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COMMUNITY




COVER STORY

Ma!

A *Community* exclusive – stories from the professional to the personal – to mark Mother's Day. **Pages 4-9**

REVIEW

A story of rejection that fails to illuminate.

Page 10



SHOWBIZ

Many political biopics to hit screens in India ahead of polls.

Page 11





PRAYER TIME

Fajr	4.22am
Shorooq (sunrise)	5.39am
Zuhr (noon)	11.42am
Asr (afternoon)	3.08pm
Maghreb (sunset)	5.47pm
Isha (night)	7.17pm

USEFUL NUMBERS



Emergency	999
Worldwide Emergency Number	112
Kahramaa - Electricity and Water	991
Local Directory	180
International Calls Enquires	150
Hamad International Airport	40106666
Labor Department	44508111, 44406537
Mowasalat Taxi	44588888
Qatar Airways	44496000
Hamad Medical Corporation	44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation	44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation	44593333
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre	44594050
Qatar News Agency	44450205
	44450333
Q-Post - General Postal Corporation	44464444
Humanitarian Services Office	
(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)	
Ministry of Interior	40253371, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health	40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation	40253368, 40253365
Qatar Airways	40253374



June

DIRECTION: Ahammed Khabeer

CAST: Rajisha Vijayan, Sarjano Khalid, Arjun Asokan

SYNOPSIS: The life story of a girl named June from 16

years of her age until she turns 26, thereby giving an insight into those ten years of her life.

THEATRES: Landmark, Royal Plaza



Photograph

DIRECTION: Ritesh Batra

CAST: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Sanya Malhotra, Akash Sinha

SYNOPSIS: A struggling street photographer in Mumbai,

pressured to marry by his grandmother, convinces a shy stranger to pose as his fiancée. The pair develop a connection that transforms them in ways they could not expect.

THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza



Quote Unquote

“A gentleman is one who never hurts anyone’s feelings unintentionally.”

—Oscar Wilde

Community Editor

Kamran Rehmat

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The Mall Cinema (1): *Badla* (Hindi) 2:30pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 4:45pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 7pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 9:15pm; *An International Local Story* (Malayalam) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (2): *Captain Marvel* (2D) 2pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 4pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 5:30pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 7pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 9:15pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (3): *Wonder Park* (2D) 2pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 3:30pm; *Photograph* (Hindi) 5:30pm; *Capharnaum* (2D) 7:30pm; *Greta* (2D) 9:45pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 11:30pm.
Landmark Cinema (1): *An International Local Story*



(Malayalam) 2:15pm; *June* (Malayalam) 4:30pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 7pm; *June* (Malayalam) 8:45pm; *June* (Malayalam) 11:15pm.
Landmark Cinema (2): *Wonder Park* (2D) 3pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 5pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 7pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 9:15pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 11:30pm.
Landmark Cinema (3): *Badla* (Hindi) 2:30pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 4:45pm; *Capharnaum* (2D) 7pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 9:15pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 11:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1): *Wonder Park* (3D) 3pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 5pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 7pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 9:15pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 11:30pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2): *An International Local Story* (Malayalam) 2:15pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 4:45pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 7pm; *Capharnaum* (2D) 9:15pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 11:30pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3): *Ispade Rajavum Idhaya Raniyum* (Tamil) 2:15pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 5pm; *The Hole In The Ground* (2D) 7:15pm; *June* (Malayalam) 9pm; *June* (Malayalam) 11:30pm.



EVENTS

A R Rahman Concert

WHERE: Khalifa Stadium

WHEN: Tomorrow

TIME: 6pm - 11pm

Music maestro A R Rahman is going to be performing on the 22nd of March at the Khalifa Stadium.

MIA Park Bazaar 2019

WHERE: Museum Of Islamic Art

WHEN: Ongoing

TIME: 12pm - 8pm

MIA Bazaar will be having a vibrant mix of 350 stalls. MIA Park Bazaar is a modern version of the old souq tradition. The stalls are going to offer a wide range of gastronomies from all over the world. You can also browse and grab handcrafted artefacts, accessories, canvases, fashion wears, designer ornaments.



Mehaseel Festival

WHERE: Katara Cultural Village

WHEN: Ongoing till March 31

Mehaseel Souq will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 31st of March. It is a perfect market to get amazing local fresh produce.



Dragon Boat Championships

WHERE: Grand Hyatt Doha

WHEN: March 23

TIME: 7am - 5pm

The 2019 Dragon Boat Corporate Cup Championship will take place on March 23 at the Grand Hyatt Doha. Come watch hundreds of recreational corporate dragon boat teams competing for the coveted gold cup.



Artistic Gymnastic Classes

WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb

WHEN: Ongoing

TIME: 3:15pm - 4:15pm

The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.



Bangladesh Festival Qatar

WHERE: Katara

WHEN: Ongoing till March 25

TIME: 4pm onwards

A 6-day long festival showcasing Bangladeshi movie, kids art competition, adult art workshop, food festival, paginating as well as photography exhibition at Katara Cultural Village. This impressive festival will provide a great opportunity for Bangladeshi people to get a taste and feel their country's unique culture.



Syria Matters Exhibition

WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art

WHEN: Ongoing till April 30

TIME: 9am - 7pm

Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) in Doha presents a major exhibition, co-curated by MIA Director Dr Julia Gonnella and Rania Abdellatif, as part of the MIA ten-year anniversary celebrations.



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.



Cycling: Losail Circuit Sports Club

WHERE: Losail Circuit

WHEN: Ongoing

TIME: 5pm

Losail Circuit Sports Club, in association with Qatar Sports For All Federation, invites all cyclists, runners and walkers to train under the floodlights of Losail International Circuit every Wednesdays.



Arabic Calligraphy Workshop

WHEN: Saturday - Wednesday

TIME: 6pm

Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back.

Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier.

The lessons will take place every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. For more information, contact registration@atelierqatar.com

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.



