Netflix didn’t win best picture, but *Parasite* couldn’t have triumphed at the Oscars without it. P4-5

**Reviews**

Harley Quinn and her girl gang are lovable psychopaths.

Page 14

**Showbiz**

I don’t have a set idea on what I want to do: Alaya F.

Page 15
**Love Aaj Kal**  
**CAST:** Kartik Aaryan, Sara Ali Khan, Randeep Hooda  
**DIRECTION:** Imtiaz Ali  
**SYNOPSIS:** A contemporary and relatable portrayal of two stories set in different times that interact to learn (or perhaps unlearn) from each other the different facets of love, commitment and relationships.  
**THEATRES:** Landmark, Royal Plaza, The Mall

**Sonic The Hedgehog**  
**DIRECTION:** Jeff Fowler  
**CAST:** Jim Carrey, Ben Schwartz, James Marsden  
**SYNOPSIS:** Sonic tries to navigate the complexities of life on Earth with his newfound best friend – a human named Tom Wachowski. They must soon join forces to prevent the evil Dr. Robotnik from capturing Sonic and using his powers for world domination.  
**THEATRES:** Royal Plaza, Landmark, The Mall

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**USEFUL NUMBERS**

- Emergency: 999
- Worldwide Emergency Number: 112
- Kahramaa – Electricity and Water: 991
- Local Directory: 180
- International Calls Enquirers: 150
- Hamad International Airport: 40106666
- Labor Department: 44508111, 44406537
- Mowasalat Taxi: 44588888
- Qatar Airways: 44490000
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 44392222, 44393333
- Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation: 44455555, 44454644
- Primary Health Care Corporation: 44593333, 44593363
- Qatar Assistive Technology Centre: 44594050
- Qatar News Agency: 44490205
- Q-Post – General Postal Corporation: 44464444

**Humanitarian Services Office**  
(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)  
- Ministry of Interior: 40253372, 40253373, 40253369  
- Ministry of Health: 40253370, 40253364  
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253364, 40253365  
- Qatar Airways: 40253374

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**PRAYER TIME**

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**Quote Unquote**  
"However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at." 
- Stephen Hawking

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**Community Editor**  
Kamran Rehmat  
e-mail: community@gulf-times.com  
Telephone: 44466405  
Fax: 44350474
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 a vibrant mix of around 120 stalls. You can browse and buy handicrafts, accessories, paintings, clothing, food, jewellery, photography and art.

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 33807609/44723680

Metro Street Food
WHERE: DECC Metro Station
WHEN: Ongoing

Ballet Lessons
WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 4pm – 6pm
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003830.

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.

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

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
The most important thing Netflix has done for Parasite, and the art of cinema in general, has more to do with television than film. By exposing its audience to a panoply of international television shows, Netflix has made Americans comfortable with subtitles, writes Mary McNamara.

One of the three acceptance speeches Bong Joon-ho made at the Oscars on Sunday night included a shout-out to Netflix, which is a shame; it’s tough to imagine Parasite making its much-deserved and historical wins at the 92nd Academy Awards without it.

Not because, as some have suggested, the antipathy many film academy voters feel toward the streaming service made them reluctant to bestow cinema’s highest honour on Netflix’s best picture nominees, The Irishman and Marriage Story. Netflix spent an estimated $70 million on its Oscar campaigns this year, a significant amount even by Hollywood standards, that resulted in 24 nominations and two wins, for the documentary American Factory and Laura Dern’s supporting performance in Marriage Story.

Bong certainly understands the ire Netflix can generate among academy members — he made his 2017 movie Okja with the streamer, and when it screened at the Cannes Film Festival that year, audience members booed when Netflix’s logo appeared in the opening credits.

Okja and Snowpiercer, perhaps Bong’s most universally known movies before Parasite, are currently available on Netflix, which has most certainly broadened the filmmaker’s popularity (his other pictures, including Mother and The Host, are scattered on other platforms), but that’s not how Netflix helped Parasite become the first film to win both best international feature and best picture.

The most important thing Netflix has done for Parasite, and the art of cinema in general, has more to do with television than film. By exposing its audience to a panoply of international television shows, including but absolutely not limited to, Elite (Spain), Call My Agent! (France), Dark and Babylon Berlin (Germany), Kingdom (South Korea) and Atelier and Terrace House (Japan), Netflix has made Americans comfortable with subtitles.

Which, as Bong said himself last month when accepting his Golden Globe for foreign language film, are “the one-inch barrier” that has prevented far too many people from exploring the wonders of non-English language cinema.

Netflix did its level best to break...
This barrier specifically for academy voters with last year’s Roma, for which Alfonso Cuarón won in the directing, cinematography and foreign-language (now international) feature categories, only to see Green Book take best picture.

