar National Sport Day signifies the need for an active lifestyle. Noted expats tell Community how it helps prioritise well-being of citizens and residents alike. P4-5
PRAYER TIME

Fajr 4.53am
Shorooq (sunrise) 6.13am
Zuhr (noon) 11.49am
Ajr (afternoon) 3.02pm
Maghreb (sunset) 5.27pm
Isha (night) 6.57pm

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency 999
Worldwide Emergency Number 112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water 991
Local Directory 180
International Calls Enquires 150
Hamad International Airport 40106666
Labor Department 44508111, 44466537
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888
Qatar Airways 44490000
Hamad Medical Corporation 44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation 44393333, 44393363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44504050
Qatar News Agency 44450205
44450333
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444

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

Quote Unquote
“Life lived for tomorrow will always be just a day away from being realised.”
– Leo Buscaglia

Anveshanam
CAST: Jayasurya, Vijay Babu, Shruti Ramachandran
DIRECTION: Prasobh Vijayan
SYNOPSIS: Aravind is informed that something unexpected has happened to his family and has to reach the hospital immediately. What awaits him comes as a shock as he is soon sucked into a miasma of questions that he has to fight to find the answers.

THEATRES: Landmark, Royal Plaza, The Mall

Latte And The Magic Waterstone
DIRECTION: Mimi Maynard, Regina Welker
CAST: Ashley Bornancin, Danny Feihsenfeld, Leslie L. Miller
SYNOPSIS: Animals wake up to discover that the forest is facing drought. Latte, an energy-filled little hedgehog goes on a mission to find the magic waterstone and help bring back water to the forest. Together with the squirrel Tjum, they will find themselves on the most challenging adventure of their life.

THEATRES: Royal Plaza, Landmark, The Mall

For movie timings and further details please scan the QR code above with your mobile phone camera or visit qatarcinemas.com
MIA Park Bazaar 2020
WHERE: MIA Park
WHEN: Ongoing till April 25
TIME: 2pm — 8pm
MIA Park Bazaar is a modern version of the Old Souq tradition with vibrant mix of around 120 stalls. You can browse and buy handicrafts, accessories, paintings, clothing, food, jewellery, photography and art.

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.

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
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 martial arts like Karate, Shaolin Kung Fu and Kalari.

For those who wish to register e-mail at info@mamangamqatar.in or call on 33897609/44723680

Ballet Lessons
WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 4pm – 8pm
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003830.

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: Sharq 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, 66053485, 33232490 or visit www.SmedleyToastmasters.org

Artistic Gymnastic Classes
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 5:15pm — 4:15pm
The Olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

Metro Street Food
WHERE: DECC Metro Station
WHEN: Ongoing

2020 Grand Prix – Test and Race
WHERE: Losail International Circuit
WHEN: March 6 – 8
2020 Grand Prix is set to take place from March 6 till March 8 at the Losail International Circuit. Built-in just under a year, the circuit has been a regular venue of the MotoGP calendar ever since. You can watch the races with friends or family in an open-air setting where you will be surrounded by the uproar of larger crowds.

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change.
“Sport helps people come out of comfort zones”

Expats join cause with National Sport Day and underline the need to be on the right side of physiology by taking charge of your body and mind.

By Mudassir Raja

The universal saying goes ‘a healthy mind in a healthy body’. It is a point beyond doubt that a healthy lifestyle affects body, mind, mood and attitude in a very positive way. Good things come to those who sweat.

A physical activity becomes fun when it is carried out in the form of a sport and in a festive mood. National Sport Day in Qatar is a yearly occasion that offers opportunities filled with fun and fitness. It is a time to celebrate the healthy way of living as people in Qatar take off from work to partake fitness with an air of festivity.

A varied programme of sport and other physical activities aimed at promoting active and healthy lifestyles takes centre stage at various locations to mark the day. The one-of-its-kind event—held every second Tuesday of February—encourages all members of the society to take part in the nationwide celebration.

In this connection Community, got in touch with prominent members of different expatriate communities to learn how they celebrate and view the vision behind the festivity.

Julia Toon, a British expatriate and longtime resident of Qatar, is a well-known chef promoting healthy food. She eulogised the vision behind the sport day and underlines the necessity of having an active life and nutritious food.

“For the nation to host such a special day as the sport day, where the people are encouraged to get outside and be active, I believe it is very important. It is very easy to live a sedentary life in Qatar due to the intense weather and our computerised lives. The human body is not meant to sit all day. We should be as active as we can throughout the day. It is also important to eat well and make sensible choices in order to keep healthy,” Julia said.

