

PONDEROSA
Steakhouse
CARAVAN COMPLEX
4465 5880
DAFNA SALWA ROAD
4483 6206 4458 3006
Sterling ستيرلنج

P6 Community
The Embassy of India and Indian Sports Centre conduct a session on yoga and wellness for the Indian community in Al Khor.



P16 Community
Hundreds of dollars for a melon? It's not uncommon for Japanese to fork out seemingly exorbitant prices just for one perfect fruit.

Pizza Hut
HOT LINE
44 320 320
order online
pizzahut.me
Sterling ستيرلنج

Monday, June 19, 2017
Ramadan 24, 1438 AH

GULF TIMES

COMMUNITY



DOHA 39°C—47°C TODAY

LIFESTYLE/HOROSCOPE 11

PUZZLES 12 & 13



Feet of clay, too

Mogul, celebrity, philanthropist Oprah Winfrey has insecurities of her own. **P4-5**

**PRAYER TIME**

Fajr	3.14am
Shorooq (sunrise)	4.44am
Zuhr (noon)	11.35am
Asr (afternoon)	2.58pm
Maghreb (sunset)	6.29pm
Isha (night)	7.59pm

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

Quote Unquote

Darkness
cannot drive out
darkness; only light can do
that. Hate cannot drive out
hate; only love can do that.
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community Editor

Kamran Rehmat

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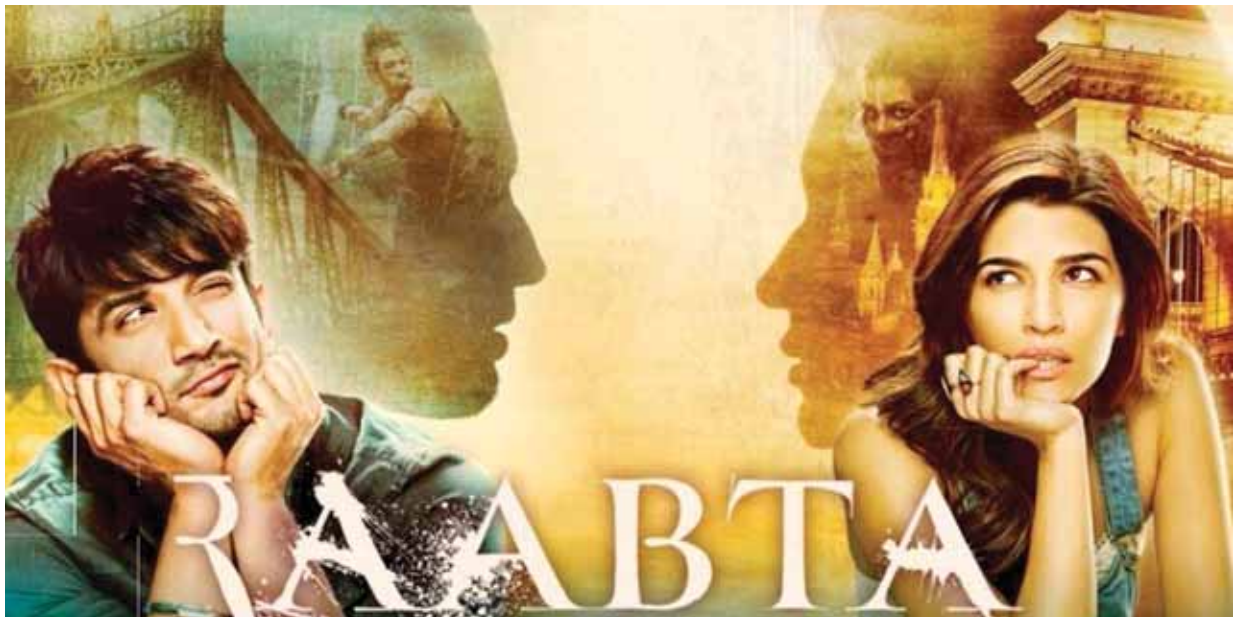
Telephone: 44466405