This year, the streamer had two acting nominations for the often, though not entirely, subtitled The Two Popes.

But more important, the streaming service has proved that all sorts of people, especially young people, are not afraid of subtitles, especially when they accompany story forms with which they are already familiar — police procedurals, workplace comedies and sci-fi thrillers.

When the 2010 Danish political drama Borgen premiered on KCET in 2013 (two years after it was made available to some American viewers through LinkTV), it was an instantly buzzed-about anomaly. Subtitles? On television?

Later that same year, the French zombie drama Les Revenants appeared on Sundance TV.

The very first Netflix original series, Lilhammer, revolved around an American gangster trying to find his footing in (and learn the correct pronunciation of) the small Norwegian town of Lilleshammer. Not a huge hit, but big enough to launch Netflix into original content, and the international marketplace. That necessitated the acquisition and creation of series and films in many languages, all of which became part of the often alarming pile of content confronting American audiences (which, in some cases, had the option of an almost always inferior dubbed version.)

Other television platforms, streaming, cable and even broadcast, followed suit. Suddenly, subtitles were no longer the inferior dubbed version. But they’re still there in a growing number of people that share the essential desire to unwind, “foreign films” were often seen as too much work, like poetry or avant-garde theatre.

If you didn’t understand them, or you weren’t looking forward to a “let me impress my date” conversation about metaphor, tone, technique or whatever, you just wound up feeling stupid, and who wants to pay cash money to wind up feeling stupid?

Netflix, more than even the most beloved and elucidating film critic, has proven by the increasingly international makeup of the motion picture academy, proved to a growing number of people that subtitles are not a barrier but a bridge — to people, situations and artistry that may look different but that share the essential desire to illuminate reality through storytelling. And, by the way, are also terrifically entertaining.

This is the world, with all its various beliefs, social quirks, manners of dress and social mores, its glorious smorgasbord of specific triumphs, injustices, heroes and villains.

This is what we, the true collective we, look like as we solve crimes, compete with co-workers, fall in love, betray each other, contemplate the meaning of existence and the follies of the human soul.

Parasite is a great film, with characters, themes and action instantly recognizable by anyone who has ever coveted what they perceive as the better life of another, anyone who has ever raged against the collective cost of the social hierarchy and the oblivion of those who ignore it, anyone who has ever thought that personal rule-breaking is mitigated by a greater and inarguable injustice.

Which is to say, everyone.

— Los Angeles Times/TNS

**Who is Miky Lee? 7 things to know about the Parasite producer**

By Christie D’Zurilla

Many people got their first introduction to Miky Lee on Sunday night, when the Parasite producer got the final remarks after the film won the Oscar for best picture. What they might not know is how much she has influenced the entertainment they’ve been seeing and listening to for decades.

“It’s a historic moment.” Lee told The Times at a Parasite after-party Sunday night. “I don’t know what it means for Hollywood, but I definitely know what it means for us. This opens up doors for Korean moviemakers.

So who is Miky Lee? Only the most powerful media mogul in South Korea. Here are seven nuggets to know about the 63-year-old heiress who took her share of the family fortune and grew it into a $4.1-billion media empire:

She is vice-chair of South Korea’s CJ Group

CJ Group was founded in the early 1950s by Lee’s grandfather, Lee Byung-chul, who was also the first Samsung chairman. CJ was a trading division that started with flour and sugar, then expanded into biotech and pharmaceuticals. The group was spun off from Samsung in 1993. Miky’s younger brother Lee Jay-hyun — she thanked him in her Oscars speech — took over as CEO in 2002 but was absent starting in 2014 after he was arrested and convicted of embezzlement and tax evasion. Though he was pardoned two years later and returned to run the company in 2017, the vice chair ran CJ in his absence. Miky Lee also runs CJ E&M, the group’s entertainment and media spinoff.

She’s a huge movie fan

“She’s a true cinephile who’s watched so many films and managed to bring over that fanatic passion to the world of business.” director Bong Joon-ho told the Hollywood Reporter. CJ financed Parasite as well as his films Snowpiercer, Mother and Memories of Murder. Her interest in television was born when she was a child watching shows being made at a TV studio owned by her grandfather.

She has a master’s degree from Harvard

Her educational resume is rather vast. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Seoul National University, then studied Chinese and linguistics at Taiwan National University and Japanese at Japan’s Keio University. The master’s in Asian studies came in 1986. She also studied Chinese literature and history at Fudan University in China.

She was an early investor in DreamWorks

In 1995, Lee urged CJ to invest $300 million in DreamWorks SKG in exchange for the right to distribute the new studio’s movies in Asia (with the exception of Japan). CJ became the second major investor in the studio formed by Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen, and Katzenberg told THR that without Lee and initial investor Paul Allen there would be no DreamWorks. The studio’s successes include the How to Train Your Dragon, Shrek and Kung Fu Panda franchises plus 2019’s Abominable.