She added: “The National Sport Day, I believe is the perfect platform to encourage healthy activities in order to promote good health and an active lifestyle. It helps to educate the populace and encourage all to be responsible...
for their health, well-being and happiness.

Julia attended a special event at Oryx International School. The school, she led and judged the ‘Create a Salad’ competition. The theme behind this activity was to inspire people to eat healthily, have fun and enjoy being creative. “For many years, my main activity on the sport day had been walking my dogs — my everyday main pastime — and the other members of my family play golf!”

Pierre Daniel is an active French athlete who has walked and cycled around Qatar. Pierre spent the Sport Day at Aspire Zone taking part in different public activities — fun runs, park and run, walk, martial arts, and fitness classes. “I joined the activities very early in the morning with my other colleagues. Later, my family joined me and we enjoyed different sport activities together.”

Sharing his thoughts on the active lifestyle, the French athlete said: “The recurrence of physical activity is very important in everyone’s life. It helps to balance social and work lives. Being active physiologically helps generate certain good hormones. It is a tool that helps you maintain brain chemistry. It genuinely makes people feel happy.”

“Qatar follows its vision of 2030. One of the pillars of the vision is sport. Sport brings people together and help create strong communities. It is also a social activity. I, being a sport loving person, am at ease in Qatar because of the sport-friendly environment. Sport helps people come out of their comfort zones. Sporting activities have generally become a part of Qatar culture.”

Aliguma Saul Rayan is a prominent leader of the Ugandan expatriate community in Qatar. He motivates his community members to get involved in different sport activities. “The Ugandan community has more than one football teams. People work for different companies in different areas but they get together to play football. The sport day actually helps in finding and uplifting other talented sportpersons.” He added: “This day is not necessarily an occasion to get involved in sports activities. Instead, it gives people from different walks of life a chance to come together and celebrate sportsmanship as they give themselves a big reminder of how important healthy body and mind are.”

Mohammad Redzuan No.1 have a bent of Malaysian Association of Qatar, attended the sport day activities organised by his company for all employees. “The day was fun-filled. Sport activities brought people from different backgrounds together. I think one of the best and the most interesting events was tug of war that was attended by both adults and kids. The event overall created a spirit of togetherness, harmony and joy.”

“The Government of Qatar has a good vision and mission. There is a lot of interest in sport activities and training of sport persons.”

Riyaz Ahmed Bakali is a noted community member of Pakistani expatriate community. He sees the rising interest in sports in Qatar as a positive sign. “Qatar has long been involved in organising different international sporting events. There is envelopable infrastructure for sport activities. People of all walks of life can take advantage of the infrastructure from playing tennis to walking or jogging at Corniche.”

“In further boost the interest in sports, the country has started celebrating the sport day. Sport has become a strategy for Qatar. It is an objective of the country to keep its people active, healthy and happy. There is no other example to promote good health and joy.”

“We highly admire the Qatari government’s vision in shaping our mindsets positively by bringing sport into everyone’s life.”

— Mohammad Redzuan Nordin, President of Malaysian Association of Qatar

“The National Sport Day, I believe is the perfect platform to encourage healthy activities in order to promote good health and an active lifestyle”

— Julia Toon, British chef

“The recurrence of physical activity is very important in everyone’s life. It helps to balance social and work lives. Being active physiologically helps generate certain good hormones”

— Pierre Daniel, French athlete

“We have been organising different sport tournaments for people of different age groups.”

— Aliguma Saul Rayan, prominent Ugandan community leader
NEA Qatar organises blood donation drive

Nepal Engineer Association — Qatar Chapter (NEA-Qatar) recently organised a blood donation drive at HMC Blood Donor Centre. Over 30 members of NEA-Qatar participated in the drive. Speaking on the occasion, Padam Sha, President of NEA-Qatar, said, “NEA-Qatar aims to inspire more and more people for blood donation. We’re proud to see so many of our members taking part in the drive.”

Arjun Prasad Bhatterai, community leader, said, “We are young and healthy, we have the responsibility to transfer some of our energy for those in need. Many times, we hear that people lose their precious life because of not getting blood on time, so we wanted to contribute to that situation.” Mohammed Ayub, member of NEA-Qatar, “Donating blood is one of the best things one can do to help a person. The initiative of the drive is to raise awareness on the significance of blood donation and to save lives.” — Text and photos by Usha Wagle Gautam

IEI-Qatar Chapter conducts technical session

The Institution of Engineers India – Qatar Chapter (IEI-Qatar Chapter) recently conducted a panel speech session on ‘Energy Conservation: Today’s Challenges’ at Oryx Rotana. The session was attended by over 110 member engineers.