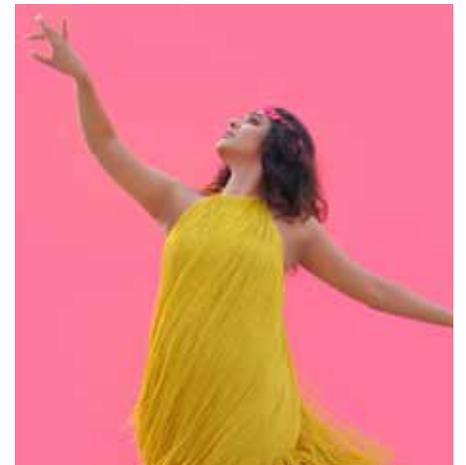
Hobby Classes

WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre

WHEN: Wednesday - Monday

Mamangam Performing Art Centre, is a holistic performing arts institution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip hop, indian classical dance, music (Hindustani and Carnatic), arts and craft, karate, yoga, percussion (Chenda, Thimila, Elathalam and Madhalam), violin, harmonium, public speaking.

Additional services include dance education, choreograph music videos and dance cover albums, choreograph dance musical projects, corporate workshops and events, choreograph events for schools, colleges, alumni meets and corporate and choreography events. For details, call 33897609.



Dance and Instrument Classes

WHERE: TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building

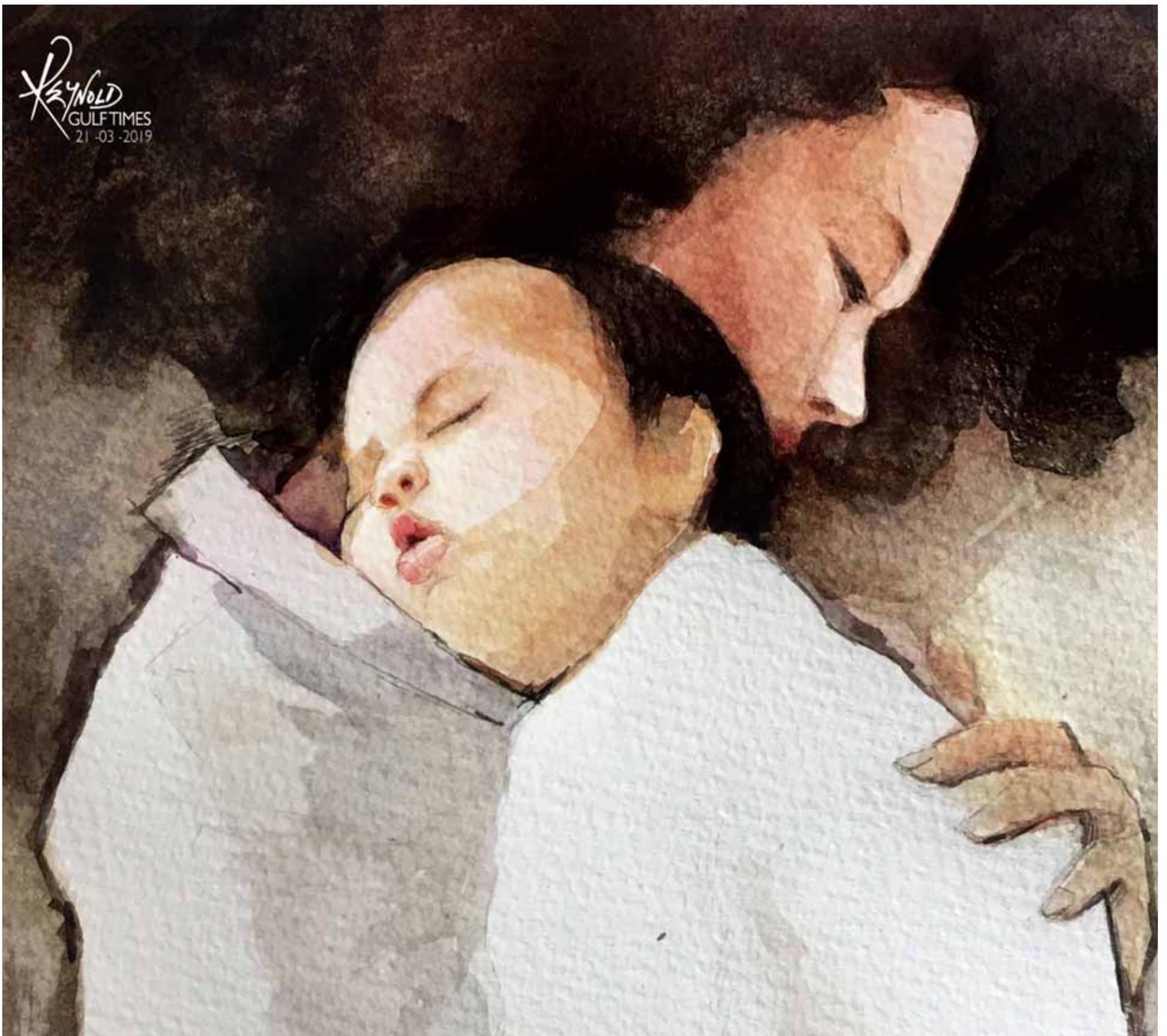
WHEN: Wednesday - Monday

Learn the movements of dance styles in Bollywood, Hip Hop and also the musical instruments such as Piano, Guitar, Keyboard for adults as well kids and move in the world of music. For details, contact 66523871/ 31326749.



Understanding mothers

Mother's Day is an opportune time to delve into what makes motherhood a journey beyond giving birth that requires understanding, love, and compassion from immediate family – and if need be, mental health outreach, writes **Azmat Haroon**





We see two peaks in terms of age, women in their mid-30s to those in their early 50s. I would say 25 to 32 is one peak while 50s is another we see at the clinic often, but mental health issues are rampant throughout

– Dr Madhu Pahwa, psychiatrist



Many of us associate mothers with an archetypal female that only finds satisfaction in taking care of others. They neglect their own needs by placing the needs of others before them – the ever forgiving, devoted individuals who are ready to sacrifice it all for the sake of their family and children. The idea of a perfect mother is entrenched deep in our minds, and this ideal is just one of the many factors that shape our relationship with mothers as much as it shapes the way women view themselves and build their own relationships.

Even when a mother is struggling with a mental issue, her instinct is to ignore the problem and carry on as usual – often by putting up a facade, because her mental and physical well-being is at the core of a functioning household. Panic and disorder ensues in a home where mothers fall sick, with the husbands and children struggling with what to eat and random pieces of clothes suddenly disappearing before our eyes.

There are some women who learn to cope with these issues with the help of a strong support system, but then there are also those who begin experiencing mood swings. In this case, behavioural pattern of mothers change as they start to appear sad, difficult to please and begin complaining about random pains and aches. These are the early telltale signs of a mental health issue that can range from stress, depression or a bipolar disorder among a more serious range of issues. But the reality is that as much as it is difficult for women to admit and disclose their struggles, it is equally hard for families to cope with them because of the general lack of awareness as well as the stigma attached with psychological disorders.

