Great escape

Shahin Olakara, an avid Indian photographer based in Doha, has his heart set on wildlife where he escapes for solitude. P4-6

PATIENCE IS THE KEY: "I have to wait for a long time to capture a moment under natural light. The family has to have double patience," says Shahin Olakara.

Cover Story

Quiz

Michael Jordan: The iconic athlete.

Showbiz

Dia’s fashion staples, hacks.
**Sonic The Hedgehog**

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

**Bad Boys For Life**

**DIRECTION:** Adil El Arbi, Bilall Fallah  
**CAST:** Will Smith, Vanessa Hudgens, Alexander Ludwig  
**SYNOPSIS:** The wife and son of a Mexican drug lord embark on a vengeful quest to kill all those involved in his trial and imprisonment — including Detective Mike Lowrey. When Mike gets wounded, he teams up with partner Marcus Burnett and AMMO – a special tactical squad – to bring the culprits to justice. But the old-school, wisecracking cops must soon learn to get along with their new elite counterparts if they are to take down the vicious cartel that threatens their lives.  
**THEATRES:** Royal Plaza

---

**PHRASE:**  
"Whatever you are, be a good one."  
— Abraham Lincoln

---

**COMMUNITY**

**Contact Information**

Kamran Rehmat  
**Community Editor**  
E-mail: community@gulf-times.com  
Telephone: 44464405  
Fax: 44350474

---

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide Emergency Number</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahramaa – Electricity and Water</td>
<td>991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Directory</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Calls Enquires</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamad International Airport</td>
<td>40106666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Department</td>
<td>44508111, 44406537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowasalat Taxi</td>
<td>44488888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Airways</td>
<td>44466000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamad Medical Corporation</td>
<td>44392222, 44393333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation</td>
<td>44845555, 44845464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Health Care Corporation</td>
<td>44593333, 44593363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Assistive Technology Centre</td>
<td>44594050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar News Agency</td>
<td>44450205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q-Post – General Postal Corporation</td>
<td>44450333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>40253371, 40253372, 40253369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>40253370, 40253364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamad Medical Corporation</td>
<td>40253364, 40253365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Airways</td>
<td>40253374</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**PRAYER TIME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Time (islamic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fajr</td>
<td>4.50am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorooq (sunrise)</td>
<td>6.09am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zuhr (noon)</td>
<td>11.48am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azr (afternoon)</td>
<td>3.02pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maghreb (sunset)</td>
<td>5.27pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isha (night)</td>
<td>6.57pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**QUOTATION**

“Whatever you are, be a good one.”  
— Abraham Lincoln
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 – 6pm
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

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: 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.
“I do calculation in my mind about what the subject is going to do next”

— Shahin Olakara, software programmer and photographer

Photography is like understanding the world in my own perspectives. Secondly, I get to know a lot of people, their cultures and how they behave in a situation.

— Shahin Olakara
“To photograph is to hold one’s breath, when all faculties converge to capture fleeting reality. It’s at that precise moment that mastering an image becomes a great physical and intellectual joy.” So said Henri Cartier-Bresson, a French humanist photographer considered a master of candid photography.

Photography is a joyful thing. Nature carries a soothing power. Wildlife is considered the most beautiful part of nature. Wildlife photographers feast upon both the art of photography and images of wildlife.

“Photography is like understanding the world in my own perspectives. Secondly, I get to know lot of people, their cultures and how they behave in a situation. When I am shooting a creature or a human being, I do calculation in my mind about what the subject is going to do next,” shares Shahin Olakara, an avid wildlife photographer, with Community.

Shahin, an expatriate from Kerala, is a software programmer by profession and has been working with a government department for 16 years. “I live with my family here. I am married and have a son. I hold a master’s degree in Information Technology. I carry out training classes on photography for different organisations in Qatar. I tell my students that passion comes from within. My 10-year-old son also takes keen interest in photography. “My father and one of my uncles had an interest in photography. My father also used to write travelogues and short stories in Malayalam. I used to observe the photos taken by my uncle and the pains he took to take a good photo. That is what lured me to photography; I was about 10 then. “The first thing that comes to my mind about how I got into the art is the way my uncle used to organise things to take a photo. Everything would be neatly organised. I still remember the slide films he used to have those days. He would arrange his photos as if telling a story. I started going out in nature with him to take photos. He used to teach me how to take a good photo in the simplest way. He also gifted me a camera. That is when I started experimenting and shooting nature. I am still a fan of natural light, may be still remembering his lessons. Since my genre is wildlife photography, I cannot use camera flash.”

Continued to Page 6
Shahin expressed thanks to his family for the kind of support he gets from them to pursue his passion. It is a very interesting job for a photographer; however, it is very boring for people around a photographer. I have to wait for a long time to capture a moment under natural light. The family has to have double patience [laughs].