Ahmed al-Jolo, President of Arab Engineers Federation, was the chief guest and Nishad Azeem, former chairman of Qatari Society of Engineers and CEO of Coastal Qatar, the guest of honour. Abdul Sathar, Chairman of IEI-Qatar Chapter, welcomed the gathering and introduced the guest speakers along with stating the importance of the seminar.

KM Salihudeen FIE was the moderator of the technical session. The session was conducted by Professor Syed Javaid Zaidi, Chair Professor of Chemical Engineering and QAFAC Chair in Qatar University, along with K M Bazeeth Ahamed, Director of Conserve Engineering Solutions, and Dr Rajendran Sankaran Researcher at Qatar University. Ahmed al-Jolo along with Abdul Sathar felicitated the speakers on the occasion.

PICPA Doha marks Qatar National Sport Day

Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) Doha LLC(G) recently organised various activities, spearheaded by the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE) Qatar Chapter in collaboration with Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) and Philippine Professional Organization Qatar (PPO-Q), as part of Qatar National Sport Day celebrations at MIA Park. Sheila Medel, President of PICE Qatar Chapter, welcomed the gathering, which was followed by a message by David Des Dicang, Labor Attaché II at the Embassy of the Philippines. The event included various activities, including dance, sack race, tug of war and pictionary.
Palakkadan Nattarangu elects new office bearers

Palakkadan Nattarangu, a socio-cultural organisation affiliated to Indian Cultural Centre under the aegis of embassy of India, recently elected new office bearers for the tenure of 2020 to 22. The new office bearers include V A Gopinath, President; Gopalakrishnan K V, Vice President; Nithin Baburaj, Secretary; Chandrasekharan K A, Treasurer; Thekkekara Jothiraj, Joint Treasurer; and Ragh Kumar, Lal Kunnil, Rasin Eddiapayil, Sreeja Vadaikkadath Muraleedharan.


The organisation plans on hosting several socio-cultural activities in this calendar year, including Eid, Onam Celebration and the Nilosatvam function along with various medical camps.

La Bodega Negra in The Middle East opens at the St Regis Hotel Doha

La Bodega Negra, the celebrated Mexican restaurant originally from Soho in London, recently launched its very first Middle East outlet at the St Regis Hotel Doha, stated a press release. The recently opened restaurant offers guests a unique Mexican dining experience, with an outstanding atmosphere, food and beverages available in a cozy setting inside or the beautiful outdoor terrace.

The opening celebration was attended by VIP guests, local celebrities and the social elite of Doha’s vibrant dining scene, media and loyal customers. The restaurant was alive with music and entertainment by Lannka, a musician well known for incorporating folkloric sounds and ancient rhythms, bringing them into an electronic realm of deep house music.

Guests savoured the La Bodega Negra menu, featuring favourites from authentic Mexican cuisine, alongside a fine selection of beverages specifically created for the evening.

The restaurant was transformed for the evening to allow the guests to indulge in a complete La Bodega Negra ambience, as they explored the interiors of the Hacienda-style designed rooms. Guests enjoyed the authentic atmosphere, viewing the variety of unique and interesting art pieces including sculptures, paintings and pottery. The restaurant also includes an expansive leafy garden terrace, where many people relaxed and enjoyed their evening.

Will Ricker, Owner of La Bodega Negra, said, “We are thrilled to have finally opened the first La Bodega Negra in the Middle East here in Doha. I look forward to welcoming more guests in our Mexican home at the St Regis Hotel. We promise exquisite Mexican favourites, cooked using ingredients sourced specially for us.”

Ian Hunt, Operations Director at La Bodega Negra Doha, added: “It was a fantastic night. The feedback was amazing, and we are very happy that everyone enjoyed the music and evening in a laid-back environment, which is the essence of Mexican culture. We look forward to fantastic times ahead with great entertainment, food, and beverages to be offered to our guests.”

Nepal and India football teams compete in 8th ACFT

Nepal Football Team Qatar and Indian Community Team recently played against each other in 8th Asian Community Football Tournament (ACFT) organised by Qatar Football Association at Al Arabi Sports Club.

The players of Indian Community Team included Sandeep, Badusha, Shivas, Salman Fans, Shajeer, Agnin, Faisal, Salman Zubair, Ashique, Sadik, Shuhaib, Kannan, Muteer and Hem. Players of Nepal Football Team included Anjum Subba, Purna Thami, Purna Daniwar, Tej Narayan Limbu, Ranjeet Sachin Sadahi, Sunan Limbu, Jebi Rai, Jaman Limbu, Dilli Parhaq Limbu, Rajkumar Choudary, Rakesh Sapkota, Bikash Pardah, and Rojna Limbu. The match was drawn between the teams.

