Community

Science India Forum Qatar and Qatar Foundation organise an event to mark the 150 years of periodic table.

Community

Orchestra music lovers enjoy compositions of Edward Elgar during the Qatar British Festival 2019.

Cover Story

Alena Pyne, founder and choir conductor of Qatar Youth Choir and Qatar Junior Choir, on the genesis and future of the entities.

Bollywood

Dabangg 3 is exactly how we want to see Salman Khan: Prabhudheva.

Page 14

Hollywood

Impeachment isn’t Law & Order. It’s time to stop viewing it that way.

Page 15
**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr: 4.45am
- Shoroq (sunrise): 6.09am
- Zuhr (noon): 11.27am
- 'Asr (afternoon): 2.26pm
- Maghreb (sunset): 4.46pm
- Isha (night): 6.19pm

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**Quote Unquote**

“It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.”
- Confucius

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**Panipat**

- **DIRECTION:** Ashutosh Gowariker
- **CAST:** Arjun Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, Kriti Sanon
- **SYNOPSIS:** The film is based on the third battle of Panipat which took place on the 14 of January in 1761 between the Marathas and the King of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Abdali.
- **THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

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**Unbreakable**

- **DIRECTION:** Mae Czarina Cruz
- **CAST:** Angelica Panganiban, Richard Gutierrez, Bea Alonzo
- **SYNOPSIS:** What are the limits of friendship? A story of an unconditional bond tested by time. Pain brought two friends together, but what will tear them apart?
- **THEATRES:** The Mall, Royal Plaza

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For movie timings and further details please scan the QR code above with your mobile phone camera or visit qatarcinemas.com
Gems and Jewels Exhibition
WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art
WHEN: Ongoing till January 18
TIME: 9am onwards
The exhibition comes in celebration of the Qatar-India 2019 Year of Culture and presents a look at magnificent gems and jewellery from India. Set in Stone: Gems and Jewels from Royal Indian Courts showcases more than 100 pieces from across Qatar Museums’ (QM) collections, including many masterpieces that have never been displayed before.

Al Wakalat Car Market 2019
WHERE: Parking opposite to Khalifa International Stadium
WHEN: December 19 – 28
TIME: 4pm – 11:59pm
Al Wakalat Car Market aims to congregate car enthusiasts, prospective buyers, and automotive retailers with the best deals of the year in a single location. Al Wakalat Car Market will enable visitors to have access to cars at their best offers of the year, which ensure to clear out stocks of approved cars.

Career Guidance
WHERE: Right Track Consultants, Al Sadd
WHEN: Sunday – Thursday
TIME: 6pm – 8pm
Career guidance for course, country, college and entrance for students of Grade IX-XII, of all curriculum. Career assessments administered for stream preference, career test, branch preference, personality, multiple intelligence and learning styles and productivity. For more information, 55448835.

Winter School for Grade IX-XII Students
WHERE: Inspire Training Academy, Najma St.
WHEN: December 25 – 29
TIME: 8:30am – 1:30pm
Developing the leader within every teen today — for a better world tomorrow. Each student deserves to discover their potential and acquire the skills, confidence and motivation to make things happen and bring about change. The five-day leadership and innovation programme is an exciting series of interactive workshops, energetic activities and fun-filled challenges specifically designed to inspire and enable each and every student to uncover their unique abilities, develop greater confidence and master strategies for success in the classroom and beyond. Programme leader, Dr Ram B. Ramchandran is Vice Dean and Professor of Strategy and Planning at the O.P. Jindal Global School, India. The event is organised by Right Track Consultants. For registration details, contact 55448835.

Short Executive Programme
WHERE: HEC Paris in Qatar
WHEN: Tomorrow – December 11
HEC Paris in Qatar offers ‘General Management – The Navigator Programme’ Executive Short Programme with HEC Paris Affiliate Professor Wolfgang Amann. This two-day programme will give aspiring and current and future managers a solid, hands-on introduction to the challenges and key tasks of general management. By the end of this session, participants will have gained a profound understanding of the roles and tasks, the opportunities and challenges, and the necessity to bridge as well as combine insights from leadership, governance, and strategy.

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

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Saturday – Friday
Mamangam is an art and performance centre started with a vision of spreading our knowledge, interests and experience in various disciplines in arts across different countries for children and adults. Mamangam has become the favourite centre for learning. We offer regular classes in the following disciplines like traditional classical and folk dance forms, art and craft, drawing and painting, personality development and public speaking, Bollywood dance, contemporary, hip hop styles, music both vocals and instrumental. To develop health consciousness, we train them karate, yoga with special sessions for kids and adults. Mamangam has also come up with chess and robotics in regular batches in an attempt to give a better learning experience, as they sharpen their minds and brains too. For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in
"Choral world here getting bigger and maturing"

— Alena Pyne, renowned choir conductor

Qatar Youth Choir and Qatar Junior Choir have been making waves with their prowess wherever they have been able to execute their skills. Behind all these building artists lies a great teacher, who spares no stone untorned to hone their skills.

Alena Pyne is that formidable force. In this exclusive interview with Community, she dilates on her passion, how she set up the Qatar Youth Choir, and the rites of passage for its success.

**Community Report**

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“I’m from Ireland. In 2011, my husband and I moved to Qatar with our three children aged 11, 9 and 7. I currently work as a music teacher in Kings College Doha. I have sung in choirs for as long as I can remember and have studied music all my life. My passion is for all music genres, but I always had a strong desire to lead my own choir and Qatar presented me with the opportunity to do so. The voice is an amazing instrument which can really touch or speak to a person, drawn from a listener hitherto hidden feelings and help people to heal. Singers sing texts, which is unique among all the instruments that exist.

The main difference between a winning performance and what can appear to be an identical performance by a runner-up is performance is the emotion, the intention of the words, the feeling and interpretation of the song by the performer.

When we arrived in Doha, we quickly discovered there was no comparable choir available. I had a strong desire to fill that gap and started to explore choral directing in 2013, and founded Doha Children's Choir.