Shahin has been doing wildlife photography in India, Qatar and different counties in Africa. He lauded his association with Doha Kootam (group), a club of photographers hailing from Kerala, for fuelling his love of wildlife photography.

"Initially, we had a small online photography community on Flicker, a digital platform. We, bunch of photographers from Kerala, used to network on the platform. We used to have chit-chat. One day, we decided to form a group. As many as 10 amateur photographers met and formed the group in June 2008. There were some people in the group who had involvement in wildlife conservation in Qatar. We have been visiting different places in Qatar to observe and photograph wild birds."

When it comes to wildlife in Qatar, Shahin focuses on migratory birds. "Qatar is like a transit point for lots of migratory birds. There are certain areas in the country where you can see both native and migratory birds in large numbers. The best place is Irkaya farm close to Abu Samra. There are other places in Al Khor and Mesaieed where you can find the birds. As far as wild animals are concerned, I have seen a couple of desert foxes in Zekreet."

Shahin, who has also been into travel photography, uses the art to understand different peoples and diverse cultures. "Photography is like understanding the world in my own perspectives. Secondly, I get to know lot of people, their cultures and how they behave in a certain situation. When I am shooting a creature or a human being, I do calculation in my mind about what the subject is going to do next. If it is a human being, I will look at how he or she reacts to a situation. The same thing goes for an animal. I have to know what the animal is doing from different gestures. I have to guess and act accordingly. When I guess the next move of an animal correctly and capture it in my camera, it gives me immense pleasure and satisfaction."

Shahin also sees wildlife photography as a stress-buster. "I am a software programmer. The programming obviously comes with a lot of calculation and stress. It requires a different kind of mindset. Photography is a sort of break for me — an escape, if you like. When you are in the wilderness, you are not just escaping from your office. You actually escape from the entire civilisation. I really enjoy the solitude."

Shahin, who has followed serious photography for 17 years, has many animals in his wish-list that he wants to capture. "I am yet to capture a tiger with my camera. Maybe the time has not yet come for me. I have photographed lions, leopards, and cheetahs in Africa. I am yet to shoot a Bengal tiger. That is my unicorn. I am big fan of big cats. My aim is to capture all varieties of big cats in maximum number around the world — especially the jaguar from South America. I also want to photograph leopards in every part of the world as they are different everywhere. I have also not been too far in the globe’s north. I do want to photograph polar bears and snow leopards. That is a different kind of photography. The entire calculation becomes opposite there. There are two different subjects you have to override the camera’s artificial intelligence for — shooting dark elephants and polar bears. I also aim at going to the western world."
NU-Q students participate in 48-hour Creative Media Festival

Students from Northwestern University in Qatar spent a weekend putting their media expertise to work during the ‘Creative Media Festival.’ The event, which is held over 48 hours, takes place annually at NU-Q.

The projects that were created – all focusing on the festival’s central theme ‘Rising Up/Uprising’ – featured various media including two short films, a documentary, poetry readings and performances, photography, paintings, sculpting, and sound and light design elements.

More than 50 students participated in this year’s festival – from organizing, directing, and promoting the event, to creating the art. At the end of the 48 hours, nine projects were created that addressed topics ranging from the political uprisings in the Middle East to the identity struggles of mixed-race people and the implications of stereotyping.

The media festival is produced by a team of creative mentors that include two Northwestern alumni – Tom Casserly, a New York–based theatre producer, and George Bajalia, a theatre artist and cultural critic from Columbia University, – and Caitlin Cassidy, an actress and singer. The project is student-run and this year three student co-leaders managed the project and process: Rahma el-Deeb as executive producer; Maha Essid as artistic director, and Wijdan el-Khateeb as artistic producer.

NU-Q students Giordana Bido and Maryam Gamar worked on a project – For a Girl – that combined written words with dance to address internal struggles that women have when they feel unsafe or experience a form of harassment. Bido said that the pair combined “what we do best – writing and dancing – to put forth an important message on women’s rights.”

Meanwhile, students – Hazar Kilani and Menna al-Matyary – curated a photography project inspired by the uprisings in Palestine, Egypt, and Tunisia. The project included three portraits of individuals clothed in iconic items that reflected their country of origin such as traditional Palestinian Keffiyehs and the Tunisian and Egyptian flags.

Another group of students – Asmae Nakib, Beatrice Zemelye, Chadi Lasti, Farouk Essalhi, and Noura AlShantti – created a short film identifying to raise awareness about the dangers of assumptions and categorising people based on their appearance. “Our aim was to raise awareness about the negativity that results from stereotyping and racism. We hope that our audience will understand that it is important to think twice before making assumptions about the identities of people. We also hope to encourage people to accept and embrace their identities, no matter how different they may be,” said Asmae Nakib.