Fax: 44350474

**Bodom****DIRECTION:** Taneli Mustonen**CAST:** Mimosa Willamo, Nelly Hirst - Gee Santeri Helinheimo, Mikael Gabriel

SYNOPSIS: Every camper's worst nightmare came true at Lake Bodom in 1960 when four teenagers were stabbed to death while sleeping in their tent. As the years passed and the case grew cold, the unsolved mystery turned into an urban legend, a creepy campfire story passed from generation to

generation. Now, a group of teenagers arrives at the same campsite, hoping to solve the murder by reconstructing it minute by minute. As night falls, turns out not all of them are there to play... Tonight... it's girls against boys. Let the killing games begin. Taking a real multiple homicide case as its inspiration, *Bodom* is a Finnish slasher movie with enough production gloss and narrative ingenuity to secure a UK premiere at the London Film Festival.

THEATRES: City Center, Villaggio, Novo Cinema**Raabta****DIRECTION:** Dinesh Vijan**CAST:** Deepika Padukone, Kriti Sanon, Sushant Singh Rajput**SYNOPSIS:** In 2017, Shiv and Saira fall for each other and

form an inseparable connection. Until, Saira crosses paths with a reincarnated lover from a previous lifetime, who is determined to make her his lover again.

THEATRES: Royal Plaza, The Mall

The Mall Cinema (1): *Raabta* (Hindi) 9pm; *Outlaws And Angels* (2D) 12pm.

The Mall Cinema (2): *The Mummy* (2D) 9:30pm; *The Mummy* (2D) 11:30pm.

The Mall Cinema (3): *Puthan Panam* (Malayalam) 9pm; *Voice From The Stone* (2D) 11:30pm.

Landmark Cinema (1): *Raabta* (Hindi) 9pm; *Bodom* (2D) 11:45pm.

Landmark Cinema (2):

The Mummy (2D) 9:30pm; *Outlaws And Angels* (2D) 11:30pm.

Landmark Cinema (3): *Voice From The Stone* (2D) 9:30pm; *Puthan Panam* (Malayalam) 11:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1): *Raabta* (Hindi) 9pm; *Voice From The Stone* (2D) 12pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2): *The Mummy* (2D) 9:30pm; *Puthan Panam* (Malayalam) 11:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3): *Puthan Panam* (Malayalam) 9pm; *Outlaws And Angels* (2D) 11:30pm.

Asian Town Cinema: *Godha* (Malayalam) 10:30pm; *CIA: Comrade In America* (Malayalam) 8, 10:30pm; *Puthan Panam* (Malayalam) 8 & 11pm.

ROUND & ABOUT

COMMUNITY



EVENTS

A Sculpture of your Baby's Feet

WHEN: June 22

WHERE: Katara Art Studio B19, Doha
TIME: 9:30pm

Cultural Village Foundation - Katara presents A Sculpture of your Baby's feet Workshop by the artist Rita. Only five students (ladies only). Workshop will be conducted in English.

International Yoga Day

WHERE: Al Wakrah Sports Club Indoor Stadium

WHEN: June 21

TIME: 9pm-10:30pm

Indian Sports Centre, under the patronage of Embassy of India, is celebrating the 3rd International Day of Yoga. Come and participate in the guided Therapeutic Yogasana, Pranayama and Meditation session with the experts from the field of Yoga. Registration is free and open for all residents of Qatar. Kindly bring your yoga mat.

How to Tell a Story

WHEN: Until June 22

WHERE: DFI

TIME: 2pm - 3:30pm

During this workshop, participants are introduced to the Pixar storytelling formula, and engage in interactive exercises to help them generate ideas, write characters, and create interesting plots and narratives. Using concrete examples and working in groups, at the end of the workshop all participants will have found their own voices and will be able to write and develop their stories. Some of the work written during the workshop may be nominated to be developed and produced during DFI's Camera Kids workshop, which will take place in August.



Henna Painting

WHERE: Doha Festival City

WHEN: June 22-25

TIME: 9pm

For the last five days of Ramadan, and in celebration of Eid al-Fitr, there will be professional henna artists designing beautiful henna art on guests. Children will also have the opportunity to handcraft their own henna designs on printed paper. Being the national bird and symbol of culture in the Middle East, guests will also have the chance to have their photo taken with a falcon at Doha Festival City.