She brought the movie-multiplex to South Korea

The first multiplex was opened by the CGV division of CJ in 1998, and by 2004 it was the first movie chain listed on the Korean stock exchange. The company opened the largest IMAX theater in the world in Seoul in 2017.

She was a driving force behind K-pop’s global success

Lee told Wired in 2013 that her dream was “to see people around the world enjoying Korean culture.” To that end, KCON, billed now as “the world’s largest fan celebration of Korean culture and music,” was her idea. Launched in 2012, the event is now in multiple countries, including the US. In LA it runs for four days annually, and fans get to have input on who they’d like to see each year. BTS played one of its first shows at KCON in 2014, and we know where that led.

She lives in Orange County

Yep — go figure. Lee Mi-kyung, as she’s known in Korea, is also divorced and has no children.

— Los Angeles Times/TNS
Pakistan International School Qatar (PISQ) recently organised Annual Food Carnival. The carnival aimed at transforming young people’s approach to eating and promoting the slogan ‘Health is Wealth’. The students set up stalls featuring various food items, including pastries, chocolates, jellies, juices, pasta, noodles, biryani, halwa, Kashmiri tea, various fruit salads and green salads and traditional dishes. The event also featured games and toy stalls.

Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of PISQ, inaugurated the carnival. Speaking on the occasion, she said, “It has always been an encouraging factor to bring about an awareness of love, cooperation, and kindness to promote brotherhood among the young students as part of the curriculum through such events. It will surely help the children to inculcate feelings of love, warmth, care, smiles of joy for each other.”

Birla Public School (BPS) recently organised Annual Sports Day of Birla Primary II ‘Zeal 2020’. The meet was aligned with ‘Fit India Movement’ launched by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, aimed at encouraging people to give priority to sports and fitness. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Gope Shahani, Vice Chairman of BPS; Maria Thomas, Director of BPS; A P Sharma Principal Radhika Rele, Vice-Principal (Scholastic); Bhavana V S, Vice-Principal (CBQED); Rajesh Pillai, Vice-Principal (Co-Scholastic); Joseph K, Administration Manager, and Jackson Solomon, Construction Manager. Speaking on the occasion, the principal aspired that academic learning and sports education should complement each other as it enhances leadership qualities. Anu Thomas, Headmistress of BPS Primary-II, welcomed the gathering.

Gope Shahani formally inaugurated the sports facilities that support outdoor sporting activities. The facilities include, pitches for various games such as football, tennis, handball, basketball and cricket, athletics running tracks, multi-purpose facilities, practice areas for games and PE. The ceremonial torch was handed over to Mohamed Irfan, School Sports Captain, by Maria Thomas. She presided over the oath taking ceremony and declared the sports meet open. She did the honours of handing over the house flags to the captains of the respective houses, which was followed a march past of the houses.

The Best March Past trophy, the trophy for the Best Drill and the Overall Championship trophy were awarded at the event. The fest was co-ordinated by Annie Babitha.
SG organises sports and musical activities

Sandya Group Qatar (SG), literacy and cultural Nepali organisation, recently organised various sports and musical activities as part of Qatar National Sport Day celebrations. The celebration aimed to create awareness on the importance of physical activity in a fun environment. The sports activities, including running race, tug of war and football among others.

Prem Prasad Bhatterai, Founder of SG, emphasised on the importance of sports for a healthy living. Ram Prasad Parajuli, Adviser of SG, along with Santosh KC, Vice President, highlighted the importance of sport in reducing pain, directly contributing to the creation of more fair and peaceful societies across the globe. Speaking on the occasion, Gamesh Cheetri, Chairman of SG, said that playing sports highlight key values, including respect, team playing, positive attitude and personal accountability.

— Text and photo by Usha Wagle Gautam

Khidmat Foundation organises lectures by eminent journalists

Khidmat Foundation India, a non-profit social welfare organisation, recently organised lectures by Siddharth Varadarajan, Founder Editor of the renowned digital news portal, The Wire, and Arfa Khanum Sherwani, who is its Senior Editor. This was followed by a Q&A session. Shahid Khan, an entrepreneur and Founder President of Khidmat Foundation, was the master of ceremony of the evening. The event was attended by notable community leaders. Khan introduced the guests on the occasion and made a formal appeal to extend their moral support to thewire.in, which is raising issues of common man in the era of yellow journalism. Hassan Chogle, notable social worker and business entrepreneur, presided over the event. Apart from the lectures, two books of Khan and an Urdu translation of a book written by Dr Emaduddin Khalili, famous Qatari author, was also released on the occasion. Khidmat Foundation General Secretary Dr Neshat Ahmed and Media Secretary Shakil Ahmed read short introductory notes on Sherwani, who is also a renowned TV anchor, and Varadarajan, a former editor of The Hindu, India’s national daily of repute. Roase Mumtaz, Vice President of Khidmat Foundation, along with Rashid Alam Rashid and Principal of DPS-MIS welcomed the gathering and Khan proposed a vote of thanks.
Best Buddies Qatar, along with other organisations under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation for Social Work, associated officials and groups of persons with disabilities, recently joined the Qatar National Sport Day activities at the Green Spine in Qatar Foundation.