The final projects were:
- A Pamiri Dance for the Soul by Nekbakht Aliekova
- Collateral Damage by Princess Collado
- For a Girl by Giordana Bido and Maryam Gamar
- Identifytwo by Asmae Nakib, Chadi Lasti, Farouk Essalhi, and Noura AlShantti
- Rebel with a Cause by Aesha Hussien, Afnan Tag, Dana Dimachkine, Loujain Assaf, Noor Haddad, and Tanieshaa Shrestha
- Rising Silence by Ameera al-Said, Hiba Awouda, Mariam Geroun, and Noor Abunabab
- Solidarity by Hazar Kilani and Menna AlMatary
- SwiTch by Ahmed Jassim, Fatima Sayadi, Sara al-Muftah, and Shahika AlMulla

Waford by Karim Emara, Lojaina Gomaa, Salwa Sadek, and Ria Sayadi

“The Creative Media Festival encourages and enables students to collaborate in creating media experiences that are imaginative, bold, and courageous in the interpretation of our featured theme,” said Gregory Ferrell Lowe, professor and director of the Communication Program at NU-Q. “It takes an enormous amount of planning and effort to put together such a complex collection of media creations in such a short amount of time. This year’s results were impressive for the artistic value the students created, and for the insightful treatments they produced about complicated issues.”

ACS School celebrates National Sport Day with Mariam Farid

ACS International School Doha community celebrated National Sport Day by inspiring students to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle in presence of Mariam Farid, a leading track and field runner. The students engaged in an open discussion on how sports can empower them to reach success and develop their passions outside of the classroom.

The 300-strong student audience thought critically about the impact of sports globally and had the chance to discuss with Mariam Farid inspiring topics such as the representation of women in sports and balancing one’s athletic obligations with education.

The celebration of National Sport Day forms part of ACS Doha’s commitment to ensure students are exposed to both a well-rounded academic education and one that equally drives students to pursue their own passion within extra curricula activities and sports. In turn, ACS Doha ensures that students have access to world-class sports-related facilities such as a FIFA-sized football pitch, swimming pool, a sports cafè and tailored learning spaces at its 60,000sqm new campus which opens in August 2020.

ACS Doha’s robust physical education programme which works to instill in students the key values of tolerance, respect, optimism and commitment through physical activity and sports.

“Our celebration of National Sport Day is a way to reaffirm to our students that through sports they are ready to face the world’s next challenges. When students have a chance to form a deep connection with their sport of choice, it positively impacts other elements of their lives. That is what we aimed to highlight through our celebration of sports,” said Trevor Furness, Middle High School Principal.

Among the special guests, Mariam Farid, Qatar’s 400m hurdles star said: “The opportunity to meet with ACS Doha students and celebrate their diversity was a source of inspiration to work harder in my own athletic career. Students today are faced with the choice of whether to pursue sport professionally, and if I am able to inspire even one student, that is an honour. If I could leave the next generation with one note, it would be don’t let anything take away from your passion and drive.”

ATHLETE: Mariam Farid among the students.
**DPS-MIS organises foam play for students**

At DPS-MIS (Modern Indian School) Nursery, the children recently had fun play with shaving foam as part of their ongoing learning through play activities. Faces of the children beamed with beautiful smiles and eyes sparkled with joy as they played with the foam.

**PIS holds In-House Training workshop for teachers**

The ‘In-House Training’ workshop held recently at Pakistan International School’s (PIS) Senior Girls Wing was designed to create a mass of teachers who can implement effective teaching and learning, producing competitive and economically productive youth. Overall goal of the training was to orient teachers to a general understanding of teaching methodologies to ensure quality education, to equip teachers with research based pedagogic and andragogic skills to enhance capacities and competencies of teachers to train learners for 21st century skills, and to familiarise them with the new educational policies that are launched around the globe. The training was expanded over three weeks. First session was inaugurated by Afshan Shahid, Vice-Principal Senior Girls Wing. The second lesson was delivered by Zia-ur Rehman who highlighted the role of teacher in building student’s character. An informative lecture on ‘Modern Trends of Educational Assessment’ was delivered by Summayyah Hameed. The session on ‘Teaching Methodologies’ was given by the Girls Wing vice president to the teachers highlighting the 21st century teaching skills. A lesson on ‘Class Control’ was given by Rizwana Anjum where she described the techniques of effective class management with a positive impact on behaviour of the students. A detailed session on ‘Qualities of Highly Effective Teachers’ was conducted by Aftab Alam Hashmi with focus on the constant need of nurturing values in the life. The session on ‘Motivational Skills’ was conducted by Riffat Tahir.