Doha-based psychiatrist Dr Madhu Pahwa says that many women in Qatar suffer from a wide range of mental illnesses.

“There is a general prevalence of depression, anxiety, and then there are patients with post-

partum depression and obsessive compulsive disorders to name a few among other mental illnesses,” she explained.

Madhu specialises in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness for all ages, and said that although she sees patients of all age groups frequently checking in to the clinic, there are two peak ages that stand out for women.

“We see two peaks in terms of age, women in their mid-30s to those in their early 50s. I would say 25 to 32 is one peak while 50s is another we see at the clinic often, but these issues are rampant throughout and it’s hard to say that one kind of mental illness is more prevalent among a certain age group.”

Asked if she can identify factors

that may trigger psychological disorders in her patients, Madhu asserted that there were many, including genetic vulnerability.

“We have to understand that there are external and internal factors at play. There are direct biological factors that cause mental illnesses. It’s not just about having bad in-laws, or an unco-operative family. Science and research shows that it doesn’t always work like that. There are cognitive factors, personal factors, genetics, as well as society and the environment. Different cases come in with different scenarios.”

Among her patients, the veteran psychiatrist has seen many mothers struggling. She recalled one recent case of a mother who was struggling with a series of

issues in her personal life that led to deteriorating state of mental well-being.

“It was a series of struggles. The couple was first suffering from infertility, they had IVF, and then there were other repercussions afterwards.”

The women in this case had twins, and suddenly she had to take care of not one but two children simultaneously, while also resigning from work that placed the family under a financial strain. Here was a couple that was at first struggling to have children. But things took a completely different turn when they had the one thing they wanted the most in life.

“The lady had to let go of her job, and so they faced financial struggles. The husband was very

demanding and controlling. The care needed for the mother was not present nor was the husband physically present to take care of the children. On top of that, there were high expectations from the mother, and it affected the lady tremendously,” she explained.

When the family approached Madhu, she carried out a series of tests, including blood investigation, and thereafter, necessary measures were taken to ensure the family was given the help they needed.

“We brought the husband into the support system, we had CBT (cognitive-behavioural therapy), clear cut guidelines were given, and touchwood there was significant improvement and the lady is doing well now.”

To Page 6

“I see so many young girls struggling with freedom. These are young educated women who want to work and travel but they also want to have a family of their own. The problem is that the society expects them to choose one over the other”

– Marta Saldaña Martín,
professional counsellor
(@martasalmar)





From Page 5

But the problem is that it's not easy to come out in the open about internal struggles for women. Sometimes it takes a lifetime for women to identify the fact that something is just not right with them. It is easy to assume that parenthood comes naturally to women but it doesn't, and revealing that struggle comes at the cost of being labelled a inept mother, and a woman who is inherently conceited and self-centred.

"Sometimes when in a group, one woman would start talking about her difficulties and struggles and then another would say: "Me too!" And then the third, fourth and a chain is formed where women start identifying issues that lead into deeper discussions about depression and so on," Marta Saldaña Martín said.

On her part, Marta struggled with depression a few years ago when she suffered a life crisis after completing her PhD in Gulf Socio-Politics. After a period of deep reflection and inner conflict with support of a counsellor, she finally decided to give up academic life to become a counsellor, life coach mindfulness teacher supporting people towards mind and body well-being.

Marta quotes American research professor and author Brené Brown as an inspiration and says it's okay to be vulnerable, share our difficulties and seek support. Brown extensively wrote about the cultural stereotypes associated with emotional vulnerability and the feelings of shame and uncertainty attached with it. She dispelled the idea of vulnerability as a weakness, and went on to call it a measure of joy and courage.

"This is why I always begin my first sessions by talking about my struggles and vulnerabilities, so that my clients realise its not only them going through hard times."

Marta has been seeing clients and teaching mindfulness in Qatar and online for the past two years, and notes that most of her clients so far are Muslim women.

"There are women who are struggling with their partners, struggling to get pregnant, struggling to raise kids, each case in unique in its own way"

Marta conducts a psycho-educational mindfulness 8-week group programme with weekly sessions where she teaches strategies to deal with stress, which is particularly beneficial for people suffering from anxiety and depression.

"Based on the MBSR (mindfulness based stress reduction) and MBCT (mindfulness based cognitive therapy) programmes; in my courses we learn about how the mind works and about the psychological and physiological benefits of mindfulness; identify self behavioural patterns; and practice meditation and exercises to be present in the moment rather than worrying about the past and future."

Marta said that one of the reasons why people feel depressed or anxious is because they either can't stop worrying about the



Pregnancy and depression

Worldwide about 10% of pregnant women and 13% of women who have just given birth experience a mental disorder, primarily depression. In developing countries this is even higher, i.e. 15.6% during pregnancy and 19.8% after child birth. Source: WHO

future or can't let go of something that happened in the past. "This is why I encourage people to practice being in the moment. When you're having a cup of coffee, focus on its smell, its taste and learn to enjoy it. Our mind easily wanders off to different places when we are doing different activities and it's important to learn to not be taken away from the experience by our worries."

Speaking about society and

cultural attitudes towards women, Marta said that during her research and interaction with women in the Gulf during the past 10 years, she often saw a conflict between the kind of lives young girls and women wanted to live versus the kind of life society and families envisioned for them.

"I see so many young girls struggling with freedom. These are young educated women who want to work and travel but they also want

to have a family of their own. The problem is that the society expects them to choose one over the other. Many traditional families still expect women to give up their careers and many other things along with it if they want to get married and have kids and that's not an easy decision to make," Marta said, stressing that these ideals and expectations attached to women and mothers are rooted in culture and tradition rather than religion.

The stigma attached with seeking

psychological and psychiatric help is widespread and there is still a long way to go before the shame related with mental illnesses is eradicated completely but experts believe that every 5-10 years, they see significant improvement.

More people are talking about it now, and with social media and education, there is a better understanding of mental illnesses, especially among the younger generation.



Mom: the quintessential muse

There's no denying that your first fashion hero is usually your mother. Isn't she? Yasmin Mansour and Hissa Haddad tell us. **By Muhammad Asad Ullah**

Whilst in Qatar and some other countries in the world celebrating motherhood is a spring tradition, our other friends around the world wait until May to honour their mothers. Our social media feed is swarming today with tributes to mothers, grandmothers and expecting mamas. How about you? Have you gotten your Mom some flowers or a cute little present yet and showered her with the love she deserves. After all, she took care of you from birth to, well, now... and can you imagine a life without her?