By the end of our first year, we had 43 singers, all from families who, like ourselves, had migrated here on work contracts. We started the 2nd year as Doha Youth Choir, a name much preferred by the singers. By the end of our 4th season in 2017-18, Doha Youth Choir was operating in the space of a national youth choir and I made the decision to rename ourselves Qatar Youth Choir.

**What challenges have you faced building up your choirs in Doha?**

The first challenge is exposure to market factors and losing singers because contracts end and families move away. Fewer children are studying or participating in formal music education; therefore, the majority of singers coming to both choirs have no experience. But as referenced by the song High Hopes, we are like the ant who manages to shift the rubber tree plant! Out of necessity, our ‘choir offering’ has evolved to include specialist music theory classes and we have also expanded the team to include a vocal coach. In 2015, I founded Qatar Junior Choir as a feeder choir that will eventually enable singers with some experience advancing to Qatar Youth Choir.

The final challenge has been attracting Arabic singers to the choir. As the level of interest in choir rises and we perform Arabic music more widely, I hope this will soon change.

**How many nationalities figure in your choirs and does the cultural mix hinder progress?**

Between both choirs our current members hold passports from India, Sri Lanka, Ireland, England, France, Canada, South Africa, Spain, USA, Egypt, China, Poland, South Africa, Indonesia, Lebanon, South Korea and Belgium. Culturally, there are, of course differences over such a wide geographic span of nationalities, but this is precisely what is wonderful to experience. Through our, all such differences melt into one lovely family of like-minded people, who love music and who are ready to help me or help another singer or to do something additional so as to keep our choirs moving forward. We have the most supportive families which is truly our greatest strength.

**How has the choral landscape evolved since you started your choirs?**

Founding Qatar Youth Choir in 2013 definitely captured the attention and interest of many, especially when I first started to take them to meet with other choirs in the world. Since then we have hosted many choirs and always offer workshops for the other choirs in Qatar with those visiting conductors. It is through this sort of experience that the wider choral effort in our schools, churches and community will become stronger and more successful.

While interest in choir is growing among the independent national schools, it has been slower to evolve than the explosion of interest that has occurred at private international schools where participation in choir has dramatically increased. Three years ago Head of Music Stephanie Gomaa launched Doha College’s Qatar Primary School Choir of the Year Competition, and Sonja Park and Joris Laenen staged Qatar’s first National Music Competition. This summer, Qatar was awarded the bid to host the World Symposium of Choral Music in 2023. The choral world here is getting bigger and maturing.

**What type of music do you perform?**

As well as world music, we sing a lot of Arabic repertoire. It was proving difficult to find good arrangements of Arabic songs but during last summer we were fortunate to connect with Maestro Barkev Talakian from the renowned Fabya Choir in Lebanon. Maestro Barkev’s mission is to share Arabic songs with the world and spread the opportunities for Arabic songs to be performed.

We now have access to fresh and improved Arabic song arrangements thanks to the generosity and vision of this great man and his organisation.

Together with our Patron international soprano Felicitas Fuchs Wittenkind, Maestro Barkev has agreed to be our Patron for Arabic Song. This means that he will always try to guide us to deliver the best performances of this exciting repertoire.

**How do platforms such as the Qatar Youth Choir and Qatar Junior Choir support young children who have a talent for music and singing?**

I believe there is talent to be found everywhere. It just needs to be awakened and the hands of passion for that talent. When I think back to my favourite subjects
at school, they were without exception, all led by passionate teachers.

**Does choir support the overall personality of a child?**

There is a place for every type of personality in choir. In fact, it’s a great place for timid children to gradually grow their confidence levels as choir is a very safe environment to spend time in.

There will be stronger and weaker singers in every choir group. In this way, those who are more naturally able to lead will have the opportunity to do so.

There are many roles in choir that singers can aspire to and more recent recruits learn much from watching and hearing the more experienced ones.

Choir teaches discipline, method, patience, how to plan music study around academic studies. Choir helps children to improve their listening skills so as to hear each other. Singing in harmony together for long periods can create an environment where singers are likely to be more measured in their language with each other in their approach to issues that arise between them.

Over time, choir can help shape a student into a more rounded, confident and studious person.

Those that want to remain in choir will always make sure that their school grades don’t slip! When everyone settles in, there exists a wonderful spirit, where life-long friendships can develop.

Tell us more about the work that the Qatar Youth Choir and Qatar Junior Choir do here in Qatar and overseas?

All students have choir training twice weekly with vocal coaching, separate sight-reading sessions and every student attends weekly music theory classes. Our students write annual Board theory exams and we also take Board choral exams. These exam awards contribute additional UCAS points to our singers applying to UK-based universities. We operate on a shoe-string, and to raise funds towards our trips we perform locally as much as possible.

We have performed all over Doha for National Day events, for special embassy functions and for private events. As both choirs work extremely hard to give off their very best, their reward is the opportunity to travel abroad and meet other choirs.

In our six short years, we have undertaken trips to Berlin, Hamburg and Wolfenbüttel in Germany, and Latvia, Croatia, Poland, Austria and Portugal. The choirs have had the opportunity to work with really great workshop leaders from abroad and give concerts with other choirs.

The singers have such great memories from their experiences and many are still in touch with these other singer families.

Travelling most certainly has broadened our singers’ minds and opened them up to so many more aspects of this choral craft that I can predict with full certainty that our best is yet to come. I just hope it will be a very long time-coming!

**What are the performances that stand out in your memory?**

Ooooh... having the immense honour of performing our National Anthem for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and his distinguished guests at the opening of our stunning Qatar National Library is top of the list. Next, was representing Qatar for the first time, in Lisbon at the World Choral Expo last July. Qatar Youth Choir also had the honour to sing the first song ever sung inside the Museum of Islamic Art last April. Performing in a war tunnel under Zagreb city, the acoustic in this special space made us sound truly amazing!