**Marthoma College Alumni Doha chapter conducts Youth Leadership Program 2020**

Marthoma College Alumni Doha Chapter and Filcom International Toastmasters recently concluded Youth Leadership Program 2020. Former Brand Ambassador of Toastmasters International Sonny Varghese inaugurated the event. The meeting was chaired by Shri Baby Kurien, MarThoma College Alumni Patron. Former Governors of Toastmasters International District, Rani Mohan Shyam Sundar, Toastmasters Members Leo, Diana, Joseph and Alumni office bearer’s Anish George Mathew, Lijo Raju, Vijo Thomas John, and Litty Tony also addressed the gathering. At the meeting, certificates were also distributed among the participants.
Lebanese School of Qatar wins top prize at Carnegie Mellon’s Botball

Lebanese School of Qatar has secured first place at the 16th edition of Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q)’s Botball competition in a close race with Doha Secondary School. This year’s edition included 17 teams from high schools around Qatar, who spent the last eight weeks creating their robot’s strategy to win the final. The finalists gathered at CMU-Q’s campus in Education City to battle it out, steering their robots on a game board through various obstacles and challenges. Commenting on the competition, Michael Trick, dean of CMU-Q, said, “Botball is always great fun for the teams, and it is also a lot like the CMU-Q experience. These students have worked hard, called on their creativity and skills, and solved challenging problems. Congratulations to all of the teams who competed.”

Teams from Doha Secondary School and Al Khor International School took second and third place in the overall competition, respectively. The competition, which was launched by CMU-Q in 2005, is a partnership between CMU-Q and the KIPR Botball organisation. Throughout the competition, students from CMU-Q assisted participants in preparing for the final showdown. Carnegie Mellon’s School of Computer Science (SCS) is a world leader in computer science education and research. The Carnegie Mellon campus in Qatar offers two undergraduate SCS programmes: the bachelor of science in computer science and the bachelor of science in computational biology.

CIHT organises seminar on Smart Cities and Future of Mobility

Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) Qatar Group recently organised a technical seminar for highways and transportation professionals on ‘Smart Cities and the Future of Mobility’ at City Centre Rotana Hotel. Claudio Bonomi Savignon, Head of East GCC & Turkey for PTV Group based in Doha and a visiting lecturer in Transport at Rome Tor Vergata University, was the guest speaker of the evening. Savignon gave an overview of the best practice examples for smart city planning around the world. He outlined that there are recurring smart city planning objectives – mobility, safety, environment and others – which aim at improving the wellness and wellbeing of the urban community. Savignon described how the topic is very relevant because of the rapid globalisation, in particular due to the urban development, population growth, climate change, emphasising the way smart cities embed layers of digital intelligence with physical infrastructure and the city’s governance and regulation. Savignon also focused on the aspect of mobility where car-sharing and connected and autonomous vehicles can act as the key player to achieve a zero-carbon model which also improves traffic congestion. The importance of public transport in the cities of the future will also keep playing a key role for smart mobility. Savignon also shared insights of PTV’s involvement in all of the above, presenting results from studies such as the Oslo study, where intensive Mobility as a Service (MaaS) implementation has proven to reduce traffic by 90%. The presentation was well-received by the audience, followed by a detailed question and answer session. The seminar is part of CIHT Qatar Groups events. The Group thanks to their sponsors AECOM, B&G&E, DCE, EG&S, FUGRO, MUHEL, PAF, PTV Group, SALFO, SEERO and WSP for their generous contribution to the event.
Michael Jordan: The iconic athlete

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

Michael Jordan’s above words – they are almost like a poem – belong on posters in schools and kids’ bedrooms everywhere. Not only did his talent and perseverance inspire millions to play basketball, and this includes all of this generation’s best stars, but he also influenced what every kid has rocked on their feet since his rise to greatness over 30 years ago. He has only made the game that much more exciting. Any discussion on the greatest players of all time and his is the first name thrown into the ring.

Michael Jordan has a breathtaking statistics in NBA and a quick comparison with Kobe, LeBron and the likes show that it is the Bulls legend who excelled the most. In 19 seasons, Jordan made it to the Finals six times and played 35 games and won each series. MJ won an incredible 10 scoring titles, which is a league best. Additionally, each year that the Bulls won the title, Jordan was also scoring champion that year. He earned himself the NBA’s Most Valuable Player Award on five different occasions and even became the All-Star Game Most Valuable Player three times. Jordan has so many accolades to his name, it’s hard to keep up.

Although much more than just a scorer, it was his ability to put the ball in the hoop that made Jordan such a feared player. His high leaps, demonstrated by performing slam dunks from the free throw line during slam dunk contests, earned this talented player the nicknames “His Airness” and “Air Jordan”. The rumours and the anecdotes that make up Jordan’s persona are incredibly intriguing. MJ picked up his trademark “tongue out” habit from his dad, who had a similar quirk while doing mechanical work. Believe it or not, Jordan was considered too small and raw when he tried out for his high school’s team as a sophomore and he actually got cut. But have no fear! He practised everyday and grew like a weed the following summer, adding four inches to his height.