Like mother, like daughter they say. The unique relationship between a mother and daughter is, of course, intricate and ever

evolving. Some of us are dependent on that maternal figure from birth, relying on our mother for unceasing and permanent guidance and support, be it mental, emotional or professional. It remains the same even if you get married, move to another place or stay with her, forever and after. Many daughters one day actually realise, that in fact they've picked up many traits and habits of the figure they've been idealising forever their life, that they form their mother's mirror image and for sure all of them takes pride in it.

From her sense of humour, to her covetable style, to just how much she loves them – these Qatari fashion finest have many reasons to love their mothers. Well, mothers, be proud because these young buds

have all grown up and blossomed into bona fide style icons and they accredit you for their success.

Community asked these powerhouse trend setters to reflect on how their moms shaped their lives and careers. Where Yasmin Mansour filled her mother's dream of becoming a fashion designer, Hissa Haddad followed her mother's footsteps and glamorous approach to fashion.

What is consistent: When it comes to fashion, moms are the best muses.

Even if you spent your teenage years locked in your bathroom in an act of Manic Panic - fuelled rebellion, there's no denying that your first fashion hero is usually your mother. Isn't she? Yasmin and Hissa tell us.



Yasmin Masour

It won't be erroneous to say that Yasmin has become one of the most-talked-about and sought-after luxury fashion name coming out of Qatar since her first collection, launched in 2014. Yasmin says, "My mom has always been my inspiration and muse. When I was 10 years old and even younger than that I used to go to her closet and steal her heels, jackets, dresses and coats and try

them on. I always used to observe what she's wearing at night and dressing up in, in the morning. She has always been about details, carrying so many colours, perfumes and jewellery. She told me that she loved art and used to draw when she was young. Well, even created some pieces for herself back then. That is something that pushed me to go for this field. My mother got me my first sewing machine!"

Yasmin adds, "When I turned 18 and went on to pursue designing

as my major, she supported me like anything. Even during my university time, I used to share all my designs and work with her. I remember when I made my first dress in the school and how she told me that she's proud of me."

"She always says me that I've done something she always wanted to do when she was young. She says that I'm very happy that I always used to dream of having something like this and today my daughter did it."



Hissa Haddad

Hissa, the 29-year-old engineer turned shoe designer, is the only Arab footwear designer that made her debut with a capsule collection at Paris Fashion Week 2017. Her breakout debut is only half the story of her success, the other, and more significant half is the fierce energy and motivation of her mother that has been her bedrock support in the struggling industry. "I have a very strong relationship with my mother. We share a sibling bond, rather than a typical mother-daughter sort of relationship. We go out together, travel together, enjoy each other's company and share real secrets," says Hissa.

Talking about her first exposure to fashion as a kid, Hissa says, "When I was a kid, my mother used to stitch my clothes herself. She used to take me to designers from a very young age and even sometimes used to draw and get some very specific stitchings done. She used to add pearls, roses, layers and crystals to my dresses, to make sure that my dresses are different from what's out there. She always

had a very delicate aesthetic taste. For shoes, she used to make sure I have each matching shoe to be paired with each dress, so she was very particular about all this."

"When I started my business, she supported and believed in me throughout although other family members were against the idea that it might not do well, considering the competition in the market. I still remember, when I had my first meeting with the manufacturers in Italy, she was there with me. She always advised me to believe in my ownself."

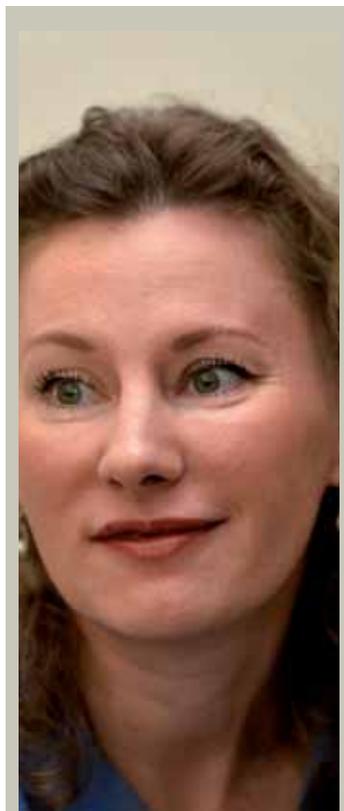
"The toughest period I had with my mom was when she was diagnosed with cancer. And that was just before I had started my Masters Degree. It was devastating and I had almost dropped my degree to spend time with her and be around her. But that's when she said that if I quit my masters, she's going to quit taking chemotherapy sessions. I used to travel back and forth between London and Doha to make sure that I'm holding her hand as she goes through the tough process. It was a tough journey for both of us and we're happy that we both made it," added Hissa.



Mother – sheet anchor in life, and memory

By Mudassir Raja

Mother's Day is a little tribute to acknowledge the selfless love and compassion that mothers shower on their children. *Community* talked to five women from different countries to learn what they think about motherhood, their relationship with their mothers, and one memorable thing their mothers had done for them that they cherish.



Evgeniya Goncharova

Evgeniya Goncharova is a Russian artist. She has been living in Qatar for 12 years with her Syrian husband. She said: "For me, my mother is like a life guide. She is the most important thing in my life after God. She was so important for me that I used to do everything just to impress her."

"The best thing she taught me is to be honest to myself. That is the only way we can be honest to others. That is the only way we can share our ideas with others. Till today, I know no other way to reach out to others. If you are honest to yourself, you can have better understanding of life."

She added: "Every day is Mother's Day. For my family, March is a feminist month in the real sense. My grandmother's date of birth is March 7. We celebrate International Women's Day on March 8 and my mother was born on March 9. We have Mother's Day on March 21."



Zara al-Ansari

Zara al-Ansari is a Qatari businesswoman. She said: "My mother is the anchor of my life. I learnt a lot from her strength. She always advised me to be happy no matter the circumstances. She made lots of sacrifices to raise her children. She is the most important person in my life."

About the best thing she has learnt from her mother, she said: "From her, I have learnt that sacrifices and compromises are not the only solution to your problems. You should have an understanding of the problems you are facing and try to bring in a more practical solution. She actually made me an optimist. I always look at the brighter side of the life and keep moving."