There was great excitement when we were invited to perform for Qatar’s Ambassador to Croatia, too, at the embassy. In Vienna last April, performing together with the Vienna Boys Choir was also a very special moment for us, especially given that four of our boy choristers have been awarded scholarships to join this incredible choir.

One more recent memory stands out for me – last September, when Qatar Junior Choir gave a very touching performance to residents of a home for the elderly in Germany. I felt so proud of these singers aged between 10 and 13 and how they interacted so kindly with these very elderly people of varying mobilities and handicaps, language appeared not to matter. It was quite poignant to observe our young ambassadors being so very caring of others.

**Can you comment on the evaluation that was done by the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) in Qatar prior to Qatar being selected as the host nation for the 2023 World Choral Symposium?**

Clearly, the International Federation for Choral Music sees great potential for growth in choral interest in both Qatar and the Arab regions. As Qatar prepares for the FIFA World Cup in 2022, they will be taking into account Qatar’s ability to accommodate thousands of world choir singers and stage wonderful events at our wonderful and varied venues across the peninsula. Of course to organise such an event will take an enormous amount of planning and manpower but when Qatar and it’s incredible and forward-thinking business leaders put their minds to it, led by my colleagues Giovanni Pastini, Jennifer Taynen and myself, I am confident Qatar will stage the best World Choral Symposium yet.

**From your perspective, where do you see the future of the choral scene in Qatar and the region?**

The timing of the bid was excellent as over these past years, interest in choral singing is growing and our audiences are also growing. This is not just because of Qatar Youth and Junior Choirs activities, but over time all involved in choir-life have become more active. Due to the awarding of the World Choral Symposium, more people in Qatar are becoming aware of the burgeoning choral scene here. Exactly because of this winning bid, there are other major initiatives happening that will be announced soon, and which, we are confident will provide greater stability for this art form from which further growth and development will follow.

However, we really need the financial support of the State of Qatar and the commercial world so we can enhance and build upon what we are doing, attract the best workshop leaders from abroad and start to compete on the world stage.

At the same time, one must recognise and thank the Music Square/FNAC through Yamaha Fifty One East who have supported us from the very beginning, the Swiss International School Qatar who take care of us in so many special ways, the Millennium Hotel Doha that has been so generous in taking care of our visiting choir accommodation needs and who always step in to help us where they can.

I should mention the Saracen Group for their encouragement and support these past years and last but not least, I must express my gratitude to Ms Sonja Park for her belief in me and encouragement and her most generous support and her most generous support of us whenever possible. I wish to also thank Qatar Airways and Qatar National Tourist Council for enabling us to travel to Lisbon last summer to perform for the IFCM on a world stage with other fantastic choirs. We simply could not have attended without their immense financial support.

I cannot wait to discover what’s next!

- Qatar Youth and Junior Choirs perform Winter Nights 3 today together with Marushkons Vocal Ensemble. For tickets, please contact the choirs.
SIFQ and QF mark 150 years of periodic table

Science India Forum Qatar (SIFQ) and Qatar Foundation (QF) recently organised an event to mark the 150 years of periodic table at Qatar National Library. The event featured lectures by various researchers, including Dr. Essem Heggy, Chief Scientist at Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute. Dr. Essem spoke about the role India has played in exploring the Earth, moon, and planets.

Dr. Hemant Pande, Vice President of the Association of Chemistry Teachers in Mumbai, spoke about how changes to the periodic table could impact life on Earth, while Dr. Gregory J. Moncada from Qatar Academy for Science and Technology (QAST) encouraged attendees to dream big and pursue their passion for science.

Other activities included a quiz, led by Dr. Hemant Pande, former Governing council member of Central India Research Institute and former project co-ordinator of Department of Science, Technology, Government of India. The joint winners of the challenge were QAST, MES Indian School Doha, and King’s College Doha.

The event also featured interactive science exhibition by the Engineering Road Show led by Dr. Mohamed Gharib, STEM Initiatives Program Co-ordinator at Texas A&M University at Qatar. Cynthia Lynn Bolton, Head of Gifted Education at QF, supported the event. “This was an exciting opportunity for students in Qatar to collaborate within a field they share a passion for,” she said.

Qatar Foundation’s Gifted Education department is dedicated to providing unique and exciting educational avenues that engage students in opportunities to explore their interests, develop their talents, and make greater connections with the world. I am so proud of all of the students for their dedication and commitment to making it so successful,” she added.

SSLS holds Annual Sports Meet 2019

Stafford Sri Lankan School (SSLS) recently held its Annual Sports Meet 2019 at the Aspire. Kithsiri Athulathmudali, Ambassador of Sri Lanka, was the chief guest on the occasion. He declared the meet open. Officials from the Embassy of Sri Lanka along with members of the School Board Directors attended the event. The students of three houses, including Garnet, Topaz and Emerald participated in various tournaments, including cricket, basketball, volleyball, netball, throw ball, hockey and football. Marathon and Relay race was also held. Garnet house bagged the overall championship title, which was followed by Emerald house as runners up. Roshan Balasooriya, Chairman of SSLS, presented appreciation awards to volunteer coaches who have been helping the school.

“This year’s sports meet marked the beginning of a new chapter of sports at Stafford Sri Lankan School with the vision of Roshan Balasooriya and under the guidance of Athulathmudali, to develop and take the sports to further heights in a way to compete at national level,” said Mohamed Shafrik, member of the Board and Head of Sports Committee at SSLS.