Jordan could have been the ambassador for Adidas but they decided to pass him up. Why? He wasn’t tall enough for them. They only wanted basketball players who were over seven feet tall. Nike offered a then-enormous deal of $500 grand annually for five years. They also promised to tailor the sneaker to Jordan’s liking. Jordan still wanted Adidas and went to them once more. Michael was offered a deal to endorse a small brand called Spot-Bilt. Jordan and Nike struck a deal and the rest is a marketing history.

Jordan retired from the NBA three different times. The first was in 1995 when his father, James R Jordan, Sr was murdered. He switched to baseball, as his father had encouraged him to do for several years before his death. He retired again in 1999 only to return in 2001 to play for the Washington Wizards. He finally retired for good in 2005. In April 2009, Jordan ‘sadly’ accepted one of basketball’s greatest honours: He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Jordan’s number 23 has become so iconic other athletes in different sports sometimes choose this number simply because it’s the same as Jordan’s.

Michael Jordan has a streaking statistics in NBA and a quick comparison with Kobe, LeBron and the likes show that it is the Bulls legend who excelled the most. In 19 seasons, Jordan made it to the Finals six times and played 35 games and won each series. MJ won an incredible 10 scoring titles, which is a league best. Additionally, each year that the Bulls won the title, Jordan was also scoring champion that year. He earned himself the NBA’s Most Valuable Player Award on five different occasions and even became the All-Star Game Most Valuable Player three times. Jordan has so many accolades to his name, it’s hard to keep up.

Although much more than just a scorer, it was his ability to put the ball in the hoop that made Jordan such a feared player. His high leaps, demonstrated by performing slam dunks from the free throw line during slam dunk contests, earned this talented player the nicknames “His Airness” and “Air Jordan”. The rumours and the anecdotes that make up Jordan’s persona are incredibly intriguing. MJ picked up his trademark “tongue out” habit from his dad, who had a similar quirk while doing mechanical work. Believe it or not, Jordan was considered too small and raw when he tried out for his high school’s team as a sophomore and he actually got cut. But have no fear! He practised everyday and grew like a weed the following summer, adding four inches to his height.

Jordan could have been the ambassador for Adidas but they decided to pass him up. Why? He wasn’t tall enough for them. They only wanted basketball players who were over seven feet tall. Nike offered a then-enormous deal of $500 grand annually for five years. They also promised to tailor the sneaker to Jordan’s liking. Jordan still wanted Adidas and went to them once more. Michael was offered a deal to endorse a small brand called Spot-Bilt. Jordan and Nike struck a deal and the rest is a marketing history.

Jordan retired from the NBA three different times. The first was in 1995 when his father, James R Jordan, Sr was murdered. He switched to baseball, as his father had encouraged him to do for several years before his death. He retired again in 1999 only to return in 2001 to play for the Washington Wizards. He finally retired for good in 2005. In April 2009, Jordan ‘sadly’ accepted one of basketball’s greatest honours: He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Jordan’s number 23 has become

How’s Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Ayuthaya-Mahadidiplo Plop Noppaphat Ratchatani Burirom Udornratchaniwat Mahasathan Ammon Piman Awatan Sahithi Sakathakiti Wiltsanamak Prasit famously known as?

Bangkok. It is the full name of the city in Thai. In the official English romanisation, this is certified as the longest place name in the world in the Guinness Book of World Records.

10 Downing Street is the residence of the Prime Minister of UK. Who resides at 11 Downing Street London?

Britain’s Chancellor of the Exchequer.

10 Downing Street is the residence of the Prime Minister of UK. Who resides at 11 Downing Street London?

Britain’s Chancellor of the Exchequer.

(Ahmad Ghousul, RussGas, Doha)

Do you have some interesting bytes to share? And, does your vibe attract you to the ‘Tribe NI.yays’? Every week two of your best questions will be featured here. Please do write to us at ni.yays@zoho.com.
INFOGRAPHIC

COMMUNITY

A Sure Thing?
A word to the wise: the conventional wisdom isn’t always wrong, but it frequently has terrible timing.

Buy Low, Sell High
Sounds so simple right? And yet investing is a rare part of our financial lives where things getting cheaper feels like a bad thing.

Get Familiar with Filings
While some investors might think they have a sixth sense for finding good companies, the rest of us have to do our homework.

Helpful Facts and Tips

About Stocks and Shares

Think Long Term
Opportunities come when a stock or sector is dismissed by the market and languishes despite steady economic results that will produce a long stream of profits.

There Is No Perfect Metric
There is no single number that divides good stocks from bad ones.