Aspire Active Ladies Fitness Classes

WHEN: Ramadan

WHERE: Hamad Aquatic Center

Ramadan offer! FREE Aspire Active Ladies Only Fitness Classes when you sign up for your swimming membership at Hamad Aquatic Center Today! Hamad Aquatic Center is located at Aspire Zone Sports City. For more information, call 44138484 or e-mail hacreception@mtmqatar.com



Meerat Ramadan

WHERE: Katara

WHEN: Until end of Ramadan

TIME: 5pm-9pm

The Ramadan Market is open to the public, and scheduled to run until the end of Ramadan. According to the Katara website, the current hours (until June 17) are 5pm until 9pm, although we recommend that you check it is open before making a special journey as timings may change during Ramadan. There will be kids area with bouncy castle, and it is expected that the Ramadan market will be popular with families as they enjoy their Ramadan evenings at Katara.

Ramadan Nights at Aqua Park Qatar

WHEN: Entire Ramadan

WHERE: Aqua Park

TIME: 8pm-2am

Have fun with your family and friends in style! World class attractions and a thrilling water park experience! From the coolest rides to the extreme ones, Aqua Park has it all at 50% discount this Ramadan! Don't miss out!



W Doha Hotel: Art 29 gallery

WHERE: W Doha Hotel & Residences

WHEN: Until July 25

TIME: 9am-7pm

W Doha Hotel & Residences are hosting the works of local artist Abdulwahed al-Mawlawi at the property's in-house Art 29 gallery. The exhibition commenced on May 25 following Ramadan timings of 9am to 10pm and from June 25th to July 25th will be open for free public viewing from 9am to 7pm. The expansive Art 29 space has been established to spark inspiration and nurture creativity by providing a platform to showcase works of both budding and established artists.

Summer Camp

WHERE: Ain Khaled

WHEN: July 2-Aug 31

TIME: 8am-1pm

Summertime is just memories waiting to happen. The Stem Xplorers Summer Camp is just the place for your kids to make lifelong memories to cherish.

Our camp will be Stem-based wherein we will engage the children in Science along with Lego, some exciting Sports, Nutrition, Arts, Crafts and Outdoor Field Trips!! Each week will be a different theme covering an

exciting new Stem project making science come to life. Call us now on 33996665 or 33120001.

Summer Camp Wakrah

WHERE: Music Lounge, Al Wakrah

WHEN: July 2-31

This is a 1 month packaged summer camp programme that brings great fun with learning, creating and exploring. The camp is designed to bring out a 360 degree development in the talents and skill level of the students. The camp includes training in keyboard, guitar, drums, art, craft, communication skills, zumba, hip hop, fun with games, movies, competitions, cultural tour, fun day activities, art exhibition and fashion show. The camp is for ages 5-15. Transportation is available from Doha, Al Wakrah and Mesaieed. For details, please contact the organisers at 44219897/555 72429 or e-mail them at musicloungeqatar@gmail.com



#I Am Evo Summer Camp

WHERE: Al Waab and Doha College West Bay

WHEN: July 2 onwards

TIME: 8am to 1pm

The #IamEvo Camps are designed to challenge young athletes to progressively develop their skills, performance and confidence. The courses are structured to meet the needs of all young players, to have fun, learn new skills and meet new friends in a safe and friendly environment. Members have a choice of venue, with camps held at Doha College Al Waab and Doha College West Bay. The camps are open to boys and girls aged 4-16 years and run from 8am to 1pm daily at each site. Registration Now Open.



Davinci Resolve Training Course

WHEN: July 24-25

TIME: 1pm

The course provides an introduction to colour grading and the popular grading software, DaVinci Resolve. It is the ideal course for editors, digital imaging technicians, directors of photography, visual-effects technicians, aspiring colourists, and anybody with a desire to explore colour correction.



Camera Kids: Make Your Own Short Film

WHEN: Aug 6-24

A well-rounded introduction to the different elements of photography, film and filmmaking helps young people make their first one-minute short films. Applicants must be between 13 and 17 years old.