Mala Waseem

Mala Waseem is a Pakistani visual artist living in Qatar. She said: "My relationship with my mom is always one of respect, love, care and understanding. Honestly speaking, it is like working and volunteering with a fussy boss – a boss who is also a perfectionist."

"To me motherhood means selflessness, courage and confidence. My mother has always been a role model, encouraging us to follow the truth no matter how hard the truth is."

"Exactly 13 years ago, when I became a mother of a beautiful daughter, I experienced the reality of being a mother. So from that time onwards, I too become a fussy boss, trying to be a perfectionist. I have a huge applause for my shelter, my Miss perfectionist; my Ammi [mother] Mussarat Jabeen."



Precious Gudza, left, with her mother.

Precious Gudza

Precious Gudza is a Zimbabwean hairstylist. She said: "My mother is my rock. She has given up her personal needs and desires for me. She is always an ear that is ready to listen to me and then advise me any day and time. She is my number one fan. I have two children myself and my mother decided to be a full time grandmother to take care of them so that I could pursue



my dreams and fly. "When we are together, it's the most wonderful time. She wants to know about my experiences and my dreams. She pushes me to be a better person and always reminds me to stay humble." "My mother gave up her teaching career to take care of my children so that I could move to Doha and pursue my dreams. That act of selflessness and sacrifice changed my whole perception of life itself."



Milan Arun

Milan Arun is an Indian businesswoman and former president of Indian Cultural Centre. She said: "A relationship of reliance formed our bond which was mutual. She was the sculptor who chiselled my attitude and approach to life. Motherhood is the protective shelter above any child till such time the child in growing becomes a mother. My arms which always stretched out to receive a hug of comfort and confidence from my mother turned to receiving her into my arms to give her the same. This legacy leads on as I now see myself in my daughter and this is motherhood for me. Motherhood makes a woman complete and there is an incomparable spirituality in this expression of love which sustains through eons."

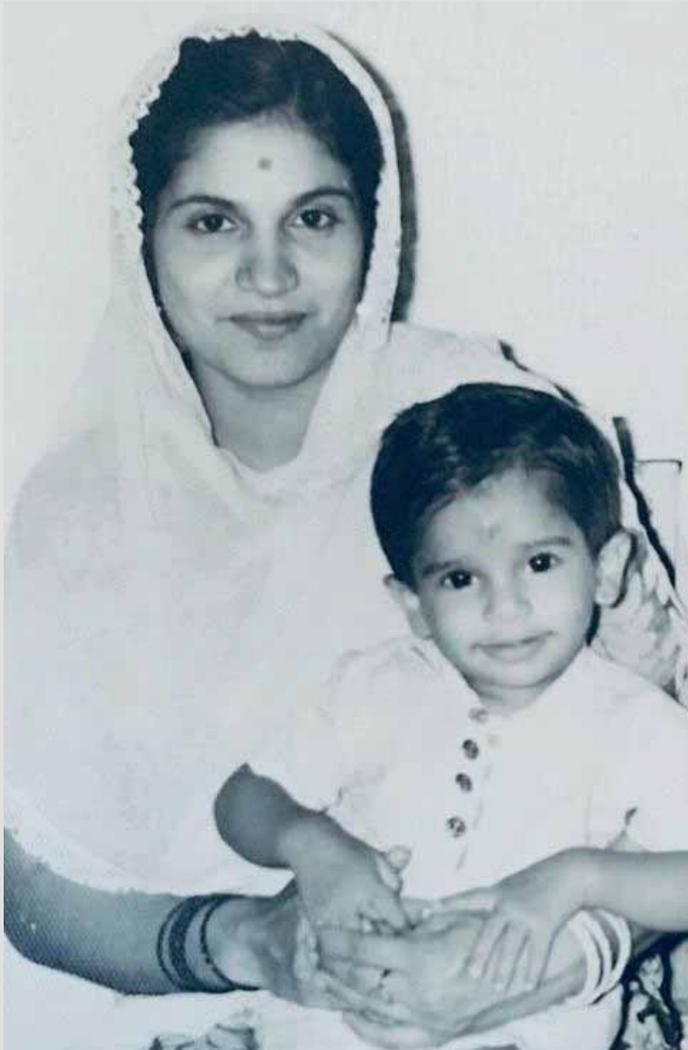
"Reliance is dependence, confidence, trust and belief. Whilst at collage, I requested my mother's permission to go for a movie a day before my exams. After faring well in the exams, I asked her how unlike other parents she chose to say 'ok! Her answer 'I trust you' was a simple but strong incident at a tender age, which installed the confidence and belief that I am dependable which I carry deeply in my heart and practice to this day. When you lose such a sheet anchor, you grapple with memories to move forward in life. Two years ago even as I mourned her loss I was torn between grief and service. Within a month of her passing away, in commitment of her memory, I channelled all my grief with uncompromising commitment to serve at the Indian Cultural Centre as its first female president. A position – among others – saw me essaying the role of a mother and daughter to many more. Thus I see my beloved Maa [mother] in every mother and daughter."



Mala Waseem, left, with her mother.

TRIBUTE

“A mother holds her children’s hands for a while, their hearts forever”



SELFLESS TO THE MANNER BORN: My mother, and I.

By Kamran Rehmat

For such a profound conclusion about motherhood, it is a touch sad that the author of the above quote is anonymous. In a lot of ways, the contributions of a mother belong to the same realm: anonymity.

Nimra Bucha, a television artiste and spouse of Pakistan’s internationally celebrated writer and journalist Mohammed Hanif, in her condolence message over my mother’s demise last year stamped this authoritatively.

“What mothers do is not visible to the world,” she wrote.

While we take a lot for granted – smug in the comforting thought of being in their long and apparently secure shadows – life does not quite prepare you for losing your parents.

It’s been just a year, but my heart reels from an indescribable sorrow, hollow as an empty shell. While visiting her last resting place recently, a million random thoughts

occupied my mind, but mostly feelings of emptiness and profound loss that cannot be described in a million words.

It took a lot to summon the courage to get back to life and then, too, because now a bit of the responsibilities that my parents selflessly fulfilled to raise us four siblings are now my call for my own family of four. Such is life – no respect for feelings, not even decent time and space for grieving.

My mother was asleep the last time I should have hugged her before departing for Doha, which is now my home away from home, but deluded myself with the assurance that only this time, perhaps there was no need to wake her up for an emotional adieu since I was returning home in a matter of months, for good.