Dividends Are Your Friend
Dividend-paying stocks aren’t immune from declines, but they do offer a degree of insulation that others don’t. A word of warning though – rich dividends that look too good to last often don’t.
Wordsearch

BLESSED  FRIENDS  REJOICE  CONCORD  HARMONY  RESPECT  CONTENT
FRIENDS  REJOICE  CONCORD  HARMONY  RESPECT  CONTENT

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

Bound And Gagged

Adam

Pooch Cafe

Garfield

Why is it you squirrels don’t have to get vaccinations and wear collars like house pets do?
Because we’re wild animals, baby!
That doesn’t mean you can’t occasionally comb your tail!
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
7 Option to change someone who lives in a place (11)
8 Extremely unconventional exit (3,3)
9 Rewarded for material assistance? (6)
10 Instrument for mixing oil in French wine? (6)
12 Article held by distant parent (6)
13 There’s nothing in Manila (3)
14 A trip gave you most recreation (6)
16 Paths of planets or particles? (6)
18 A number we let off - about five (6)
20 Going on horseback in part of Yorkshire (6)
22 In a modern setting short skirts may be suggestive (11)

Down
1 Twice per annum 12 across is seen (4)
2 Saunter on street and go round (6)
3 Fabric seen on recent model (6)
4 Musical locks (4)
5 Shellfish allowed to swallow naughty child (6)
6 Foreign coin sent round as a deposit (8)
11 Metal goods are in row, perhaps (8)
12 Prosper - like Dusty Miller? (8)
15 Eccentric pal meets raging mob with coolness (6)
17 Caged birds I lost in moves (6)
19 A bird in the wilderness (4)
21 Observe some paper money (4)

Answers

Solution

Codeword

Wordsearch

Colouring
Eating fast food can make kids fat

If you want your children to stay in shape, do not allow them to indulge in burgers and pizzas. Researchers have found that fast food intake can independently contribute to excess weight gain among children. Being overweight and obese increases the risk of numerous physical and psychosocial problems during childhood, including fatty liver disease, Type-2 diabetes and depression.

“We now know from our studies and others, that kids who start on the path of extra weight gain during this really important time frame tend to carry it forward into adolescence and adulthood, and this sets them up for major health consequences as they get older,” said first author Jennifer Emond, Assistant Professor at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College, US.

“To our knowledge, ours is the first study to follow a cohort over time and to show that fast food, by itself, uniquely contributes to weight gain,” explained Emond.

Previous research has shown that fast food intake is common among children and has suggested that there is an association between fast food consumption and children becoming overweight or obese. But it has not been clear whether eating fast food independently contributes to excess weight gain at such an early age.

In an effort to make this determination, the investigators followed a cohort of more than 500 pre-school age children (ages 3-5) and their families in southern New Hampshire for one year.

The height and weight of the children were measured at the beginning and end of the study published in the journal Pediatric Obesity.

Parents reported their children’s fast food intake frequency weekly - from 11 chain fast food restaurants - in six online surveys that were completed at two-month intervals. The researchers found that at the beginning of the study, about 18% of the children were overweight and nearly 10% were obese.

Importantly, about 8% of the children transitioned to a greater weight status over the one-year period.

“Unlike with past research, we were able to adjust for other factors such as exercise and screen time - that could possibly explain away this relationship,” Emond said.

“Findings from this research should be used to inform guidelines and policies that can reduce fast food marketing exposure to children and help support parents who may be struggling to adopt healthier eating behaviours for their kids,” she added. – IANS

---

**ARIES**  
March 21 – April 19

You and a current partner may be in a strange space today, Aries. Intellectual awareness battles emotional doubts. Communication could be vague and easily misinterpreted, so choose your words carefully, even though it may be difficult to find the right ones. Your relationship should survive the day, but your understanding of each other could suffer if you aren’t careful.

---

**TAURUS**  
April 20 – May 20

Your intuition is operating at a high level, Taurus, but you may not be able to make sense of the psychic impressions you’re receiving. The emotions, images, and symbols you pick up from others and the astral plane could be vague and easily misinterpreted. They could be important, though. Write them down and look at them in a day or so. You should be able to make sense of them then.

---

**CANCER**  
June 21 – July 22

A family member may withdraw from you, Cancer. This person appears to be going through a private emotional crisis and isn’t apt to confide in you now. Your inclination could be to push it, but this could be a mistake. Give him or her the chance to share with you when the time is right. Sometimes we need to work things out for ourselves. Be patient.

---

**LEO**  
July 23 – August 22

You could get some strange phone calls today, Leo. There could be a few hang-ups, wrong numbers, or friends who forget why they called. Communication isn’t likely to run smoothly, so you may have to make an effort to choose the right words, go into as much detail as possible, and ask if you’re being understood. Otherwise, things could get more complicated.

---

**LIBRA**  
September 23 – October 22

You might be in the midst of an exciting creative project with a partner, Libra, and anxious to move forward so that you can present it to the public. But you might feel distracted and unable to focus on your work. Don’t get too upset. These things happen. Be patient and wait until tomorrow if you have to. You will be back in the groove by then.