Train like a superhero

WHERE: Aspire Zone

WHEN: Ongoing

Train like a superhero at CrossFit Doha! CrossFit holds a variety of disciplines from weightlifting to calisthenics to gymnastics. This will help your kids excel in sports and retain the healthy and fit lifestyle! Support your kids' natural urge for physical activities and train like a superhero, at CrossFit Doha's in demand Kids Classes today! CrossFit Doha is located at Aspire Zone Sports City. For more information, call 44138484.

Salsa Beginners Dance Class

WHEN: Every Friday

WHERE: B Attitude Spa, West Bay

TIME: 8pm-9pm

Salsa n Candela offers variety of dance classes for adults at Beverly Hills Tower such as Salsa every Friday and other Latin dance during other days of the week.

Festive time

WHEN: Ongoing

WHERE: Doha Festival City

The entertainment offering has been designed to ensure there are numerous opportunities for physical activities, from the running track which features exercise stations, the bike trail, through to our 'first-of-its-kind' in Qatar, Snow Dunes theme park. DFC is excited to welcome first visitors in April and to celebrate the best leisure facilities, retail mix and dining options, all with exceptional service.

Summer Workshop 2017 for kids

WHERE: IAID

WHEN: July-Aug

Summer break is a long-awaited respite for your kids after months of hitting the books. This is an opportunity for them to hone their current skills, pick up a new hobby, or simply stay active, whether their interest lies in dance, music or arts. This summer, get your kids up and going by enrolling them at IAID! Starting three years and above, we have courses to offer this summer such as Ballet Kids, Strum-A-Long, Bolly Thumka, Music Fun, ARTmazing & more.

Imperial Threads: Motifs and Artisans

WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art

WHEN: Until November 4

This exhibition focuses on the exchange of artistic and material cultures between the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires. Highlighting MIA's masterpiece carpets, among other artworks, from Turkey, Iran and India, these objects will be contextualised within the historical circumstances of politics and artistic production of their time, primarily from the 16th to the 18th centuries.

■ **THE OPRAH WINFREY INTERVIEW**

Give people the Oprah they know



CANDID: "The coming of me has been in the making for a long time," Oprah says, of her idea of belonging.

By Glenn Whipp

Oprah Winfrey guides you into her office and, after a welcoming hug (Winfrey's a hugger, but you probably already knew that), she immediately anticipates where your eye is going to land first. Over in the corner, overlooking her Oprah Winfrey Network studio lot, there's artist Whitfield Lovell's *Having*, a charcoal on wood panel image of two African American women that has three wood boxes of pennies placed in front of it.

"These women were early entrepreneurs," Winfrey says. "I looked at this every day from my desk in Chicago to remind me and inspire me that, yes, it can be done."

The spacious West Hollywood office contains scores of Emmys (not all of them), shelves and shelves of books, many dotted with framed photos of Winfrey with the likes of Barack Obama and Nelson Mandela. Everything here has a story, and Winfrey, a consummate teller of tales, her own and others, will happily share them with gusto.

"You see that photograph of me and Madiba over there?" Winfrey says, pointing to a picture of her and Mandela, telling of the time she went to South Africa to help Aids-stricken children for a project called Christmas Kindness. Once there, Winfrey, her hair braided, waited with a town mayor for Mandela to arrive via helicopter.

"I am so excited," the mayor told her. "Nelson Mandela is coming and he's bringing Oprah Winfrey from America." Winfrey looked at

him, confused. "I'm already here," she told him. "I'm Oprah."

The mayor looked at her. "You? You look like a girl from the village. Where is the Oprah we know?"

Winfrey laughs, but it's not enough to stir her beloved cocker spaniel, Sadie, sprawled out on the sofa next to her. It's a good story. And, of course, for Winfrey it's not just a story but a lesson because Winfrey finds lessons everywhere, and she absorbs them and then passes them on because she loves, to use a word she adores, "pontificating."

The town mayor's lesson: Rise for the moment. Give people the Oprah they know.

Over a long, discursive conversation, Winfrey, 63, did just that, touching on the movie she just made for HBO, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, in which she

plays Deborah, the daughter of the title character, an African American woman whose cancer cells became crucial to medical research. We also talked about her next movie, *A Wrinkle in Time*, made with her friend, Ava DuVernay, who created the beautiful, character-driven drama *Queen Sugar* for OWN. And other movies too, ones that Winfrey has made, might one day make, as well as films dear to heart.