ICC organises Indian dance performance ‘Keraleeyam’

Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), in association with Palakkadan Natirarangyu, recently organised an Indian dance performance ‘Keraleeyam’ at the ICC Ashoka Hall. The event featured various Indian classical and folk dance forms, including Kathakali, Mohinyattam, Keralanathanam, Kalappayappu, Ottanthullal, Oppanam, Margamkali and Thiruvathirakkali. Thirty-seven artistes performed on stage. Ibraiz Khan, President of Karnataka Muslim Cultural Association, was the guest of honour. The event was attended by over 150 people. Speaking on the occasion, Gopal K. A, President of Palakkadan Natirarangyu, stated that this was a unique event with all the dance forms were staged without a break for about an hour and thanked his team for the enormous effort to achieve the co-ordination. Rajesh Singh, Head of Finance at ICC, anchored the event as the Master of Ceremonies. Mankantan, President of ICC, welcomed the gathering and Ramachandra Shetty, Head of In-house Activities at ICC, proposed a vote of thanks.
VCUarts Qatar welcomes prospective students to Open Day event

Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar) in Education City recently held an Open Day for prospective students who are interested in the University’s highly regarded suite of art and design degree programmes. VCUarts Qatar is the international branch campus of Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of the Arts in Richmond, Virginia, in the US, and it offers students the opportunity to earn a degree in fashion design, graphic design, interior design, painting and printmaking, art history, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in design. The students and their families and friends had the opportunity to meet Amir Berbic, Dean of VCUarts Qatar. He welcomed the guests, Dean Berbic, who is the youngest Dean in Education City, and himself a graphic designer, explained that the University has over 300 students from 35 nationalities and almost 750 alumni, with professors who are graduates of prestigious universities, including Royal College of Art, Cornell University, Rhode Island School of Design, and Rutgers University, to name but a few.

The Dean’s presentation was followed by introductions from Ryan Browning, Associate Professor at Art Foundation department. He took attendees through the art and design portfolio requirements for the University’s application process. Dr Sean Roberts, Chair of the Art History department, spoke about requirements when applying to study Art History, such as the SAT or ACT scores, and essay samples. The attendees also met faculty members from the academic departments, and with current students, who were happy to answer their questions about life at VCUarts Qatar. They were then given a tour of the University’s facilities by members of VCUarts Qatar’s Student Government Association, who showed them spaces including Materials Library and the Fabrication Lab.

“The prospective students and their families especially enjoyed meeting faculty and current students while seeing the incredible facilities as well as viewing some of the student artwork on display,” said Katherine Mangum, Director of Recruitment and Admissions at VCUarts Qatar. “We hope that seeing art being created and learning what we really do at VCUarts Qatar will help prospective students with their decision-making and they will choose to join us.”

The deadline for submitting applications to VCUarts Qatar for entry into the academic year that begins in August 2020, is February 1, 2020.

Director of Recreation at Sharq Village & Spa wins Marriott Global Excellence Award for Community Service

Asela Jayaweera, Director of Recreation at Sharq Village & Spa, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, recently bagged the JWillard Marriott Award of Excellence 2018 at the Marriott International Headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. He was selected among the 10,000 world wide nominations, received from 7200 hotels of the group and among the nine select employees, who received their awards for distinguished service, at a ceremony, which was attended by representatives and senior officials of the Ritz-Carlton group.

His name for the award was nominated by senior officials of the Sharq Village and Spa, Doha, and after a three-and-half month long voting process, Asela has been with the hotel industry for the last 24 years and has worked in six different countries having started his career in Sri Lanka.

He has been actively involved in community service and has been successful in engaging local communities in social-awareness programmes like beach safety programmes, training beach lifeguards and bee keeping. Asela spearheaded a multifarious amount of initiatives beneficial to a dynamic range of humanitarian projects aiding those in need and less fortunate.

He, in active collaboration with several senior officials of the Sharq Village and Spa Doha, has been in the forefront to train and create awareness about safe swimming practices. He also has been training and conducting various beach safety programmes for schools and parents and guiding them on the safety measures they need to take while taking to the water, both in the swimming pool and in the open sea.

With over 1400 volunteer hours from almost 600 volunteers, and achieving over $30,000 in cash donations in 2018, Asela partnered with organisations including Qatar Charity, Doha College, Harmand Medical Corporation Blood Bank, Qatar Foundation, PADI, MAD Triathlon, Desert Hound Express Foundation, and Sidra Women’s Hospital to name a few. With Asela’s contribution by collaborating with Education Above All and Qatar’s Marriott Business Council, over 500 beneficiaries participated in a lucrative cycling event, ‘Ride to Educate’, held at the Sheraton Grand Doha Hotel which garnered funds over QR140,000 aimed in providing educational opportunities to communities affected by poverty.

Asela has also campaigned for a healthier lifestyle to combat the rising obesity cases amongst the youth by offering group fitness classes, sports activities, and organising triathlons. Other campaigns included blood donations, swim-for-a-cause, tree planting, and clean up drives.

BC Toastmasters Club (BCTC) recently hosted a speakathon session at Bangladesh MMH School and College. The session was attended by Raghavan Menon, District 116 (Qatar) Director, along with Dinesh Kumar, Division A Director, and Shaji Koshy, Area-5 Director. Riana Pinto, Assistant Division Director – Program Quality (Division B); Alair Mel Manga, Gavel Clubs Co-ordinator, Vijayalata Valluri, and Shahid Kunnurmal also attended the session.

The speakathon speakers, included Muzanar Rahman, Abdul Mukt, Jaslimuddin, Monirul Haque, Shadiya Shorreet, Shams Elas, and Nurul Kabir Chowdhury. Nurul Kabir Chowdhury bagged the title of best speaker and Vijayalata Valluri, the best evaluator. Neer Mohammed (Noor), President of BCTC, presided over the event. Khorshed Alam was the Toastmaster of the Day and Dinesh Kumar the general evaluator.

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Lexus returns to Design Miami/ as official automotive partner, design exhibitor

Lexus has recently joined the 2019 Design Miami/ fair as the official automotive partner for the second year, underlining the marque’s passion for design at the global forum for the most influential collectors, designers, curators and critics from around the world, stated a press release.

Lexus, as the brand that created the world’s first luxury hybrid in 2005, extended its support to the show’s sustainable theme with an all-hybrid fleet that chauffeured the fair’s VIP guests. Also new for 2019, Lexus brought the stunning LC Convertible Concept as part of the brand’s first commissioned installation for Design Miami/ with an exhibition titled SUNSHOWER. Rounding out its presence at the fair, Lexus continued the successful Lexus Art Series: Art and Innovation talks with Whitewall now in its fourth year.