It was not to be.

The last time I saw her alive actually was on a video call on her birthday. Birthdays are not always made up of rainbow colours; in fact, they can be a harbinger of doom. A week later, she was gone. Losing



DOWN MEMORY LANE: My mother, Bushra Rehmat, sitting next to Imran Khan, Pakistan’s current prime minister, at our residence in Islamabad following a luncheon. She passed away a few months before his inauguration as the country’s 22nd prime minister.

While we take a lot for granted – smug in the comforting thought of being in their long and apparently secure shadows – life does not quite prepare you for losing your parents

my father was hard enough, but her loss shook the soul and sapped the spirit. Memories are all that one is left with.

Simplicity defined Bushra Rehmat. A mother to the manner born, she selflessly devoted her life to the challenge of raising four of us; three boys and a girl, but it couldn’t have been easier with the modest means. Despite an early marriage, she used every opportunity to learn from her experiences in foreign lands each time my diplomat dad was posted abroad.

In hindsight, winning a swimming medal in Kuwait as a schoolgirl must have set it up for a fulfilling family life later in Tanzania, Sri Lanka and India. Adept at all household craft, including culinary skills – the legendary Imran Khan, Pakistan’s current prime minister, did testify to that profusely when he came to our place for lunch years ago (and caused a sensation in the neighbourhood), she developed a taste for music, films, reading and cricket.

She was also a Steffi Graf fan as the life-sized poster of the tennis great on her kitchen door proved. The reading included a keen eye for politics and like any other Pakistani, she had an opinion or two about the

fare that keeps the nation hooked. Until her debilitating condition took over, she used to regularly read the morning paper, and books, including political works. The one refrain in all the condolence messages and calls that poured in from all over was predicated on her unassuming, soft spoken nature. One individual after the other spoke of a woman who was content with life no matter what it threw at her, never complaining or speaking ill of – or to – anyone.

She did however, face an amusing ‘identity’ crisis – thanks to her pronounced natural birthmark, a ‘bindi’ (a coloured dot in the centre of the forehead), especially outside Pakistan!

No matter what we accomplish, we’d never be a patch on what our parents did for us, against all odds. And the greatest favour they did us as Facilitators of Good Hope even if they didn’t always agree with our unconventional ideas, was to relent and let us make our own choices. Unbeknownst to many, my mother was that primary mover, quietly making my father agree. They say time heals all wounds, but then it also wounds all heels meandering for inner peace. Middle age, and the experience of having been here before with my father’s

passing away two decades ago, is hardly any solace. At home, I reminisce over a black and white frame and yearn to go back in time with my mother clasping me in her arms! Child or man, that will now never happen.

May Allah rest her soul in eternal peace.



“What mothers do is not visible to the world”
—Nimra Bucha, TV artiste



A story of rejection that fails to illuminate

By Katie Walsh

In Laszlo Nemes' 2015 Oscar-winning film *Son of Saul*, the Hungarian filmmaker followed a hollow-eyed, bewildered protagonist on a chaotic journey. The audience is plunged into the terrifying world of Auschwitz as a Jewish prisoner attempts to assert a shred of humanity from within a death machine. With his follow-up, *Sunset*, Nemes once again follows another hollow-eyed and bewildered individual on a journey into a heart of darkness, but with less context, more plot and unfortunately, greatly diminished returns.

Sunset takes place in 1913 Budapest, in the world of rich, powerful... hat-makers? Yes, millinery is the name of the game in this sophisticated city, where nefarious characters jockey for royal favours, sow chaos and enjoy a hedonistic existence in the waning days of peace just before World War I. At the centre of it all is a young woman, Irisz Leiter (Juli Jakab), an orphan who has returned to Budapest to seek employment at the Leiter hat shop, which belonged

to her parents before their untimely deaths.

The story of *Sunset* is one of rejection and refusal, as Irisz spends her time pressing herself into places she shouldn't be, asking questions no one wants to answer. Someone makes a passing mention about a brother, and her quest moves from employment to finding the relative she never knew she had. Stable boys whisper details, vagrants barge into her boarding house to shout mysterious declarations. She gains entry to the inner world of the Leiter shop, ruled by the shady Oszkar (Vlad Ivanov) and his band of beautiful mean girl milliners, and even into the palatial estate of an eccentric countess (Julia Jakubowska) who may or may not have known her brother and is currently entangled in an abusive relationship with a sinister dandy from Vienna (Christian Harting). Eventually Irisz's quest evolves yet again, as she attempts to uncover what she considers to be a human trafficking conspiracy involving the royal family and the young beauties of Leiter.

Using a similar cinematic style to *Son of Saul*, Nemes' camera dutifully follows his protagonist as she's rushed, pushed and trundled from place to place, when

she isn't haplessly stumbling or barging in on her own. This close follow makes it so we only see the environment through the immediate physical space she occupies – there are no establishing shots, and rarely a cutaway. There is a sense of immediacy, especially with the handheld camera, but physically and narratively, it is stifling.

Nemes captures the sense of confusion Irisz experiences, as a horde of almost identical moustachioed men come and go in a parade of physical imposition and near-violence. That confusion is transferred to the audience, and sustained for the entirety. Nemes doesn't clarify Irisz's intentions or her state of mind, as Jakab steadily performs her role with a silent consternation.

Themes, metaphors and messages roil under the surface of the film, but rarely emerge fully formed. Below the pleasure, finery and manners of this world, corruption and rot linger, occasionally bursting forth in riotous violence. But Nemes doesn't explore this beyond indicating its existence. A single shot that serves as an epilogue is the closest the film gets to a message. While the stultifying style of *Sunset* expresses urgency and immediacy from moment to moment, it never, ever elucidates or illuminates. – TNS



A complicated but touching love story



By Rick Bentley

Young love that is complicated by a major medical issue is nothing new. It's been the premise of feature films such as *The Fault in Our Stars*, *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* and – for those of you no longer in Hollywood's target audience – *Love Story*. The latest is *Five Feet Apart*, where Haley Lu Richardson (*Split*) and Cole Sprouse (*The Suite Life on Deck*) play teenagers who fall in love but can never touch because they are both battling the highly contagious cystic fibrosis (CF).