Deborah is searching for her identity through finding out about her mother. Did playing her make you think about your half-sister, Patricia, and what it was like for her to find you and your mother after so many years?

You're the only person who's ever brought that up! But you are right. I thought of her a lot. There's a line

where Deborah says, "The only thing I care about is my mother and my sister." I know that my sister has said those words.

Her longing for family informed your work?

Definitely. That was part of my process. Because I don't have that longing. I'm the exact opposite. Like, probably when I was 20-something, I was told by a cousin that my father wasn't my father. And I said, "The only father I have is Vernon Winfrey and he's in a barber shop in Nashville, Tenn." And if somebody who said they were my father came to my front door, it would not matter to me.

I don't have any of that longing to know. Partly because I just do have this deeper sense of belonging to something bigger than my parents. Because my parents were together

COVER STORY

COMMUNITY



only one time. So it wasn't like, "Oh, gee, we wanted this daughter." (Laughs)

I'm glad my father did lay claim to me when he didn't have to. And I'm glad my mother didn't abort me because it would have been easier to do as a poor coloured woman with no education in Mississippi. So I'm grateful for that, but I don't feel this deep sense of belonging to them. I think I belong to something bigger. The coming of me has been in the making for a long time.

You're talking generations.

I never read it thoroughly when it was done, but I just recently looked at Henry Louis Gates' book, *Finding Oprah's Roots*. Looking at it, I am a descendant of not just slaves, but slaves who loved land, which I now have a thing about land. I like it better than shoes. I'd rather have a nice piece of land than a great pair of shoes!

The fact that my great-great-grandfather could come out of slavery and end up a land owner, my great-great-grandmother would come out of slavery and end up a teacher and built a little school on a property ... and I had this yearning to build a school for girls. That's what I mean: It all comes from something bigger. Deeper.

Going back to Deborah and the movie ... if you made that connection with your half sister, why did you have so many reservations about taking the part?

I always have reservations about acting. I don't want to embarrass myself.

But you've acted in movies directed by Steven Spielberg and Jonathan Demme and Ava DuVernay...

I started with Spielberg. So I started pretty high in the food chain.

And you've said that you were terrified every day he was going to fire you on *The Color Purple*.

I was terrified. There was another movie — was it *Mask*? — where somebody had recently been fired, and it had never occurred to me that you could be fired from a movie. But I did know that if there was anybody who could be fired, it would be me, because I didn't know what I was doing. Period.

My first day on set and I am in the first scene and I walk in and look directly into the camera and say my line. "Cut! Cut!" Steven asked, "Why are looking into the camera?" I had been on TV since I was 19 and that's what you do. You look at the camera. Anyway, I learned. But I've never stopped being intimidated.

What about acting for Ava in *A Wrinkle in Time*?

Well, that was different. That was just a fun thing to do. I'm so proud of her. You know why? Because it mirrors my relationship with Maya Angelou. She used to tell me she was proud of me, but I couldn't hear it. I couldn't receive it. I didn't really know what that meant until my friendship with Ava. Every time she does something, I think, "Oh. This



"I am so excited," the (town) mayor (in South Africa) told her. "Nelson Mandela is coming and he's bringing Oprah Winfrey from America." Winfrey looked at him, confused. "I'm already here," she told him. "I'm Oprah." The mayor looked at her. "You? You look like a girl from the village. Where is the Oprah we know?"

is what Maya felt about me. That's what it means when you feel enlarged by someone else's successes." Her growth makes me feel broader.

Tell me about Mrs. Witch, your character in *A Wrinkle in Time*.

She's a cross between Glinda the Good Witch and Maya Angelou. (Laughs)

You know, it all started because I love New Zealand so much. So when Ava went there to scout and she's telling me about the ice caves and glaciers and mountains and turquoise lakes, I told her, "I am coming to visit." And she said, "If you're going to visit, why don't you work? Would you mind reading the script?"

So I did. And I believe I am Mrs. Witch! You know, she's born of

the stars and she's a wise woman coming from another cosmos. So, c'mon! And she loves pontificating.