- Text and photos by Usha Wagle Gautam
An emotionally devastating film about

By Justin Chang

The members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences did something extraordinarily rare on Sunday night. They gave the Oscar for best picture of the year to — wait for it — the actual best picture of the year.

You may not concur, which is fine, even great. Movies were made for vigorous argument, for the passionate drawing of aesthetic and ideological battle lines. But if we were to look at the Oscar pantheon from this young century alone, I would say that Parasite, Bong Joon-ho’s genre-blurring marvel of a darkly comic thriller, joins an elite company of best picture winners — I’m thinking of Moonlight, 12 Years a Slave, The Hurt Locker, No Country for Old Men, The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King and not much else — that could be plausibly defended as the very finest films nominated in their respective years.

And yet, even within said elite company, Parasite stands in a history-making class by itself. Bong’s movie is not just the first Korean production but also the first non-English-language picture ever to win the Oscar for best picture. (He also became the first Korean filmmaker to win the Oscar for directing.) Parasite is the first movie to win best picture and the international feature award (formerly known as the foreign-language film award) in the same night.

It is the second winner of the Palme d’Or, the Cannes Film Festival’s top prize, to take the best picture Oscar, and the first since Marty pulled off the same feat 64 years ago, thus forging — or renewing — a symbolic bond between the Hollywood establishment and the most venerated platform for international cinema.

Parasite has dealt a much-needed slap to the American film industry’s narcissism, its long-standing love affair with itself, its own product and its own image. It has startled the academy into recognising that no country’s cinema has a monopoly on greatness — no small thing at a time when trumped-up nationalism and xenophobia have a way of seeping into our art no less than our politics.

And in a year of unwelcome resurgence for #OscarsSoWhite, especially in the acting categories (where Cynthia Erivo was the sole actor of colour nominated), the sight of actors Song Kang Ho, Park So Dam, Cho Yeo Jeong, Lee Jung Eun and other members of the Parasite cast and crew taking the stage was nothing less than a balm — and a sign, perhaps, that the academy’s efforts to diversify its ranks and become a truly global institution are having an imperfect but measurable effect.

The victory of Parasite has shattered a glass ceiling that held stubbornly firm for 92 years, even in the face of best picture nominees such as Jean Renoir’s Grand Illusion (1937), Ingmar Bergman’s Cries and Whispers (1972), Ang Lee’s Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000) and Michael Haneke’s Amour (2012) — masterpieces all, it’s worth noting, had any of them won, they would have restored some luster to the academy’s often lackluster history.

By no means should Parasite have been the first movie to achieve this milestone; it frankly boggles the mind, in ways both thrilling and sobering, to realise that Bong has pulled off something that Fellini and Bergman and Kurosawa and Truffaut could not. Hell, if more academy members had voted for Alfonso Cuaron’s Roma last year, we might have been spared the indignity of Green Book.

But today is not a day to spend dwelling on the regressive missteps and missed opportunities of...
Oscar past. It is not a day to waste time stewing about *Crash* and *A Beautiful Mind* and *Forrest Gump* and all the times when art lost out to sentimentalised views of race, class and (American) history. I’d much rather think about all the Korean-non-conversant moviegoers who, having slept on *Parasite* all season long, will finally, grudgingly force themselves to surmount “the 1-inch-tall barrier of subtitles,” in Bong’s unimprovable phrase, and watch the damn thing. My God, they’re in for a treat.

I wouldn’t go so far as to say that all is forgiven... but my God, it matters that the best picture Oscar has gone to *Parasite*.

I wouldn’t go so far as to say that all is forgiven; academy absolution is in the eye of the moviegoer. But my God, it matters that the best picture Oscar has gone to *Parasite*, a morally galvanising, viscerally unsettling and emotionally devastating movie about patriarchal sins, broken families, wealth inequality and the class hierarchy of Seoul as a microcosm of capitalist rot. Remember that until this year, no Korean movie had even been nominated for the international feature Oscar — or any Oscar — let alone come within spitting distance of best picture. What can we say? When South Korea makes history, it really makes history.