Speaking on the occasion, Laalei Abu Alfain, Executive Director of Best Buddies Qatar, said, “The country pays great attention to the people with disabilities. Numerous sports events and activities developed to suit different disabilities. Best Buddies Qatar has contributed to providing and allocating of many modified and improved kinds of sports for persons with disabilities to ensure their active participation in the celebration of the National Sport Day. People with disabilities demonstrate a distinctive participation in various sports, national forums, events and occasions. The majority of the organisations, attending the Sport Day, hold activities for persons with disabilities and their families.”

Laalei Abu Alfain underlined the significance to aware the families about the importance of sports, its positive effects on persons’ psychological, physical, social and mental state.

SPORT DAY CELEBRATIONS: Indian Women’s Association Qatar recently organised its Annual Sports Meet to mark Qatar National Sport Day at Botanical Garden, Qatar Foundation. The meet featured outdoor activities, including yoga. Medals and certificates were distributed to the winners and participants.
Kunal’s stress buster comedy enthrals Doha audience

By Mudassir Raja

What makes a comedy a classic? Something that floats on the changing tides of time and taste, remaining relevant – and hilarious. Making people laugh is a serious business.

For him, comedy is a stress buster. His fans share the idea and enjoy his stand-up acts as stress-releaser. His bold, unapologetic and relevant comedy keeps the audience engaged and amused.

The recent show by Kunal Kamra, a stand-up Indian comedian, received huge response in Qatar as the organisers had to arrange another show same evening after the first one was sold out and the demand was still mounting.

The auditorium at Crowne Plaza Hotel was full to the capacity as Kunal entertained the audience with his blunt political jokes and social satire mixing them with cracking comments on different human whims. The gathering remained engrossed in the satirical and hilarious comments till the end of the show that lasted for one and a half hour.

People from all walks of life – mainly Indian expatriates – attended the first stand-up comedy show by Kunal. He also appreciated the interest exhibited by the Doha audience and thanked them for enjoying his comedy.

Kunal is yet another Indian comedian who seems to have had a meteoric rise with his bold, unapologetic comedy style there is no looking back for him.

Talking to Community after his show, Kunal said that he wanted people to know him by his art. “Comedy is an art and I want people to know me by my art. I follow my heart [as a comedian]. Whatever I say comes from an organic feeling. If I feel like saying it, I will say it. Whenever there is an organic feeling, I will say it because I am an artiste.”

In the same year, he did his first professional stand-up comedy show at Mumbai’s Canvas Laugh Club which the audiences loved but Kunal claims that was only because everyone else was bad. Since then Kunal has taken to comedy as a full time profession and is quite a regular on the stand up circuit. He even started his YouTube podcast ‘Shut Up Ya Kunal’ in 2017 in collaboration with his friend Ramit Verma.

Kunal is optimistic about the growing popularity of live stand-up comedy shows. “I think that the content people watch online depends on the people coming and watching live shows. An act is genuinely built live, I cannot set the rhythm of my show sitting at home. For the rhythm, I need support from live audience. If people do not watch a comedian live, he or she will not be able to produce content for Internet. Live comedy is just like music in rhythm. Every beat depends on reaction and the reaction requires the audience.”

“Comedy is a difficult genre because a comedian has to get response from the audience every 15 seconds. So you are totally dependent on them. They have to like you, and they can only like you if you have no ego and no malice. If you are candid, vulnerable and honest, they will like you.”

– Kunal Kamra, stand-up comedian

“Comedy is a difficult genre because a comedian has to get response from the audience every 15 seconds. So you are totally dependent on them. They have to like you, and they can only like you if you have no ego and no malice. If you are candid, vulnerable and honest, they will like you.”

For Kunal, he sees himself as a stress-buster. “I think I am a stress-buster. My show on weekend is no looking back for him. “Comedy is a difficult genre because a comedian has to get response from the audience every 15 seconds. So you are totally dependent on them. They have to like you, and they can only like you if you have no ego and no malice. If you are candid, vulnerable and honest, they will like you. If they do not like you, they will not respond. The show that should last for 90 minutes can get over in seven minutes. That is possible and I have been through those days.”