Next thing you're going to say is that she loves desserts and Toni Morrison.

She probably does! Anyway, it was done out of friendship in the beginning and turned into a great experience. I just saw it in its rough stages the other day, just a piece of it, and I started to cry. She's put her soul into it. And Disney has given her the luxury of time, which she has never had before. It's going to pay off in ways you can't imagine.

"It's going to pay off in ways you can't imagine," Oprah Winfrey says of the time Disney gave her friend and director Ava DuVernay to make *A Wrinkle in Time*.

(In an e-mail, DuVernay writes:

"This is my second time working with Oprah as an actress. The first was with her poignant portrayal of the real-life civil rights legend Annie Lee Cooper in *Selma*. This time around we worked together on her portrayal of an all-knowing, all-wise celestial being who brings good and light to the Universe. Tall order for most. But she dazzled me and everyone on set with the ease and effortlessness of her performance. It's saying a lot when you can make all-knowing and all-wise look easy! But she did just that.

"Oprah is a lot of things. Leader. Legend. Mogul. But we should really add a formidable actress to that list. She has a tremendous toolbox. I believe her work as an actor is imbued with the knowledge of all her hundreds of thousands of human interactions and interviews

over the past three decades. She's looked into people's eyes and heard their stories face to face. The triumphs. The tragedies. And everything in between. She's heard and seen it all. And she brings that to her acting. Because she's achieved excellence in her career in other areas, it's easy to overlook her acting work. But when you really look closely, it's quite clear. She's a real actor with real gifts. A force. And I consider myself fortunate to have worked with her in this way!")

What about this talk of you playing the Shirley MacLaine role in Lee Daniels' remake of *Terms of Endearment*? Is that going to happen?

It's just a rumour. I spoke to Lee actually this morning who told me that somebody is writing it. And I go, "Lee, you're not doing a thing until you have a script." And I don't think it should be called *Terms of Endearment*, that's for sure, especially if you're doing a whole other script. It's about an African American family and the girl gets Aids from the husband. That's not *Terms of Endearment*. It's something else.

So you're not stepping into Shirley MacLaine's shoes?

What I am saying for sure is that I am not going to try to step into Shirley MacLaine's shoes. It's unnecessary to do that. She's already done it as well as it could be done for that role.

I just watched *Terms of Endearment* recently with my girls (students at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa). I sit down with them, telling them all the movies you need to know. (She pounds her hands) Movies you ... need ... to ... know. *Terms* might be my favourite movie of all time other than ... well, (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is one of my favourites.

When I first opened my school, I made everyone watch *The Wizard of Oz*, and they were like, "Mom O, why are we watching this white girl run up some yellow bricks?" That's when they were 12 or 13. Now they get it. Because I teach, "You've always had the power. You spend your whole life running around, looking for the perfect yellow brick road and it's always right here." Now they're college graduates. We were just talking about this the other day. "Remember when you made us watch *The Wizard of Oz*?" What was that all about?

Same thing when I first showed *To Kill a Mockingbird* to my kids. "It's in black and white? Nooooo!"

What's your favourite line in that movie? Come on. Tell me!

Uuummm...

"Stand up. Your father's passing." Still gets me every time!

I normally don't watch movies more than once. That one I probably saw three or four times as a little girl. Scout. Why didn't someone name me Scout? I just love the idea of being a Scout. You can never be mad at a Scout, you know. — *Los Angeles Times*/TNS



Indian embassy, ISC conduct yoga session at Al Khor

As part of celebrations to commemorate the Third International Day of Yoga on June 21, the Embassy of India and Indian Sports Centre conducted a session on yoga and wellness for Al Khor's Indian community at Al Waha Club's ballroom recently. The session was inaugurated by Indian ambassador P Kumaran and attended by more than 150 adults and children of Al Khor community. Various types of guided and therapeutic asanas were narrated and demonstrated by Nisha Agrawal and Sujata Fernandes. These were followed by more yoga asanas by a 'Yoga in Doha' instructor. The session concluded with a demonstration of

"Guided Meditation" for keeping the mind quiet by Padmini Sundar, a Volunteer of Heartfulness. Ambassador Kumaran and ISC officials also participated in the activities. While inaugurating the session, ambassador Kumaran talked about the benefits of yoga for a healthy body and mind and urged people to adopt yoga to eliminate the effect of stress in our daily life. ISC President Nilangshu Dey highlighted the role of Indian Sports Centre in promoting yoga among the Indian community in Qatar and the recently conducted yoga championship for school students in order to inculcate the culture of yoga among children.