Bong, of course, is not a stand-in for Korean cinema, and it would be reductive to see him as such. He is not Lee Chang-dong, Park Chan-wook or Hong Sang-soo, to name three important, internationally renowned Korean filmmakers that any self-respecting member of the academy should be familiar with. Championed for years by none other than his recent Oscar rival Quentin Tarantino (to whom he gave a moving shout-out from the stage), and hailed from the beginning as an heir to the mantles of Hitchcock and Spielberg, Bong is one of those filmmakers who tells stories in a cinematic idiom so fluent and accessible that conventional language barriers, for all intents and purposes, cease to exist.

One of the many ironies underpinning the victory of *Parasite* is that Bong, more than most of his contemporaries, is a student and ardent lover of American cinema, someone who grew up watching Hollywood movies on American Forces Korean Network, the TV channel for US soldiers stationed in Korea. You see that love in his work.

His 2003 masterpiece, *Memories of Murder*, is an epistemological serial-killer thriller that anticipates David Fincher’s *Zodiac* (and remains one of the few movies worthy of the comparison). His 2006 hit, the gloriously entertaining monster movie *The Host*, should be essential viewing for every Hollywood filmmaker tasked with a *Godzilla* or *Pacific Rim* reboot. The two pictures Bong made just before *Parasite* — the thrillers *Snowpiercer* and *Okja* — were made with Hollywood stars and big-budget visual effects, and shot mostly in English.

It’s instructive, I think, that after two stabs at going Hollywood, it was Bong’s return to Korean filmmaking — to an intimately scaled, modestly budgeted production with an entirely Korean cast and crew — that resulted in a mid-career masterpiece, a movie that spoke more directly and powerfully to audiences than anything he had made in years. He made a movie, in short, that met the academy more than halfway — and the academy, to its credit, responded in kind.

In a year when its members could have voted for a British war drama that exudes a more obvious kind of Oscar-worthiness (*1917*) — or two great American movies that are, in themselves, monuments to the greatness of American cinema (Once Upon a Time in Hollywood and The Irishman) — the victory of *Parasite* is an enormously meaningful statement.

And not one that I expect will be repeated anytime soon. No one who has followed the Oscars with any regularity over the years can be naive enough to think that progress is a straight line; a major step forward one year will almost certainly be answered by two steps backward the next. Post-*Parasite*, I wouldn’t steel myself for a sudden succession of best picture winners hailing from China, Mexico, Germany or Senegal. There will be retrenchments and detours. There will be reminders that the academy, in retaining its long-standing members while broadening its international reach, is an unwieldy organisation often at cross-purposes with itself, where one hand scarcely knows what the other is doing. Maybe that’s another reason to celebrate *Parasite* and the anxious, unsettled moment to which it speaks so indelibly: This may be the greatest movie ever made about, and for, a house divided. – *Los Angeles Times/TNS*

**BREAKTHROUGH:** Until this year, no Korean movie had been nominated for the international feature Oscar — or any Oscar.
The long-necked sauropod dinosaurs, among the largest animals that ever lived, ate only plants – but what plants could nourish such a monster, particularly when young and growing fast?

Researchers compared different plants that lived in Age of Dinosaurs for their nutritional value and digestibility for immature, growing sauropods.

**Top rated food: Horsetails**

Equisetum, a spore-bearing plant; popular names: “scouring rush” and “horsetail”

Highly digestible, nutritious; low-growing, easily reached by young dinosaurs.

**No. 2: Gingko**

Fruit-bearing leafy tree with edible nuts; used today as an ornamental.
Smartphone applications not reliable to spot skin cancer

Smartphone apps that assess the suspicious moles can’t be relied upon to detect all skin cancer cases, researchers have found. Also, the regulatory mechanism for these apps doesn’t provide adequate protection to the public, according to a study published in the journal The BMJ.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 2-3 million non-melanoma and 152,000 melanoma skin cancer cases occur globally each year.

“Our review found poor and variable performance of algorithm-based smartphone apps. These apps have not yet shown sufficient promise to recommend their use,” said study authors from the University of Warwick, the UK. Apps, using artificial intelligence (AI), offer the possibility of early detection and treatment of suspicious moles. But they could be harmful, particularly if false reassurance caused delay in people seeking medical advice, the researchers said.

In Europe, two apps (SkinVision and SkinScan) are available. They are regulated as class I medical devices (deemed to have low to moderate risk to the user). No apps have the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. A previous expert review of such apps suggested that there was a high chance of skin cancers being missed.

For the study, the researchers examined the validity and findings of research, looking at the accuracy of algorithm-based smartphone ‘skin’ apps. Nine studies that evaluated six different apps were identified. Studies were small and of poor quality. They had problems, like the suspicious moles being chosen by clinicians not the app users, photographs taken by trained researchers on study phones and not by users on their phones, and photographs that could not be evaluated by the apps were excluded.