For the brand’s onsite installation, Lexus has responded to the fair’s theme of ‘Elements: Water’ by commissioning designer Nao Tamura to create an immersive, multimedia installation that evokes the wondrousness of this natural outdoor phenomenon. SUNSHOWER was curated by Design Miami Curatorial Director Aric Chen and prominent Milan-based curator and author Maria Cristina Didero. The ethereal exhibition features the LC Convertible Concept, reinforcing the brand’s commitment to omotenashi (hospitality), takumi (artisanship) and the indoor-outdoor philosophy of engawa. Guests are being invited to experience SUNSHOWER, relax in the space, use its charging stations, and sample Ooho, innovative water capsules made of edible seaweed extract.

“In Lexus design, nothing is accidental, and we believe that sense of thoughtful design is felt throughout the installation,” says Brian Bolain, General Manager of Lexus International. “The design goal of the LC Convertible Concept is the expression of ultimate beauty, and we are proud to display it amid such talented designers.”

From the rake of the windshield to the smooth contours of the rear decklid that houses the convertible top, every line on the LC Convertible Concept was drawn to evoke an emotional response. A stunning design from every angle, the LC Convertible Concept stands as an aspirational halo vehicle for the Lexus brand.

“Design Miami/ is pleased that Lexus has returned as our official automotive partner and is celebrating the brand’s commitment to innovation, beauty, and sustainability,” says Jennifer Roberts, Chief Executive Officer of Design Miami. “Lexus’ dedication to design excellence is unparalleled. With the SUNSHOWER exhibition and the all-hybrid vehicle fleet, the Lexus presence is felt throughout the fair in a way that feels organic to our mission as a global design forum.”

Furthuring its commitment to innovation and sustainability, Lexus has partnered with Notpla to serve Ooho, the edible water droplets. Notpla is a company dedicated to creating advanced packaging solutions that disappear, naturally. The Ooho edible water droplets were previously a finalist in the 2014 Lexus Design Award and have been served at the London Marathon. For the first time they are available in the US, and Design Miami/ guests are able to sample the sustainable water solution at the Lexus booth at various times throughout the week.

Lexus and Whitewall Magazine have teamed up for the fourth year in a row bringing their Art and Innovation talks with Whitewall. We are excited to again hold this year’s panels—focusing on the future of design, sustainability, and creative practices — at the esteemed location of Design Miami. With proceedings series to the official programming of Design Miami/ The series are taking place on site at Design Miami/, as part of the fair’s official programming. The unique series of four conversations feature an international group of global art and design leaders who will discuss key topics relevant to the creative space.

Participants including artist Troy Simmons, automotive designer Tedao Mori, curator Aric Chen, DJ Eduardo Castillo, and adviser Claudia Paetzold will discuss topics such as the design of future cities, the artist as disrupter, sustainability in luxury markets, as well as the transformative power of design.

“We are honoured to have partnered with Lexus for the fourth iteration of the Lexus Art Series Art and Innovation talks with Whitewall. We are excited to again hold this year’s panels—focusing on the future of design, sustainability, and creative practices — at the esteemed location of Design Miami,” said Michael Klug, Whitewall’s Founder, Publisher, and Editor at Large.

The Westin Doha Hotel and Spa unveils Qatar National Day offers

On the occasion of Qatar National Day, The Westin Doha Hotel and Spa has recently unveiled an array of offerings allowing guests to spend exquisite moments with their families in an unforgettable atmosphere, stated a press release.

The hotel offers an attractive deal for residents and visitors from across the region where they can enjoy the sanctuary of The Westin Doha Hotel and Spa. The exclusive offer consists, when booking two rooms, 50 % off on the second room, additionally kids under 12 years dine in for free.

For those who wish to explore a culinary journey, the hotel offers several dining options. Seasonal Tastes, the signature restaurant, offers special lunch for just QR109 and Asian Night dinner with a 30% discount.

Guests who are looking for authentic Thai flavours can enjoy dinner with a complimentary dessert. For meat lovers, Hunters Room and Grill, a contemporary Grill and Lounge that serves the finest quality meat, will give a complimentary starter.

In addition, Heavenly Spa by Westin has announced the launch of a special offer that consists of 50% off on Membership from 11th till 18th December, to give guests the opportunity to explore revitalising health and beauty treatments, active and fun sports activities while experiencing a genuine wellness retreat.

Ammar Samad, General Manager of The Westin Doha Hotel and Spa, said, “The National Day offer is a perfect opportunity for families to spend quality time and make the most of the public holiday in Doha. Our spacious rooms, wide recreation facilities, and luxurious green gardens would allow families to spend memorable moments with their kids in a comfortable atmosphere.”
Peanut butter for the holidays, a most rewarding gift for birds

No matter where you live, you can bring the world of birding to your yard, a park or new public garden, both with feeders, birdbaths or fountains, and strong support from native berry-producing plants, writes Norman Winter.
Science Matters

The two Voyager spacecraft, traveling 41 years, have left the solar system into the emptiness between stars – “interstellar space” – and are now reporting what is there.