The one thing all these movies have in common that kept them from melting into a forgettable ooze of sentimentality is the courage, strength and absolute conviction to love that the cast and crew bring to the production. If there is even a hint that the main thrust is to capitalise on the tragedy, the film becomes an insult to the players, viewers and anyone dealing with the medical condition.

Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening genetic disease that makes the body produce thick, sticky mucus in the lungs, pancreas and other organs. The film's

title comes from how Richardson's character, Stella Grant, decides to defy CF rules that patients must stay 6 feet apart for their own safety and move a foot closer to Will Newman (Sprouse), the young man who has captured her heart. The victory is small but is one example of Stella's courage.

Five Feet Apart certainly will grab your heart and squeeze every last tear out of you, but because of Richardson's wonderfully energetic and smart performance, the final result isn't one that will leave you feeling sorry for the pair, but be touched by them as those who must deal with a love that should have never happened.

Richardson has more of a chance to shine as Stella hosts a daily online chat to talk about her battle with CF. The connection to the outside world becomes even more important when a medical issue keeps her from travelling with her friends. That's when she meets Will, a patient who has opted not to waste time on his hospital procedures but use that time to live life as much as he can. It's not surprising that the opposites attract, but the connection is what makes the movie work so well.

Sprouse gives Richardson a great acting partner, but his performance resonates with just enough of his

work on *Riverdale* to keep it from being as fresh and exciting as Richardson's work. It is tough to play the brooding half of a couple and Sprouse does give the role life. His work is just caught in the acting shadow Richardson casts.

The script by Mikki Daughtry and Tobias Iaconis does a superb job of showing the world Stella and Will live in without getting too bogged down in medical jargon. The purpose of the film from director Justin Baldoni is to be as honest as possible while giving the actors plenty of room to show the birth and growth of young love in a deeply contaminated soil. That is accomplished through the solid writing, intimate direction and strong acting.

There's little that can be said about the ending without spoiling the wonderful love story. It is just a pleasure that Baldoni, Daughtry and Iaconis never gave in to the necessity of having a predictable ending. The honesty they embrace so deeply from the opening moments never waivers for some cinematic situation.

It is fair to say that taking tissues to the theatre is an imperative idea as they will be needed while falling for this love story that features a young couple but will touch anyone of any age. – TNS



CANDID: Oscar Isaac denies rumours that he will be the next actor to play Batman.

Isaac speaks up on Batman casting rumours

Oscar Isaac has denied rumours that he will be the next actor to play Batman, but has hinted that he was interested in the role.

Following actor Ben Affleck's official departure from the role in January, the part of the caped crusader has been left wide open for a new star to take up in Matt Reeves' upcoming *The Batman* movie, reports aceshowbiz.com

The 40-year-old star's name has been linked to the role for some time, after he reportedly met with Warner Bros. officials in 2018 to discuss a potential part, but in a chat with British newspaper *Metro*, he denied all knowledge of the rumours.

"No. I have only read it online like everyone else. I have not had any conversations about Batman, unfortunately, but I am sure it is going to be great... Matt Reeves is such a great director. Yeah, he can get my number," he said. - IANS



NEW PROJECT: Nicolas Cage will star in the upcoming film *Jiu Jitsu*.

Cage to star in martial arts actioner

Actor Nicolas Cage will star in the upcoming martial arts actioner *Jiu Jitsu*, based on the comic book of the same name.

The cast will also include Alain Moussi, who stars in the *Kickboxer* franchise, reports variety.com

Dimitri Logothetis is producing with Martin Barab and directing from a script he wrote with Jim McGrath.

Jiu Jitsu centres on an ancient order of expert Jiu Jitsu fighters facing fearsome alien invaders in a battle for Earth every six years. Cage's character and his team of Jiu Jitsu fighters band together with Moussi's character to defeat the Brax.

Logothetis wrote and directed *Kickboxer: Vengeance* and *Kickboxer: Retaliation*, both starring Moussi.

"*Jiu Jitsu* is guaranteed to satisfy the millions of martial arts and science fiction lovers across the globe with world class martial artists and stunt men go-to expert Alain Moussi joining superstar Nicolas Cage for some formidable, no-holds-barred fight sequences set in exotic Burma," Logothetis said.

Cage won an Academy Award for *Leaving Las Vegas* and was nominated for *Adaptation*.

His credits include the horror film *Mom and Dad*, *211* and *Mandy* along with voice work on *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. He can be seen next in Jason Cabell's *Running With the Devil* alongside Laurence Fishburne. - IANS

Many political biopics to hit screens in India ahead of elections

From Prime Minister Narendra Modi's biopic to a film on Congress president Rahul Gandhi's life and former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's mysterious death, filmmakers are trying to look through the political prism for their celluloid projects.

A host of films and web series, inspired by the lives of political personalities, are likely to be released ahead of the 2019 general elections. The Lok Sabha elections will be held in seven phases, from April 11 to May 19.

Here are some of them, listed for you.

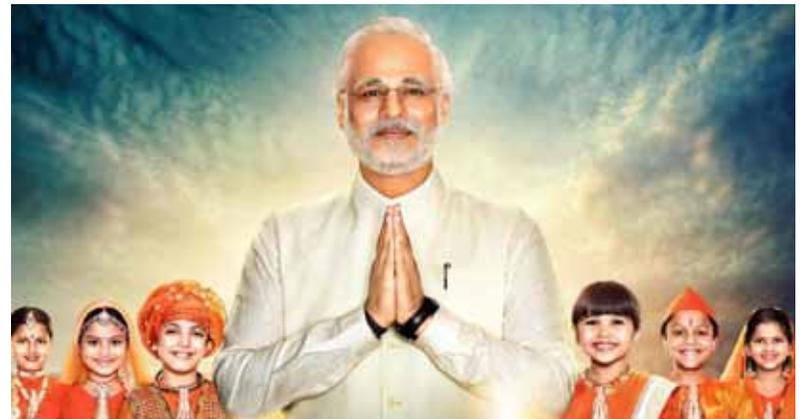
PM Narendra Modi: Helmed by National Award-winning filmmaker Omung Kumar, *PM Narendra Modi* will showcase the journey of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from his humble beginnings to his years as the Gujarat Chief Minister, his landmark victory in the 2014 general elections, to finally becoming the Prime Minister. The film is set to be released on April 5.

The movie will see actor Vivek Anand Oberoi portraying Modi. It also features Boman Irani, Darshan Kumar, Waheeda Rahman, Manoj Joshi and Barkha Bisht-Sengupta.