Also, study participants were not tracked to identify cancer cases, missed by the apps.

SkinScan was evaluated in a single study of 15 moles with five melanomas. The app didn’t identify any of the melanomas.

SkinVision was evaluated in two studies. One study of 108 moles (35 cancerous or precancerous moles) achieved a sensitivity of 88 per cent and a specificity of 79 per cent.

It meant 12 per cent patients with cancerous or precancerous moles would be missed, while 21 per cent of those non-problematic moles could be identified as potentially cancerous.

The study authors say in a population of 1,000 users in which three per cent have melanoma, SkinVision could still miss four of 30 melanomas and 200 people would wrongly be told their mole was of high concern. – IANS
Wordsearch

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

Codeword

Sudoku

Bound And Gagged
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Informal neckwear injured people (10)
7 Unmarried people taking some kissing lessons? (7)
8 Climbed a pole to see flowers? (5)
10 Something used by angler for river fish? (4)
11 Footwear for coaches (8)
12 Climbed a pole to see flowers? (5)
14 Something used by angler for river fish? (4)
15 Dreamy state produced by nectar (6)
17 Attractive trap in sorcery (8)
18 Only turning to one instrument (4)
21 I take ladders out from wrecks (5)
22 Dropped in on Italian film director (7)
23 Terrible hag snorted, being wilful (10)

Down
1 Boat capsized in ocean (5)
2 Condiment for Jack Tar (4)
3 Take in topless cab before brothers turn up (6)
4 Rows about stray dogs (8)
5 Oriental festival on the first of November (7)
6 Terrible monster or a scientist (10)
7 Terrible monster or a scientist (10)
8 Free to be let out again? (8)
9 Orderly sorting out messy attic (10)
10 1000 is suitable for a square peg (6)
11 Availing oneself of gun is wrong (5)
12 In feudal society as well (4)

Yesterday's Solutions

Wordsearch

Codeword
The Oscars ceremony fights its own irrelevance 

By Lorraine Ali

South Korea saved Hollywood from itself on Sunday night when Parasite won the top prize at the 92nd Academy Awards, the culmination of a telecast that struggled to entertain let alone find relevance in the art form it was honouring.

To celebrate film’s biggest night, the Oscars relied heavily on talent imported from television, music and theatre.

Welcome Vee’s Julia Louis-Dreyfus! Billie Eilish! Anthony Ramos of Hamilton! Most of the evening’s big winners, such as Laura Dern and Brad Pitt – who took home supporting acting honours for Marriage Story and Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood, respectively – were easily predicted. And all the funniest stand-out moments in the three-hour telecast came when the show pointed out just how out of touch the academy is with the industry’s leading edge.

“It’s time to come alive, because the Oscars is so white,” sang Janelle Monáe in the show’s opening number, flanked by Pose star and Emmy winner Billy Porter. They highlighted the lack of diversity in Oscar categories by praising women, people of colour and productions that were snubbed, in the song lyrics or in the costumes of the dancers onstage, some of whom were dressed as characters from My Name Is Dolemite, others as Little Women.

British actress Cynthia Erivo was the only person of colour nominated for acting, and it was for playing a former slave, no less. For her role as freedom fighter and abolitionist Harriet Tubman in Harriet, she lost, as predicted, to Renée Zellweger, who played Judy Garland in Judy.

No women were nominated for the director award, and Little Women’s Greta Gerwig was among those snubbed.

Former Oscar hosts Chris Rock and Steve Martin, who made an appearance together early in Sunday’s show at the Dolby Theatre, joked about the academy’s failure to recognise those outside of its traditional go-to choices – white men. And though it’s a joke that’s growing old after so many missed opportunities, it was still fresher than the familiar faces who delivered familiar acceptance speeches thanks to the marathon of Oscar precursor awards they’d won.

“So many great directors this year,” said Rock.

“I don’t know Chris, I thought there was something missing this year,” responded Martin.

“Women?”

“Yeah!”

The pair also picked up the #OscarsSoWhite thread and wove it into their short buddy act.

“Think how much the Oscars have changed in the past 92 years,” said Martin. “Back in 1929, there were no Black acting nominees.”

“And now in 2020, we got one,” said Rock. “Amazing growth.”

Other presenters whose gags bested the speeches for entertainment value included SNL vets Maya Rudolph and Kristen Wiig and Cats stars James Corden and Rebel Wilson, who poked fun at 2019’s most notorious flop.