Source: NASA, Nature Astronomy journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Temperature: Interstellar space is hotter than was expected; flow of charged particles through space heats it to 30,000–50,000° C

Cosmic rays: High-energy protons and atomic nuclei zipping through space at nearly light speed; they come from distant stars or galaxies

Boundary layer: Out beyond the heliopause, in a zone beyond the sun’s influence and its magnetic field, the Voyagers encountered the “interstellar wind” of charged particles – and complicated disturbances in this transitional area

Sun’s magnetic field protects solar system from many of them

Solar wind of charged particles flows outward from sun forming an expanding bubble

Solar wind slows due to pressure of interstellar material

Outer edge of heliosphere
Turbulent zone at leading edge of heliosphere

What lies in actual ‘outer space’
What the Voyagers found out there

Heliosphere
Heliopause

INTERSTELLAR MATERIAL
Cosmic ray’s path

Termination shock
SUN
PLANETS

The solar system moves, orbiting around the Milky Way galaxy* at 828,000 km/h (514,000 mph); that distorts the shape of the heliosphere from a sphere

Voyager 1 Launched Sept. 1977; most distant man-made object; left solar system in 2012

Voyager 2 Launched August 1977; observed outer planets; left solar system in 2018

The solar system moves, orbiting around the Milky Way galaxy at 828,000 km/h (514,000 mph); that distorts the shape of the heliosphere from a sphere

* Takes 230 million years to orbit once around the galaxy
Researchers have found that women who use permanent hair dye and chemical hair straighteners have a higher risk of developing breast cancer than women who don’t use these products.

The study, published in the International Journal of Cancer, suggests that breast cancer risk increased with more frequent use of these chemical hair products.

“Researchers have been studying the possible link between hair dye and cancer for a long time, but results have been inconsistent,” said study author Alexandra White from National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in US.

“In our study, we see a higher breast cancer risk associated with hair dye use, and the effect is stronger in African American women, particularly those who are frequent users,” White said.

Using data from 46,709 women in the Sister Study, researchers at NIEHS, found that women who regularly used permanent hair dye in the year prior to enrolling in the study were nine per cent more likely than those who didn’t use hair dye to develop breast cancer.

Among African American women, using permanent dyes every five to eight weeks or more was associated with a 60 per cent increased risk of breast cancer as compared with an eight per cent increased risk for white women.

The research team found little to no increase in breast cancer risk for semi-permanent or temporary dye use.

An intriguing finding was the association between the use of chemical hair straighteners and breast cancer.

The researchers found that women who used hair straighteners at least every five to eight weeks were about 30 per cent more likely to develop breast cancer.

While the association between straightener use and breast cancer was similar in African American and white women, straightener use was much more common among African American women, the study said.

The researchers cautioned that although there is some prior evidence to support the association with chemical straighteners, these results need to be replicated in other studies.

When asked if women should stop dyeing or straightening their hair, study co-author Dale Sandler, “We are exposed to many things that could potentially contribute to breast cancer, and it is unlikely that any single factor explains a woman’s risk.

“While it is too early to make a firm recommendation, avoiding these chemicals might be one more thing women can do to reduce their risk of breast cancer,” Sandler said. — IANS
Wordsearch

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

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine (3x3) boxes. You are given a selection of numbers to work with, each filled to the goal so that every column, every row and every box contains each number only once.

Codeword

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Codeword

Garfield

Bound And Gagged

Codeword

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Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Birds making ‘orrible noises? (4)
3 A lamp etc. – possibly part of a table setting (5,3)
9 High level? (7)
10 Pair in trouble given 50 or 30 days (5)
11 How to cook minced meats? (5)
12 Valiant energy in new choir (6)
14 Dressing bird with last of stuffing (6)
16 Minor discourtesy (6)
19 Paint a textbook (6)
21 Snake given by important person to the queen (5)
24 Very much out of shape (5)
25 Carry on designing stripes (7)
26 Artist given plates for salad ingredients (8)
27 The dining room is a shambles (4)

Down
1 They resist difficult puzzles after work (8)
2 Don’t take a holiday (5)
4 Disreputable loud chef tails off (6)
5 Seat for one in charge of meeting (5)
6 Spoil ruler with means of identification (7)
7 Powder used in post-natal care (4)
8 Never mind - the pests are inside (6)
13 States repeatedly broke treaties (8)
15 She finds local employment (7)
17 Quick railway providing uniform for servants (6)
18 Three times the amount of rubbish covering lake (6)
20 Israelite leader some confused with Samaritan leader (6)
22 Lions living together in sin? (5)
23 American star who’s dear to the French (4)

Solution

Across
1 O W L S
2 P L A C E M A T
3 P E R E V O H A
4 P L A T E A U
5 A P R I L
6 O V R C I K C
7 S T E A M
8 H E R O I C
9 E N T
10 S I G H T
11 S H E L F
12 R I M E
13 S T I N G
14 A S T E R
15 E N T E R
16 F R I M E
17 E R P E R
18 H O M E
19 S T R I P E
20 H A P P E N
21 R I D E
22 S T R I N G
23 R O T T E N
24 C H E E S E
25 R E D I S H E S
26 M E S S

Down
1 M T E R A C K A M Y V E A N V T
2 N T F P P A N V I E U I A D
3 B H A R P M L P L I E V M C G
4 I M C I O E I E O N B O C G
5 R A T O C T P C O N B T D E U
6 A V O R U H O F U O A T O P B
7 R I O U R P R A M V E E C T R
8 E C N L L O L D B E D U N
9 T E O M B S T E N V R A D S
10 E V B R I U E R B H D H P A
11 C E I R L S R D B L E L A C I
12 T R U P D E I D E N I S R A
13 E S C H A E G E C A T O T D O
14 T A I Y S V O M I N S I T V
15 U N L I - L U N K - B A - M - W A N
16 M U L T I P L E X Y U C C A
17 B E E F Y W L S
18 H A L A Z E E Q U A K E R S
19 B A G D A H
20 E X T R A D E V I M
21 D E L V E E O P T I C W D O
22 M A R S H A L L J O Y F U L
23 S T I Z Z L A
24 S H A T T E R S E C H D E R B O O K
25 E T T I S O H T E A R R

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword
Dabangg 3 is exactly how we want to see Salman, says Prabhudheva

By Ahana Bhattacharya

Prabhudheva returns as director in Bollywood with the Salman Khan-starrer Dabangg 3. He is of the opinion that the film portrays the superstar exactly in the way his fans want to see him.

“It is an all-out Salman Khan film. How you want to see Salman Khan, how I want to see him and how everybody wants to see him – the film is just that. Chulbul is like Chulbul. If you change him, people will not like it. Also, this time it is bigger than (Dabangg) one and two,” Prabhudheva said.