---

**SCORPIO**  
October 23 – November 21

If you’ve been planning to spend a day meditating, Scorpio, this is the day to do it. You’re in an elevated frame of mind, not in a space to focus on mundane matters. Artistic inspiration could come to you now. Any kind of exercise should get the endorphins flowing. But don’t expect to get any practical work done. You’re definitely out of this world.

---

**SAGITTARIUS**  
November 22 – December 21

Communication with friends may be limited by emotional factors today, Sagittarius. You may have a tendency to overreact to casual comments that are probably innocent but that you misinterpret as offensive. Quarrels over nothing could result, which could raise your blood pressure and stress level for no good reason. If ever there was a day to think before speaking, this is it.

---

**AQUARIUS**  
January 20 – February 18

A rather spacey friend or acquaintance from far away could call today, Aquarius, perhaps to propose a visit. This might not be convenient now, and could put you in a quandary as to whether or not to agree to it. Your decision eventually comes down to how much you care for this person and how badly you want to see him or her. Think carefully before saying yes or no.

---

**PISCES**  
February 19 – March 20

Financial paperwork might have you baffled today, Pisces. You might not be in the right frame of mind to do it now, so if it isn’t urgent, wait a day or two. If you need to take care of it immediately, don’t be too shy about consulting someone else. You will be glad you did, and you won’t have to wonder whether or not you did it right.
Bieber is love-struck R&B bro on very chill Changes

The most striking image in Seasons — the thinly veiled 10-part commercial that Justin Bieber has been rolling out piecemeal on YouTube ahead of Friday’s release of his fifth studio album — is the sight of the 25-year-old pop superstar zipping himself into an enormous oxygen chamber.

Proof (if you needed it) that pop superstars are nothing like the rest of us, it’s a blunt visual exploit guest spots. But changes in plenty of other ways: Bieber, scarred from the expression of what the docuseries makes clear are nothing like the rest of us, it’s a blunt visual expression of what the docuseries makes clear is how dedicated he is to reclaiming his spot at the center of pop. Sure, there are on-trend trap drums sprinkled here and there; sure, Post Malone and Travis Scott put in streaming-bait guest spots. But Changes mostly feels like a willful retreat from a scene that demands instant engagement.

Sustainable, timeless and effortless are the fashion preferences of Bieber, who talks frankly in the show about having his nervous system wrecked by too much money, too many drugs, too much adulation.

The singer makes yet another cocoon for himself on Changes, a low-key set of gentle electro-R&B jams that depicts his relationship with Baldwin as a refuge from the unkind world he’s still not quite ready to reenter. Long on clean-toned guitars and drowsy soul grooves — and many, many words about the love of a good woman — it represents a distinct shift from the throbbing EDM of Bieber’s last album, 2015’s Purpose; its stylistic consistency is a change, too, from the dabbling that Bieber did between LPs in far-flung collaborations with Luis Fonsi, David Guetta, Dan + Shay and others.

Yet R&B has always been where Bieber — who, don’t forget, came up under the tutelage of Usher — goes for comfort and redemption. At times Changes recalls “Journals,” the intimate collection of digital singles he released in 2013, at the end of a year in which his paparazzi exploits (including his novel use of a restaurant’s mop bucket) put a serious dent in his popularity. Chief among the studio wizards here? Poo Bear, who also worked behind the scenes on Bieber is love-struck R&B bro on very chill Changes

Dia’s fashion staples, hacks

Sustainable, timeless and effortless are the fashion preferences of Hollywood actress and former Miss Asia Pacific Dia Mirza. And what are her fashion staples? Her top picks are traditional handcrafted sarees, sustainable textile dresses/shirts and resort wear, she quips.

In a conversation with IANSLife, Dia reveals more about her fashion likings, shares hacks and also speaks on her upcoming projects. Excerpts:

What are your fashion preferences?
Sustainable, timeless and effortless.

How do you like to dress up on an ordinary day?
It depends on what kind of day it is! I wear and enjoy all kinds of garments. Dresses, a pair of denims paired with a t-shirt, or even a salwar kurta.

Please share three fashion hacks.
Always keep a small sewing kit in your hand bag, reuse old garments but mix matching or accessorising them differently, choose natural fabrics and long lasting craftsmanship.

Three wardrobe staples for you?
Traditional handcrafted sarees, sustainable textile dresses/shirts and resort wear.

How is working with the online platform different from the mainstream media?
Nothing is more mainstream than digital in the digital age! It furthers our opportunity to be artists, offering a democratic platform that gives audiences an intimate viewing experience at the luxury of their time! Making new friends and collaborating with like-minded people is always rewarding, winning awards for Kaafir was a bonus. But the best part was being able to tell a story we collectively felt so deeply about.