The generational and racial divide between those presenting and entertaining onstage and the majority of nominees and winners belied a tension in the academy. Reflecting in the battle between Parasite and JoJo! the telecast pitted the new faces of pop culture against the old methodology of a studio system that’s been slow to catch up with the rest of the world.

So what did the show’s organisers do to make up for the lack of surprise, and colour, in the award categories?

They organised a diverse array of presenters and guests from all over the entertainment universe: Atlanta’s Zazie Beetz, Spike Lee. Salma Hayek. In clips of footage and songs from previous winners, Sunday’s Oscars attempted to highlight films such as Slumdog Millionaire, La Bamba and Moonlight from years when a fresh perspective, or at least a new story or two, prevailed.

If the honours look predictable, put your surprises in the choreographed telecast.

Even on this front, there was at least one surprise that qualified as a head-scratcher: To the confusion of several in the crowd at the Dolby Theatre, rapper Eminem performed his Oscar-winning song Lose Yourself! seven years after the 2003 Oscar triumph.

It was telling that the ads during commercial breaks for forthcoming TV series such as Gentx: Arthus and Mrs. America looked more innovative and in-touch than much of what came out in theatres over the last year.

The argument that television has overtaken film as the leading, innovative medium gained more steam after Sunday night’s ceremony. No wonder Regina King, Reese Witherspoon and Nicole Kidman have detected, at least momentarily, to the small screen. Streamers such as Apple TV+ and Netflix, which was up for 24 awards going into the Oscars this year, have a place for them, and it’s not just as a presenter.

Hollywood has no excuse for falling behind, or adhering to the old patterns of awarding the same films and same folks. Film celebrities have been some of the loudest proponents of inclusion, on all levels, and of pushing the ball forward creatively.

This year’s Oscars showed an art form in dire need of a relevancy check. Instead we got the biggest tap act of 2002 and a whole lot of jokes about the industry’s inability to see its own stasis. – Los Angeles Times/TNS

Oscars telecast draws 23.6 million viewers on ABC, an all-time low

The ratings comeback for the Oscars was short-lived as ABC’s telecast on Sunday was watched by 23.6 million viewers, an all-time low.

The 92nd Academy Awards ceremony from the Dolby Theatre was down 20% from 2019. Last year, the telecast was up 12% coming off its previous all-time low of 26.5 million viewers in 2018.

The ceremony presented by the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences was historic due to the surprising best picture win for Parasite – the first non-English film ever to take the trophy. But box office appeal is often an indicator for Oscar ratings, and the film from South Korean director Bong Joon Ho has only made about $35 million in ticket sales in the US and Canada.

The audience level for last year’s programme rose due to the presence of Disney’s mega-hit Black Panther, which had seven nominations and three wins, and musical performances from Lady Gaga and Queen.

TV viewing for the Oscars and other awards shows has been under pressure in recent years as more viewers are watching video online. During live awards ceremonies, younger viewers tend to watch clips on social media sites instead of sitting through an entire three-hour plus telecast.

Parasite was the big winner on Sunday, earning awards for direction, original screenplay and international film. Other major category winners included Joaquin Phoenix for best actor in The Joker, Renée Zellweger for best actress in Judy, Laura Dern for best supporting actress in Marriage Story, and Brad Pitt for best supporting actor in Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood.

The ceremony had a sizeable helping of political rhetoric, which has been considered a turnoff for some viewers and turned into talking points for right wing critics who seek to portray Hollywood figures as leftist, out-of-touch elites. The most direct hit came from Pitt, who commented that the 45th president is a “short buddy act.”

After the 2003 Oscar triumph. – Los Angeles Times/TNS

Supporting actor: Brad Pitt accepts the actor in a Supporting Role award for Once Upon a Time…in Hollywood him. But the Senate voted not to allow witnesses at the trial. Trump was acquitted last Wednesday. – Los Angeles Times/TNS
How the Oscars kept Eminem’s surprise performance a secret

By Edward Pevos

Just how did the Academy Awards pull off one of its most secretive performances in years when Eminem surprised at the 2020 show? Few people knew about it and a fake song was used during rehearsals.

According to an ET interview with Robert Mills, senior vice president of Alternative Series, Specials and Late-Night Programming at ABC, the surprise had actually been in the works for years.

“I want to say the first time it was ever talked about was after Justin Timberlake opened with ‘Can’t Stop the Feeling’ in 2017,” Mills told ET. “We talked about it with the Academy that Eminem, the fact that he never performed that song and it’s such an anthem, and it’s one everybody knows and it won the Oscar. Wouldn’t it be great to figure out a way to get him to come and do that?”