Kunal is optimistic about the growing popularity of live stand-up comedy shows. “I think that

Kunal agrees with the idea that comedy is a difficult genre. “Comedy is a difficult genre because a comedian has to get response from the audience every 15 seconds. So, you are totally dependent on them. They have to like you, and they can only like you if you have no ego and no malice. If you are candid, vulnerable and honest, they will like you. If they do not like you, they will not respond. The show that should last for 90 minutes can get over in seven minutes. That is possible and I have been through those days.”

Kunal is optimistic about the growing popularity of live stand-up comedy shows. “I think that

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COMMUNITY

HOUSEFULL: The auditorium at Crowne Plaza Hotel was filled to capacity as Kunal entertained the audience with his blunt political jokes and social satire mixing them with cracking comments on different human whims.
20 challenges awaiting EU in 2020

EU will face challenges ranging from Brexit to migration, the rule of law, corruption, and European Green Deal in the first year of the new decade.

**MIGRATION**
- Defending the EU’s external borders from irregular migration and crime
- Relocation of asylum seekers
- Rules on asylum procedures
- Cooperation with Turkey on migration
- Strengthening the EU’s global role

**THE RULE OF LAW AND CORRUPTION**
- ‘Polexit’: Charges that Poland is interfering with the independent judiciary could push the country to leave the EU
- Hungary: 12 aspects of the country’s democracy are facing EU scrutiny
- Malta: EU has condemned efforts to cover up corruption and money-laundering after a journalist’s murder
- Misuse of EU funds
- Rule of law conditionality

**BREXIT**
- Trade deal
- The Irish backstop
- EU nationals in the UK
- Scottish independence
- Losing a net contributor to EU budget

**EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL**
- Industrial reform
- International competition
- East-West divide inside EU
- Financing a just transition
- Delivering on promises
Prolonged sitting linked to depression risk in adolescents

Young people who spend too much time sitting still are at an increased risk of depression, researchers have warned.

The study, published in the journal Lancet Psychiatry, found that an additional 60 minutes of light activity (such as walking or doing chores) daily at age 12 was associated with a 10 per cent reduction in depressive symptoms at age 18.

“Our findings show that young people who are inactive for large proportions of the day throughout adolescence face a greater risk of depression by age 18,” said study lead author Aaron Kandola from University College London.

“We found that any degree of physical activity that can reduce the time we spend sitting down is likely to be beneficial,” Kandola added.

For the findings, the research team used data from 4,257 adolescents, who have been participating in longitudinal research from birth as part of the University of Bristol’s Children of the 90s cohort study.

The children wore accelerometers to track their movement for at least 10 hours over at least three days, at ages 12, 14 and 16.

The accelerometers reported whether the child was engaging in light activity (which could include walking or hobbies such as playing an instrument or painting), engaging in moderate-to-physical activity (such as running or cycling), or if they were sedentary.

Depressive symptoms, such as low mood, loss of pleasure and poor concentration, were measured with a clinical questionnaire. The questionnaire measures depressive symptoms and their severity on a spectrum, rather than providing a clinical diagnosis.

Between the ages of 12 and 16, total physical activity declined across the cohort, which was mainly due to a decrease in light activity and an increase in sedentary behaviour.

The researchers found that every additional 60 minutes of sedentary behaviour per day at age 12, 14 and 16 was associated with an increase in depression score of 1.1 per cent, eight per cent or 10.5 per cent, respectively, by age 18.

Those with consistently high amounts of time spent sedentary at all three ages had 28.2 per cent higher depression scores by age 18, the study said.

Every additional hour of light physical activity per day at age 12, 14 and 16 was associated with depression scores at age 18 that were 0.6 per cent, 7.8 per cent and 11.1 per cent lower, respectively.

“Light activity could be particularly useful because it doesn’t require much effort and it’s easy to fit into the daily routines of most young people,” said study senior author Joseph Hayes.

COMMUNITY/LIFESTYLE/HOROSCOPE

ARIES

March 21 – April 19

There are forces working in your favour that you should be sure to latch onto and take advantage of. Aries. You’ll find that your sense of duty and ability to plan are paying off in a very positive way. You’ll find that you’re able to check quite a few things off your list today. Think beforehand you act and take a time-out to rest and regroup if you need to.

CANCER

June 21 – July 22

You’ll find that your mind is sharp and penetrating today, Cancer. Make sure you stay focused and organised. You have the power of discipline behind you that will help you manifest quite a bit on a day like today. Keep in mind that your openness to others and your incredible sensitivity are some of your greatest gifts. Use your power to create prosperity for yourself but do it without hurting or manipulating others.