350 people attend Iftar hosted by Qatar Indian Youth Tamil Sangam

The Qatar Indian Youth Tamil Sangam hosted an Iftar at the Indian Culture Centre recently. About 350 people attended the event. Notable guests at the event were ex-MP Abdul Rahman, Paranthamen Indiran, Aranthai Raju Murugan, Ashraf Ali, Dinakaran, Ranjithkumar, Abdulla Ghani, Balaji, Rajaraman, Ramachandran, Goutham Mano, Balu Kbssc and Ali Khan.



Ettikkulam Muslim Jumaat Committee organises Iftar meet

The Ettikkulam Muslim Jumaat Committee organised an Iftar meeting for its members recently. V V Abdulla presided over the meeting. N M C Khasim, Anwar NP, Sahdar and Musthafa NT addressed the audience.



Pearl School's students visit Kahramaa Park

The students of Pearl School's Thumama Campus got a chance to participate in the conservation and energy efficiency-focused Tarsheed Program at Kahramaa Park recently. After a brief introduction, the students were divided into two groups to take a guided tour of the exhibition. They enjoyed various activities, games, quizzes, colouring and small experiments, all related to conservation of water and electricity. All the students also received gifts in recycled cloth bags.



The ISL Qatar graduates toss hats in the air to celebrate.

Fifth graduating class of ISL Qatar take to the stage

The Graduation ceremony of International School of London Qatar's (ISL Qatar) fifth cohort of graduates was the pinnacle of the school's two-day Celebrations of Learning. Of the 50 Grade 12 graduates, nine had been part of the school since it opened in 2008. This ceremony proved to be an emotional, vibrant and unforgettable event as the graduates began the procession with the gift of a rose from the pre-school children.

In addition to the Grade 12 Graduation, celebrations also took place for Grade 5 students transitioning from Primary into the Middle Years Programme and the Grade 10 students transitioning from the Middle Years into the two-year Diploma Programme. Over

2,000 friends and family attended the three celebrations, in addition to the students and staff. The live-feed of the Grade 12 ceremony boasted a following of another 30,000 during the Graduation event.

The culturally diverse class of 2017 are truly internationally-minded, with 18 different nationalities from across the globe, speaking 13 different languages. This exceptional class exemplifies the values of camaraderie, warmth, humour, creativity, intelligence and compassion and they have contributed much to ISL Qatar.

Some of Graduation ceremony highlights recognised achievements of students and staff.

● Fatima al-Naimi and Laila Saifelddeen were honoured with

Valedictorian awards in recognition of attaining the highest academic standards, making outstanding contributions to the school and for being exemplary representatives of the Class of 2017.

● Illya Myshakov was honoured with the Global Citizenship and Community Action award as the student who demonstrated leadership and responsibility and took action in a range of humanitarian and environmental matters, both locally and internationally.

● Saleh al-Naimi received the coveted Learner Award as the student who had shown outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment and intellectual development in his academic studies.

● The prestigious Educational Collaborative for International Schools (ECIS) Award for International Understanding was awarded to Ali Kraishan who shows, "a positive attitude toward the life and culture of others, is a contributing force in the life of the school, and has the ability to bring differing people together in a sense of community and international understanding."

● The ECIS adult award for the Promotion of International Education was awarded to Dr Pilar Fernandez in recognition of her exemplary contributions to the promotion of international education and to the understanding of world cultures.

The graduation ceremony

marked the end of one part of the graduates' stories and all are looking forward to the next chapter as they move on to some of the world's top universities. Valedictorian Laila Saifelddeen summarised these next steps with the following comments in her address, "Our lives are about to change. We are going to have to embrace change, without letting our own nerves and fears hold us back. I urge you all to do the following: Get out there and do what you want with your life. Do something SO extraordinary that if I ever accidentally meet you in an airport, I can brag to my family about how I was in the same grade as someone who ended world hunger or who developed an app that outdid Facebook."