Dabangg 3 recently courted controversy when certain sections raised objection to the title song Hud hud Dabangg, over certain scenes in the number showing saffron-clad sadhus dancing with guitars.

“If I say anything about it, it will become a controversy. Whatever I comment now – good or bad – they will ask why you said this. Let it pass. Let the film release,” said the director.

Rather, he would focus on talking about the creative aspect of his film. Elaborating on the fact that the franchise is mostly celebrated as an action series, the filmmaker said: “The film has a strong love story. It mainly talks about how Chulbul Pandey became Chulbul.”

Prabhudheva, who has earlier directed Salman Khan in the 2009 action-thriller Wanted, also shared his experience of working with the superstar, and how he has evolved over the past 10 years.

“He understands more now because he is also involved in the screenplay and is also a producer of the film. He is like a technician in this film too, and not just its hero,” said Prabhudheva, adding: “It is very easy to interact and work with Salman sir. He is the easiest person to work with. He has a different aura when he faces the camera.”

On whether the superstar offers his inputs or follows the director’s instructions, Prabhudheva replied: “In this film, he is also a technician, he is involved with the story, screenplay everything. So, as a technician, yes. He co-operated with me a lot. He was interacting like a technician only, not as the hero of the film.”

Padma Shri Prabhudheva is a legendary choreographer first and then an actor and a filmmaker. How much does the National Award-winning choreographer interfere with a film’s choreography, when he is directing it?

“I leave it to them (the choreographers). Sometimes I offer inputs keeping the character in mind if I feel that is necessary. Follow my inputs is entirely up to the choreographer,” he replied.

Prabhudheva also revealed his observations on Salman Khan as a dancer: “I have worked with many actors as a choreographer. It is very important to understand the body language of the actor – how much he or she can do. Accordingly, we choreograph for that actor. Each person has his own style. Nowadays, Salman sir is very interested in dancing. He has become better than before as a dancer. You will notice it when you watch the songs of the film. I am sure you will love his dance.”

In Dabangg 3, Salman Khan co-stars with Sonakshi Sinha and Saiee Manjrekar. The third instalment of the successful franchise is slated to hit theatres on December 20.

Rani excited to appear with Salman on Bigg Boss

Ahead of the release of Mardaani 2, actress Rani Mukerji will come to Salman Khan’s Bigg Boss show to promote her upcoming film.

“Salman and I have been friends for so long so I’m sure this episode is going to be epic,” Rani said.

The two have earlier worked with each other in several films including Chori Chori Chupke Chupke and Bhool Bhulaiyaa.

Also, as Mardaani 2 focuses on the rise in violent crimes by juveniles in India, Rani will try to spread the message of the film through the reality TV show.

“We will also spread the messaging of my film on the show so that it reaches as many households of our country as possible. It is important for the entire country to wake up to the threat posed by the rise of violent crimes that are being committed against women by juvenile criminals.

MESSAGE: Stills from Rani Mukerji’s upcoming film Mardaani 2.

Important exposures like this will help us reach out to as many families and young girls and make them aware of this menace,” she added.

The episode, featuring Rani and Salman, will air on Colors TV.

Rajkummar Rao-Nushrat starrer Tumram Khan renamed Chhalaang

The upcoming Rajkummar Rao-starrer Turram Khan has been renamed Chhalaang. The film’s lead actress and Nushrat Bharucha took to Instagram to share the news.

“Same team, same movie, same release date... just a new name – Chhalaang! See you in theatres on 31st Jan, 2020!” wrote Nushrat.

Chhalaang is directed by Hansal Mehta and produced by Ajay Devgn, Luv Ranjan and Ankur Mallik. The film is slated to hit theatres on February 28 next year. The film also features Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub in a key role.

This will be Rajkummar’s sixth collaboration with filmmaker Hansal Mehta. The duo has in the past worked together in Shuddhi, CityLights, Aligarh, and Omerta, besides the web series Bose: Dead/Alive.

Amaal Mallik, Lost Stories reimagine U2’s songs

Indian music artistes Lost Stories, OX7GEN, Karsh Kale and Amaal Mallik are honouring U2 with a unique spin on their favourite tracks of the Irish band.

In their own signature styles, the artistes bring a modern dance floor vibe and Indian touch to U2 classics: Love is bigger than anything in its way, You’re the best thing about me, Pride and Beautiful day. This comes ahead of U2’s December 15 Mumbai show.

Mallik said: “U2 happens to be one of the world’s most celebrated bands of all time, and they have influenced my own music and playlists growing up. In fact, when I was in college, I won a singing competition with a U2 song. When I was presented with the opportunity to reimagine Beautiful day, I knew I would need to go above and beyond. Having them listen to my music or even be aware of it, still sounds like a teenager’s pipe dream.”

All four of the reimagined U2 songs were developed by JioSaavn’s A&R team.

Hiba Irshad, Director of A&R at JioSaavn, said: “Given that U2 has chosen Mumbai as their final stop of ‘The Joshua Tree World Tour’, we wanted to pay homage to such a legendary, universally loved band by integrating India’s most celebrated talent into some of U2’s best songs.”

The reprises and remixes follow last month’s release of Ahimsa – a new track from U2 and singer-composer A.R. Rahman. – IANS

OMERTA

INFLUENCED: Amaal Mallik says “U2 has influenced my own music and playlists growing up”

CHANGED: A scene from Chhalaang. The film is set to release on January 31 next year.
Impeachment isn’t Law & Order. It’s time to stop viewing it that way

By Lorraine Ali

The show is over. Articles of impeachment are about to be drafted.

The House’s televised public impeachment inquiry has been a long, painful and sometimes funny – as in “laugh until you cry” funny – slog. Now it’s time for The People to decide. At least, that’s what would happen in a scripted series with no basis in reality: TV justice, meted out by folks just like us, and in under an hour, is way sexier than a party-line vote.