TAURUS

April 20 – May 20

Missed connections and unfortunate misunderstandings will happen less frequently if you slow down and focus. Remember that you can do things yourself, Taurus. Don’t feel like you absolutely need approval from others before tackling the projects that you wish to complete. Your mind is urging you to take the initiative today, so feel free to do so. Just make sure you aren’t too hasty in your actions.

GEMINI

May 21 – June 20

Things that require discipline on your part may be causing tension and opposition in your world today, Gemini. The good news is that your mind is clear and you should feel in tune with the people around you. Know your allies and take care of them. Remind others of how much they mean to you. The most important aspects of your life are your friends and family, so treat them with unconditional love.

LINUX

September 23 – October 22

Some days it may be hard for you to get motivated, Libra, but if ever there were a day in which it was easier than others, this would be the day. You’ll find that your mind is quite attuned to the situation around you and that your sense of grounding is helping you manifest that which you wish to bring to life. There’s a sense of time restriction and limitation to the day that is provoking you to act now.

SCORPIO

October 23 – November 21

You may feel a bit of restriction working to hold you back from your current plans today, Scorpio. It could be that your mind is feeling restless and that you’re anxious to go, but there’s a feeling of discipline and caution nagging you and urging you to slow down. This might not be a bad idea. Discipline and willpower may be exactly the things you need in order to get where you’re going.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22 – December 21

You’ll find that a sensitive mind that’s open to everything and every possibility is exactly the thing you need at this time in order to be successful in reaching all the goals you’re working toward, Sagittarius. You’ll find that your sense of duty and need for plans and solid goals are key elements for getting to where you need to be. Gather information and create a plan of attack that is well thought out.

CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 19

Today is a good day to be receptive to other people’s energies, Capricorn. You’ll find that a sensitive attitude toward the people around you, combined with a bit of hard work and willingness to fulfill your responsibilities, will make for an unstoppable winning combination. Use this day to collect data and plan your goals. Take responsibility for your actions and don’t be afraid to admit your mistakes.

AQUARIUS

January 20 – February 18

You’ll find that your mind is sharp and penetrating today, Aquarius. Make sure you stay focused and organised. You have the power of discipline behind you that will help you manifest quite a bit on a day like today. Keep in mind that your openness to others and your incredible sensitivity are some of your greatest gifts. Use your power to create prosperity for yourself, but do it without hurting or manipulating others.

PISCES

February 19 – March 20

There is a rough stubbornness to the day that you may find hinders your progress, Pisces. There may be undercurrents of opposition that are slowly wearing away at your psyche. Make sure that you don’t fall into the trap of feeling guilt. These are useless emotions that you simply can do without. If people are being negative or unreasonable, simply walk away from the situation and find a better one.
Codeword

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

BELL
FIREBOX
STEAM
BOILER
MOGUL
TANK
CAB
PACIFIC
TENDER
CINDERS
PISTON
TRACK
COAL
DOME
PUMPS
VALVES
COUPLING
REGULATOR
WATER

Wordsearch

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

Wordsearch

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is divided into nine 3x3 boxes. You are given a selection of numbers and to complete the puzzle, you must fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains each of the digits 1 through 9 only once.

Sudoku

Bound And Gagged

Your man bun is too tight.
**Super Cryptic Clues**

**Across**
1. A lighter of mine (4,4)
2. Cash dispenser containing nothing or tiny amount (4)
3. Bird going round an Italian city (7)
4. Chips with an odd vegetable (7)
5. Name of man taking Dolly out (5)
6. Large girl finding way to have two husbands? (6)
7. A car that's made of glass? (3,3)
8. Flat obtained by a woman in the Fifties (5)
9. Gallery constructed in a royal manner (7)
10. Meat cooked in ovens? (7)
11. Objectives set in Siam (4)
12. Communist beginning to get a bird (6)

**Down**
1. Rolled turf makes a picture (5)
2. Altering navy rig at sea (7)
3. She requires daily movement (5)
4. Spud for lawman? (6)
5. It takes two to make colour vanish (5)
6. Terribly dear men wander aimlessly (7)
7. Country girl following bishop (7)
8. Flat obtained by a woman in the Fifties (5)
9. Gallery constructed in a royal manner (7)
10. Home team? (5)
11. Manuscript about beer for men (5)
12. After half a month tropical vine is seen by Dutch queen (7)
13. Edge hoop in iron (6)
14. Poison that makes some live no more (5)
15. Profits in gas distribution (5)
16. Cathy's new boat (5)

---

**Answers**

**Wordsearch**

```
NM.LAMPO.ATOM
R.A.M.U.KE
A.CR.D.RA.EN
W.Y.I.P.I.GN
S.P.I.N.A.C.H.LLo.Y
I.N.Y.L.E
B.I.G.A.MY.JAM.JAR
O.U.F.L.EVEL.REGALLY
I.E.E.I.AI.A
V.E.N.I.S.O.N.I.A.C
O.I.G.O.N.N.H
S.A.I.M.S.R.E.D.START
```