How does it feel to walk the ramp every time?
You mean the butterflies in the stomach? Oh yes they arrive. But go away as soon as I step foot on the ramp. Fortunately, I get to choose who I walk for and it’s always for people whose craft and brand ethos I care for. So it feels really good!

How do you like the latest collection of House of Kotwara?
I absolutely love it! It speaks of timeless elegance, craftsmanship, femininity and playfulness. Sama reflects her heart in this line. The brand has always evoked a sense of comfort, freedom and beauty in my heart.

Do you do rehearsal or just follow your heart while on the ramp?
If I get time for a rehearsal, it’s always good to see and feel the space in advance, but if a rehearsal cannot be managed then I just go with the flow.

What are you working on?
I start filming for Wild Dog with Nagarjuna Sir soon and will be celebrating the release of Thappad on February 28. — IANS
Italian pianist captivates audience with therapeutic music at Katara

By Mudassir Raja

The lovers of classical western music have always recognised that there is a trinity between the mind, the body, and the therapeutic qualities of music. And the piano, specifically, has been a long-recognised source of remedy for those seeking escape and creative expression.

In recent years, there has also been a wealth of scientific studies that demonstrate the human instincts have always been correct. Playing the piano offers proven benefits – from physical and intellectual to social and emotional – to people of all ages.

A demonstration of piano magic was recently witnessed by the music enthusiasts of Doha at the Opera House of Katara where a young Italian pianist and composer literally mesmerised the august audience. Twenty-seven-year-old Alessandro Martire’s dexterity over the piano was very much appreciated and enjoyed by the audience that included officials from Katara, the Italian embassy in Qatar, members of diplomatic community, and the Italian expatriates.

The quartet concert was organised by Katara – the Cultural Village in collaboration with the Italian embassy in Qatar with the focus on further enhance bilateral cultural ties. The 90-minute-long display of four instruments – violin, viola, cello and piano – kept the audience engrossed into the serene and melodious music.

The concert included some of the best compositions by young Alessandro. The compositions were namely: Truth, Shares the world, Lej, Dream Love, Static, Fell You, The New Millennium, Heart, Shadow of Desire, Breath, Bright Sky, Alone, Endless, Emu, Colorful Night, A turn of the page, and Graven Images.

Talking to the audience, the gifted composer thanked the Italian embassy and Katara for inviting him to Qatar. “This is my first time to Doha. This concert is a preview of my new album. I have really liked Qatar as place where there is immense attention on promotion of art and culture.”

Speaking on the occasion before the start of the concert, Alessandro Prunas, Ambassador of Italy to Qatar, said: “Welcome to the concert organised by the embassy of Italy and Katara – the Cultural Village, as part of the fruitful co-operation in the field of culture which is contributing to enhance the partnership between Italy and Qatar. Let me first thank for Dr Khalid al-Sulaiti, General Manager of Katara, for the excellent work done so far to enhance our bilateral cultural relations.”

Performing with Alessandro on the stage of Katara as a further testimony to the ongoing artistic exchange and contamination, I am pleased to present the Mosaic String Quartet, formed by members of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra: Mohamed Oweida (violin), Reem Khoury (violin), Islam Abd El Aziz (viola) and Hassan Moataz (cello).”

Alessandro studied piano and composition at Music Academy Genoa with Italian Teacher M Giusto Franco. In 2012, he had his first experience and studied at the Berklee College of Music. He also has a degree in International and Political Science from the University of Milan.

His compositions are the expression of a musical sensibility which originates from the classical tradition and contemporary elements.

He added: “We are very proud that Alessandro has chosen Doha and this stage to perform tonight the preview of his latest album entitled Share the World, which has been deeply inspired by his travels and tours. Indeed, it aims at celebrating this new idea of humanity, where all people and nature are connected and care for each other, over borders and boundaries.”

“Performing with Alessandro on the stage of Katara as a further testimony to the ongoing artistic exchange and contamination, I am pleased to present the Mosaic String Quartet, formed by members of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra: Mohamed Oweida (violin), Reem Khoury (violin), Islam Abd El Aziz (viola) and Hassan Moataz (cello).”

Alessandro’s compositions are the expression of a musical sensibility which originates from the classical tradition and contemporary elements using melodies and harmonies that are evocative and very catchy.

There is no definition for his music. One can call it New Age, classical crossover, contemporary, alternative and other such adjectives but in the end it always comes down to this: ‘Alessandro Martire plays Alessandro Martire music!’ His concert with original music has led him to perform in prestigious universities and theatres around the world. Through his music Alessandro connects in an intimate manner with his audience, tapping into their emotions, thoughts and dreams like an old friend.

MAESTRO: Alessandro’s compositions are the expression of a musical sensibility which originates from the classical tradition and contemporary elements.