The Detroit rapper won the Oscar for best original song for Lose Yourself at the 2003 awards show, but didn’t accept the award in person. The rapper wrote on social media after the surprise performance at last night’s show, “Look, if you had another shot, another opportunity… Thanks for having me Academy. Sorry it took me 18 years to get here.”

The tweet parroted lyrics from Lose Yourself where he asks “If you had one shot or one opportunity to seize everything you ever wanted in one moment would you capture it or just let it slip?”

The answer for Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers, was the former Sunday. His apparently vulgar performance was largely censored for ABC’s broadcast of the 92nd Academy Awards, but attendees at Hollywood’s Dolby Theatre got more than an earful.

While the crowd roared with thunderous approval during his inspired performance, photos of seemingly bewildered showbiz types including The Irishman director Martin Scorcese and singers Idina Menzel and Billie Eilish made the rounds on social media.

When Eminem won his Oscar 17 years ago, he stayed home because he thought he had no chance of actually collecting a statue.

“Actually, I was sleeping that night,” he said in an interview for the music program Behind the Boards. “I just felt like I had no chance of winning because, you know, when I heard I was nominated, I thought that was it for actors.”

His co-writer Luis Resto accepted that honor from presenter Barbra Streisand. Lose Yourself was the first hip-hop song to win an Academy Award.

“I had to be the right time, it had to be in the right place in the show,” Mills told ET. He said that the Detroit rapper only rehearsed the performance one time. It was such a secret, a different song was actually played during the rehearsal so no one would know what was going on.

“When we did dress rehearsals, there was a whole alternate beat where it was just Eminem’s band playing ‘You Should Be Dancing’ by The Bee Gees with John Travolta in the background, so that’s how much it was kept a secret and surprise. There was a whole alternate ending to that beat. “If anybody happened to wander in and see it they would have been like, ‘Oh yeah, there’s been a switch with a salute to Saturday Night Fever. It was a fake-out.”

Mills told ET Eminem was really into the surprise performance.

“The element of surprise was really paramount to him that I think had it been leaked, he would have backed out. It was great that it was able to be kept such a huge, jaw-dropping surprise. Really, up until 48 hours before, I think maybe six people knew, The Academy, us at the network, the producers and Eminem’s team. And that was really it.” – TNS
The Community College of Qatar (CCQ) recently marked Qatar National Sport Day with a series of fun and productive activities at Park 65 Onaiza. Various sports activities along with medical tests and other initiatives to encourage the adoption of a healthy lifestyle were set up on the occasion.

CCQ’s celebration was divided into three main categories, including sports events for adults and children, lab testing for health, and sports and nutrition consultations.

Speaking on the occasion, Safia Saleh al-Sheeb, Head of Public Relations and Communication of CCQ, said, “At CCQ, we believe that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body, and that’s why we are constantly encouraging all our community members to engage in sports activities, eat healthy food, and look after their health in general. Our beloved nation needs more and more educated and healthy generations that work to boost its economy and develop its resources, and there is no doubt that the activities we offered our College Community today contribute towards this endeavour.”

The sports celebration featured a ‘Telematch’ competition for children that included commando crawls and obstacle courses, and a five-a-side football tournament, where each team was led by a Qatar Stars League player. In addition, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, javelin throwing, and cycling games were held along with the ‘CCQ Strongest Man’ contest which was bagged by Wessam Mokhtar, Finance Department at CCQ. To encourage fitness and an active lifestyle, CCQ also launched its ‘Be the Biggest Winner’ competition, where over the span of 3 months, participants competed against each other to see who loses the most weight for a special prize. During the event, participants were also given the opportunity to play with professional players from Qatar’s football clubs.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdulrahman Bakhit al-Abdullah, a football player, stressed on the importance of the Sport Day for health, the mind and the body, as well as how it brings families, children and friends together. He also thanked the CCQ for organising the event.

Ahmad al-Mohammad, football player of Muaither Sports Club, called on all members of the community to participate in sporting activities and practice sports continuously because of their numerous physical and psychological benefits, as well as their role in promoting co-operation and teamwork.

As part of the sports medical tests, participants went through body composition analysis, footprint analysis to detect birth defects, joint flexibility tests, lower body muscular endurance tests, and metabolic rate analysis at rest and in motion.

Abdeltawab Mahfouz, one of the participants, stressed on the importance of the tests conducted. He said, “The activities were fun and the test was very informative and will help me make more balanced lifestyle choices.”

Sports and nutrition consultations provided participants with key information on the foundations of optimal nutrition, in addition to tips for making healthy lifestyle changes.