**Codeword**

```
V.M.W.L.O.S.S.E.V.L.A.V.I.N.O
R.D.F.A.E.T.T.U.H.O.H.E.N.N.A
P.R.E.C.E.0.4.A.B.M.R.T.E.W.R
P.R.A.X.K.H.A.P.E.N.S.O.A.D.E.K
U.E.F.O.W.M.R.S.D.X.T.W.G.N.S
M.L.P.A.C.I.F.I.C.M.A.V.G.G.O
S.O.D.N.O.G.N.I.L.P.U.O.D.C.N
O.B.E.L.L.I.E.M.S.G.E.C.E.D
U.E.S.B.G.W.R.E.D.N.E.T.S.E.E
W.H.I.S.T.L.E.V.W.P.R.Y.F.F.R.
P.F.A.V.E.G.Y.N.O.T.S.I.N.P.S
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**Colouring**

![Colouring Image](image-url)

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**Solution**

```
R.A.Y.U.A.E
A.C.R.I.D.R.A.V.E.N.N
W.Y.I.P.I.G.N
N. "S.P.I.N.A.C.H.L.L.O.Y.D"
I.N.Y.
B.I.G.A.M.Y.J.A.M.J.A.R
I.E.E.I.AI.A
V.E.N.I.S.O.N.I.A.C
O.I.G.O.N.N.H
S.A.I.M.S.R.E.D.START
```
Harley Quinn and her girl gang are lovable psychopaths

By Katie Walsh

The best thing to come out of 2016’s much-derided DC antihero team-up Suicide Squad was Margot Robbie’s inspired take on Harley Quinn, the self-proclaimed “Joker’s girl” and quirky chaos clown. Robbie’s Quinn, with her colourful pigtails and a baseball bat, instantly became an icon, a perennial Halloween costume eclipsing even her lesser half, Jared Leto’s heavily tattooed Joker. But through and about him, the Joker is so 2010. 2020 is Harley Quinn’s year. And in the wake of her breakup, she’s back and better than ever with a brand-new girl gang in the brilliant, breakneck Birds of Prey: And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn.

Director Cathy Yan soars with her stylish sophomore feature, which is colourful, campy and cheerfully brutal, a perfect reflection of Harley herself. Robbie, as usual, tears into the role with a wide-eyed gusto that is equally childlike and unhinged. With her lithe Boop accent, wacky wardrobe and gymnastic facility with a bat, Harley is one lovable psychopath. It’s impossible not to root for her, even as she’s reducing chemical factories to clouds of rainbow-coloured smoke, gleefully dropping a bodega meat, egg and cheese sandwich (relatable), list each of her enemies and their grievances with her and relish in the memories of some of her best butt-kickings. She clearly sees herself as Gotham’s own Atomic Blonde, and the eye-popping fight choreography proves she is. The action sequences are breathtakingly balletic and bruising. If it seems like Harley could take John Wick in a fight, that’s because she can: John Wick director Chad Stahelski consulted on some of the fight sequences. Shot by Matthew Libatique, the action is crispy clean among all the sparkles, smoke and decaying carnival rides.

Birds of Prey is a circus for the senses, but the performances give the film its heart and humour. Every performer knows what movie they’re in, with Robbie’s winking, wild performance creating a safe space for experimentation. The wonderfully powerful Smollett-Bell is a breakout, but Ewan McGregor’s outlandishly campy turn as the sniveling Sionis is a hoot and a half, easily stealing the show. Yan has delivered a riotous rodeo that is Kill Bill meets Coffy. It’s a tribute to cutest, kookiest clown in the comics, and a perfect distillation of her character: sweet, sour and sassy in all the right ways. – TNS

Elijah Wood goes on a dark journey

By Katie Walsh

Rolling horror producer Ant Timpson makes his directorial debut with the curious and demented family thriller Come to Daddy. Elijah Wood stars as the neurotic but endearing Norval, who in searching for his father, he finds himself. Wood’s distinctive baby blues are a central feature of Norval’s journey into the heart of darkness with his father. Cops and coroners alike refer to his “kind eyes,” the kind that make good guys trust him, and bad guys underestimate him. Wracked with anxiety and a tendency to overthink, saddled with an avant-garde bowl cut and a wardrobe of ridiculous Euro hipster duds, Norval isn’t your typical hero. This is especially because he does all the right and reasonable things in extreme situations, not the wrong ones. But that’s what makes him, and Come to Daddy, so interesting and unexpected. Written by Toby Harvard, Come to Daddy is an uneasy two-hander that leaves one constantly wondering when the other shoe is going to drop. Summoned by a letter from his deadbeat dad, Norval makes his way to a remote seaside home, an octagonal house with sweeping ocean views, clinging to a cliff that can only be accessed on foot through thick woods and rocky paths.

There he finds the gruff Gordon (Stephen McHattie), a rough and menacing figure who seems more intent on intimidating Norval than bonding with him. Norval is bewildered. “Why’d you ask me to come?” he asks, a question he returns to again and again even as his beliefs about his own parentage are violently turned upside down. A few twists and reveals in Come to Daddy are so shocking, it would be utterly cruel to reveal a thing, though it leaves a critic a bit hampered when it comes to writing about the film. This twisted and cynical horror thriller reveals a mean streak, a dark and deeply ironic worldview in the vein of Tarantino, but located in a surreal world akin to Lost. The stunning natural setting helps blend the seemingly at odds perspectives seamlessly. And Wood, despite (or perhaps because of) his character’s quirks, insecurities and fears, holds it all together as a wide-eyed naif finding himself in his father’s picturesque yet depressed existence at the edge of the world.