Modi: The Journey Of A Common Man: *102 Not Out* director Umesh Shukla is making a web series on Modi, which will showcase his life as an inspiring and influential leader. The 10-part series will be released in April. According to a source, it will premiere on April 7, five days before the first phase of voting.

The series will begin with a 12-year-old Modi, and present his life journey from teenage to youth to becoming the prime minister.

Tashkent Files: To be released on April 12, *Tashkent Files* revolves around former



BIOPICS: A scene from *PM Narendra Modi*, above, and a scene from *My Name RaGa* seen below.



prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's mysterious death. The investigative thriller, directed by Vivek Agnihotri, features veteran actors Naseeruddin Shah and Mithun Chakraborty, and will have two sides to the narrative.

Shastri died in Tashkent, then in Soviet Union's Uzbekistan, soon after signing a peace pact with Pakistan to end

the 1965 India-Pakistan war.

My Name RaGa: The film, to be released in April, focuses on Congress president Rahul Gandhi's life. The movie, helmed by Rupesh Paul, will allow a glimpse into the inner life of the Congress party president.

Some more such films, reportedly, are in the pipeline. - IANS

Inshallah is going to be magical journey: Alia

Actress Alia Bhatt, who is going to collaborate with filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali and superstar Salman Khan for *Inshallah* feels the epic romance drama will be quite a magical journey.

She was interacting with the media at Zee Cine Awards



UPBEAT: Alia Bhatt says, "It's a big dream come true to work with Sanjay sir and Salman".

2019 on Tuesday here, when the *Raazi* actress said: "The announcement has been out today and the way I mentioned in my tweet that it's a big dream come true to work with Sanjay sir and Salman.

"They are like a magical combination together. I can't wait to get on the journey. It's going to be quite magical."

Alia joined Salman in Bhansali's upcoming epic romance drama *Inshallah*, which will also mark Salman-Bhansali reunion after 19 years since *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*.

The actress, who is currently gearing up for the release of *Kalank*, shared her feelings on Twitter.

A song titled *Ghar More Pardesiya* from the forthcoming film featuring Madhuri Dixit-Nene and Varun Dhawan and herself, got 18 million views on YouTube and was trending at the number 2 on it.

Talking about the overwhelming response, Ali said: "Till afternoon, it got 14 millions views and I am very happy that more and more people are watching the song.

"I have worked very hard on this song. I was very nervous. I was feeling like almost 50 per cent of the film is released so, now I can calm down a bit when the film releases. I will be nervous but excited."

Inshallah is a co-production between Salman Khan Films and Bhansali Productions. - IANS



MEHE and QNRF organise Qatar National Scratch Coding Competition

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) recently organised National Research Week. The 17 winning teams that participated in the second edition of Qatar National Scratch Coding Competition (QNSCC) were felicitated at the awards ceremony, held at Qatar National Convention Centre. The event was attended by notable personalities, including official guests from the Ministry of Education, QNRF, Embassy of France and Unesco Doha Office along with the representatives of sponsors and other institutions.

QNSCC targets young innovative talents and aims to develop youth's creativity and innovation and inspire next generation to pursue careers in digital professions to prepare them for the future. In second edition of Qatar National Scratch Coding Competition more than 1,547 students from 102 schools in Qatar registered amongst which more than 800 projects were evaluated by a panel of judges from QNRF, Qatar University, College of The North Atlantic, Stevens Institute of Technology-USA and IRT System X- France. Official sponsors of the event, included Total, Ooredoo and Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy.

The winners in the Open Category Elementary, included Karnick Elamparithi

Kala, Ashish Devan and Kalyana Sundaram, mentored by Kala Renganathan, from Noble International School, first position; Albara Ashour and Nizar Ahmed, mentored by Lubaiba Ismail, Step One School, second position; and Talel Mohamed Abd El Hamid and Omar Rachid Baraket, mentored by Fatma Ouerfelli, Al-Manar Primary Model School For Boys, third position.

The winners in the Open Category Junior, included Amana Sajid and Alisha Abdul Nasir, mentored by Naresh Kondapuram, from Al Khor International School, first position; Bassam El Merhebi, mentored by Samer El Merhebi, Lycee Franco-Qatarien Voltaire - Salwa, second position; and Jasmine Princess Boga and Talhah Peerbhai, mentored by Andrew Mendy, MESAIEED International Private School, third position.

The winners in the Open Category Senior, included Richey Mary Jacob and Manal Abdul Jaleel, mentored by Bharati Rameshbhai Patel, from Al Khor International School, first position; Abd-El-Rahman Yasser, mentored by Taha Dawam, Al Furqan Secondary School For Boys, second position. For Scrobot Category, Bassam El Merhebi won the first position, which was followed by Asim Jawahir and Vyshnav Vijay with second position.

All participants, students and coaches were awarded with the certificates of participation.



Future 318 to organise Forum 2019

As part of Women's Month celebrations, Future 318, in association with Turkish Airlines and Shangri-La Hotel, is all set to organise Forum 2019 on March 23 at Shangri-La Hotel Doha to highlight the pressing issues faced by women today, gender gap and feminism.

The forum will include a debate and panel discussion featuring various speakers.

"We will continue to deliver events that make a difference and that engender change. We want to achieve transparency and open dialogue between both genders as it is essential on how we can move forward as a society," said Conchita Ponce, Founder of Future 318. "We are honoured to partner with Future 318 to celebrate Women's Month by tackling such an important topic. The International community as well as Qatar recognises the link between women's empowerment, gender equality and progress, and we believe that collective efforts and constructive partnerships are the best way to achieve sustainable development," said TJ Joulak, General Manager of Shangri-La Hotel.

Carlos Hernandez, Ambassador of Argentina, said, "I'm proud to be a speaker at the Forum 2019 next to just some determined and powerful Qatari women. I also want to be an example to other men out there to get involved and become part of the solution, not simply spectators, taking accountability for our actions, figuring together, both men and women, what should we all do to develop ourselves in accordance to human rights."

The event is being supported by Turkish Airlines, Shangri-La Hotel Doha, Naseem Al Rabeeh Medical Center, Evolve Wellness and WhatsUp Doha.



Carlos Hernandez, Ambassador of Argentina.



RUNNERS UP: Svetlana Mary Shibu, a student of Grade II at Shantiniketan Indian School, recently won second position in drawing and colouring competition 'Heal the Heart, Heal the World' organised by Focus Qatar at Noble International School.