But as senators prepare for the trial that would follow a House vote, it’s still unclear whether the viewers – sorry, citizens – in our televised democracy were persuaded one way or another regarding the impeachment of President Trump. The law, after all, requires sobriety and clarity to work, and that’s a hard sell in an ecosystem where escapism and mirrored reality are the currency.

The televised inquiries do not appear to have significantly shifted public opinion. From October to the end of November, those in favour of impeachment hovered around 50%. The numbers indicate passive viewing, at best. Though TV ratings for previous days’ hearings can’t detach from this piece of history in the making, a large portion of the country appears to have opted out.

The House Judiciary Committee’s questioning on Wednesday of legal experts on articles of impeachment – and last month’s grilling of foreign service officers and aides by the House Intelligence Committee – did not evoke quite the same backstabbing drama or brutality of a Game of Thrones tribunal.

Instead, Democrats have fed the political dumpster fire with reams of damning testimony and evidence. Republicans have tried to smother the blaze, which might explain what happened to Rep. Jim Jordan’s missing jacket. And both sides leaned heavily on history.

The framers of the constitution were invoked so often during Wednesday’s 8½-hour hearing, it’s a wonder Thomas Jefferson didn’t materialise belting a Hamilton tune: “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” We fought for these ideals, we shouldn’t settle for less.

These are wise words, enterprising men quote ‘em. Don’t act surprised, you guys, cause I wrote ‘em.”

A song or two might have spruced up the Judiciary Committee’s inquiry, which was more academic than the hearings conducted by their counterparts in Intelligence. Nothing like Hamilton to make folks care about the health of their democracy. The panel’s legal experts did, however, pepper their testimony with pop-culture references and memorable retorts.

Noah Feldman of Harvard Law School name-checked The Good Place in his otherwise deeply serious testimony about our dire constitutional crisis. Stanford Law School professor Pamela S Karlan ferociously countered Rep. Doug Collins when he suggested she didn’t do her homework on the specifics of the case. “I ate a turkey that came to us in the mail that was already cooked because I was spending my [Thanksgiving] doing that!,” she bristled. One spectator even arrived armed with opera glasses for better viewing of the tragicomedy. Law & Order couldn’t have pulled off that flourish.

Throughout the hearings, though, it’s Republicans who’ve been most proficient in the art of Kabuki theatre – which is more in line with the fist-pounding antics of The Good Wife or perhaps more accurately, its Trump-era successor, The Good Fight. But even their attempts to hold court have failed to engage, and more importantly inspire, viewers already burned out on The Trump Show.

Next season he’ll step into the starring role, when the actions of a reckless president, who appears to have abused the power of office for personal gain, invited a foreign government to meddle in US elections and obstructed justice in the process, will be on trial. It’s safe to say there will be no reality TV table fips or Perry Mason-style courtroom moments – but maybe it’s time to stop craving spectacle and start listening to the facts. Should our democracy really depend more on legal dramas than it does on the law? – Los Angeles Times /TNS
Orchestra music lovers enjoy compositions of Edward Elgar

By Mudassir Raja

Nothing can be more rewarding than attending a mesmerising classical western music concert on a cool winter evening in the elegant auditoriums of Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

Orchestral music enthusiasts and concertgoers were recently provided with an opportunity to relish thoroughly classical western music performance by the troupes of Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) and two young and outstanding guest artists – Elias Grandy, conductor, and Savitri Grier, violinist.

The concert ‘Elgar’s Enigma Variations’ was a part of the Qatar British Festival 2019. The classical music lovers attended the concert in large numbers and earnestly applauded Enigma Variations, the composition of Edward Elgar, a much-celebrated English composer. There were other works also that enchanted the audience in the auditorium.

The mastery of Edward Elgar (1857-1939) can best be understood in the words of Bernard Shaw, an Irish playwright, critic, polemicist and political activist. He said about his contemporary: “Edward Elgar, the figure head of music in England, is a composer whose rank is neither prudent nor indeed possible to determine. A young man from the West Country without a musical degree, proceeding calmly and sweetly on the unconscious assumption, he was by nature and destiny one of the great composers. He does not appear in music as an experimenter and explorer, like Scryabin and Schönberg. He took music where Beethoven left it and where Schumann and Brahms found it. His musical mind was formed before Wagner reached him: and his natural power over the material then before him was so great that he was never driven outside it by lack of means for expressing himself. And certainly his music acted very differently”.

Elias Grandy, prizewinner of the prestigious Solti Competition and appointed General Music Director of the Theatre and Orchestra of Heidelberg, is quickly becoming one of the rising German conductors of his generation. Serving for several years as Kapellmeister at the Staatstheater Darmstadt, he has acquired a large repertoire ranging from Mozart to contemporary composers.

Savitri Grier is a formidable violinist of full tone and strong personality. Grier’s tone was sweet and elegant, and surprisingly mellow, wonderfully and technically assured. She has sung Elgar’s line effortlessly but brought welcome flashes of temperament and gave a thoughtful, inward account of the concerto.

During the 2019/20 season, Savitri makes her debut as soloist with the Concerto Budapest, City Philharmonic Orchestras. She gives recitals in Mumbai, and concerts across Europe at the Podium Festival (Stuttgart), in Warsaw, Sendesaal Bremen, Chapelle Royale Brussels, Royal Welsh College of Music and Cambridge Music Festival.

Talking to Community, Rohan Stephens, head of programmes and partnership British Council, British Ambassador to Qatar, with Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, General Manager of Katara, and Sam Ayton, Director, British Council Qatar, the festival’s theme ‘People and Place’ examined the impact of ‘place’ on us and in turn, our impact on place and the long-lasting, positive effects of cultural connection and exchange between the people of Qatar and the people of the United Kingdom. The festival concluded with the Qatar-UK Alumni Awards; a celebration of the enduring success cultural exchange can bring to societies, through education.

“Savitri’s performance with QPO at QNCC is the part of the sixth edition of annual Qatar British Festival. This festival works to improve connections between the two countries” — Rohan Stephens, head of programmes and partnership British Council