Harvard’s script becomes a bit too arch and silly as the film barrels through its climax, losing the sense of tight control it maintains through the first two-thirds, which are surprisingly poignant and deep existential. Bedeviled with questions, just as Norval starts to slip into the void, he’s knocked sideways. If there’s one thing Come to Daddy aims to do, and at which it succeeds, it’s to subvert all expectations one might have about the film time and time again. Wood’s excellent and empathetic performance proves to be the anchor point, the port in this bloody, vulgar storm. Ultimately it’s a coming-of-age tale, because at the end of his ordeal, the most important thing Norval realises is that the question of “Who’s your daddy?” might not even matter anymore to him at all. – TNS
I don’t have a set idea on what I want to do: Alaya F

By Natalia Ningthoujam

O ne-film old Alaya F is already a busy bee. Pooja Bedi’s daughter Alaya, who has impressed all with her brilliant debut act in the recent Jawan Jaiman, is celebrating all the ovation coming her way in the best way possible — by working.

“I am back to work. It’s the kind of celebration I like,” Alaya said in a telephone conversation. The Nitin Kakkar directorial, presented by Pooja Entertainment in association with Black Knight Films and Northern Lights Films, released on January 31. It minted about Rs20 crore in its first week in India.

She already has a three-film deal from Northern Lights Films. She has another film lined up with Pooja Entertainment, though she prefers to be tight-lipped about it for now.

“I am just exploring my options. There’s a lot of interest coming from a lot of people. I am very grateful. I just hope I make the right choices now,” said Alaya.

“I don’t have a set idea on what I want to do or specifically not do. I want people to look at me in all sorts of ways. I don’t want to be categorised as an actor who does a certain type of roles,” she added.

She might be flooded with offers now but bagging her first film was “tough”.

“Initially, people would have reasons to say no. I would be very upset. I would wonder ‘why not?’ Then I realised that if people are making a film and investing crores in it, at the end of the day they have to make a decision that is right for their film,” she said.

“Once I realised that, I focused on doing my best. Now when I see Jawan Jaiman, I feel the character is exactly like me. I remember looking at the character and saying, ‘oh my god! I am perfect for the character.’ I was lucky to fit into this role. I was lucky that Tia was like me and thankfully they also liked my acting. It worked out well,” she added.

In Jawan Jaiman, Alaya plays Saif Ali Khan and Tabo’s daughter. The story, which is set in London, revolves around Tia, who is in search of her father and, after a DNA test, she discovers Saif’s character, an unmarried Casanova, is her father.

She has been getting encouraging words from people for her role.

“The most valuable feedback that I have got is, ‘just keep doing what you are doing!’” said the young actor, who is all charged up to take on new roles.

Had she ever thought of having a back-up plan? “Before I started this, I said ‘I love doing this. No matter what, I will stick to this’” she pointed out.

She believes that if you love doing something, put in time and energy. “Sooner or later, it will work out. I didn’t keep a back-up plan,” said the passionate actor.

Although she is Pooja Bedi’s daughter and the granddaughter of veteran actor Kabir Bedi, she insists her family has nothing to do with her love for acting.

“I think I ran away from acting for a long time. I had gone to study direction. I fell in love with acting only because of acting. I remember doing one (acting) class randomly. I remember loving being in front of the camera. I remember the high that I got from doing it,” recalled the youngster. “I thought this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. It’s just that feeling that triggered all that in me,” she added.

She is not an impulsive person and believes in planning out things. “I literally plan everything. Even when I decided to act, that time I made a full five-year plan. I typed it out and printed it and gave it to my parents. My five-year plan is now coming towards an end. So far everything has gone on track,” she said.

“What else is in my five-year plan? I get to find out. I don’t want to... we will see,” she signed off.

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