The ISL Qatar 2017 cohort.



DESS receives highest grade in recent inspection

Doha English Speaking School (DESS) has received the highest grade in its recent inspection which was conducted by Penta International.

Penta International is approved by the British government for the purpose of inspecting schools overseas. As one of the leading inspection providers, Penta International reports to the Department for Education (DFE) in the United Kingdom on the extent to which schools meet the standards for British Schools Overseas.

The purpose of the inspection at DESS was to provide information to parents, teachers, senior managers and the school's management on the overall effectiveness of the school, the standard of education it provides and its compatibility with independent schools in the United Kingdom.

An extract from the resulting report reads: "Children/pupils are well supported through highly effective pastoral care and the implementation of excellent welfare, health and safety policies and procedures. The school has a fully embedded ethos of care and guidance and strives to meet the needs of all its pupils. The quality of teaching is outstanding. From each different starting point, the proportion of pupils making and exceeding expected progress are high compared to UK national figures. Nearly all children make progress at least in line with their ability, many do better."

"The national curriculum

provides the framework for teaching and learning supplemented with host country requirements. The curriculum is enriched by a range of extra curricular activities.

"The school's thoughtful and wide ranging promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and their physical well being enables pupils to thrive. Parents interviewed are happy with their choice of school and value the family atmosphere of this primary school. Parents and staff value the British nature of the curriculum and are highly committed to the school. Pupils feel valued and display highly positive attitudes towards their learning and relationships with each other."

Sean Sibley, Headteacher, said of the inspection result, "We are extremely pleased with this Outstanding grading. It is a result of a lot of hard work by the children, the staff, the governors, our sponsors and parents who have all played a major role in achieving such an accolade. The report identifies many strengths which we will continue to embed and we will now work on the identified developments points. This school is a happy place to be part of and I feel the children benefit from the outstanding teaching and opportunities they are provided with. I would like to thank everyone involved with the school on achieving this Outstanding grading which now helps us to be properly compared with the top schools in the United Kingdom."



Children/pupils are well supported through highly effective pastoral care and the implementation of excellent welfare, health and safety policies and procedures, according to the report.

IIS KG kids celebrate Father's Day

The tiny tots of Ideal Indian School celebrated Father's Day yesterday. The KG Section wore a festive look as the students in colourful clothes dressed as 'fathers' from various nationalities. Colouring sheets were given to the students to paint and present to their fathers.



Holiday Villa Doha hosts thanksgiving Suhoor

In celebration of the holy month of Ramadan and the coming 8th Year Anniversary of Holiday Villa Hotel & Residence Doha, the management recently hosted a thanksgiving Suhoor for its clients, partners, suppliers and the media. With the Southeast Asian serene ambiance of the Emerald Ballroom, the gathering brought a fusion of Asian Ramadan experience and international dining to its delighted guests.

General Manager Joey Chen and the management interacted with the travel trade, corporate clients, media, embassies and partners to thank them for their support.

The attendees were treated to a gastronomic fair of unforgettable fine mix of signature delicacies. The buffet offered a mouthwatering array of Asian, Arabic, Indian, Oriental and Western cuisines. The evening was filled with bursting flavours of delightful treats and good conversations. Chen said, "Ramadan has always given us the opportunity to share our banquets with the people who have supported Holiday Villa Doha all these years and this Suhoor enabled us to thank them for always believing in our services. The management and the staff are pleased and grateful to our partners for being part of the hotel's each and every milestone."



Meeting of Toastmasters International Qatar Chapter Area 53 Division S

Toastmasters International Qatar Chapter Area 53 Division S recently conducted a confluence meeting with its five clubs - Dukhan Toastmasters Club, Qatar Malayalam Toastmasters Club, BC Club, FCC Vanitha Club and Qatar Advanced Club. More than 60 members gathered at the Modern Education Centre. Area 53 Director Shainy Kabeer thanked the clubs for their support and awarded them with a

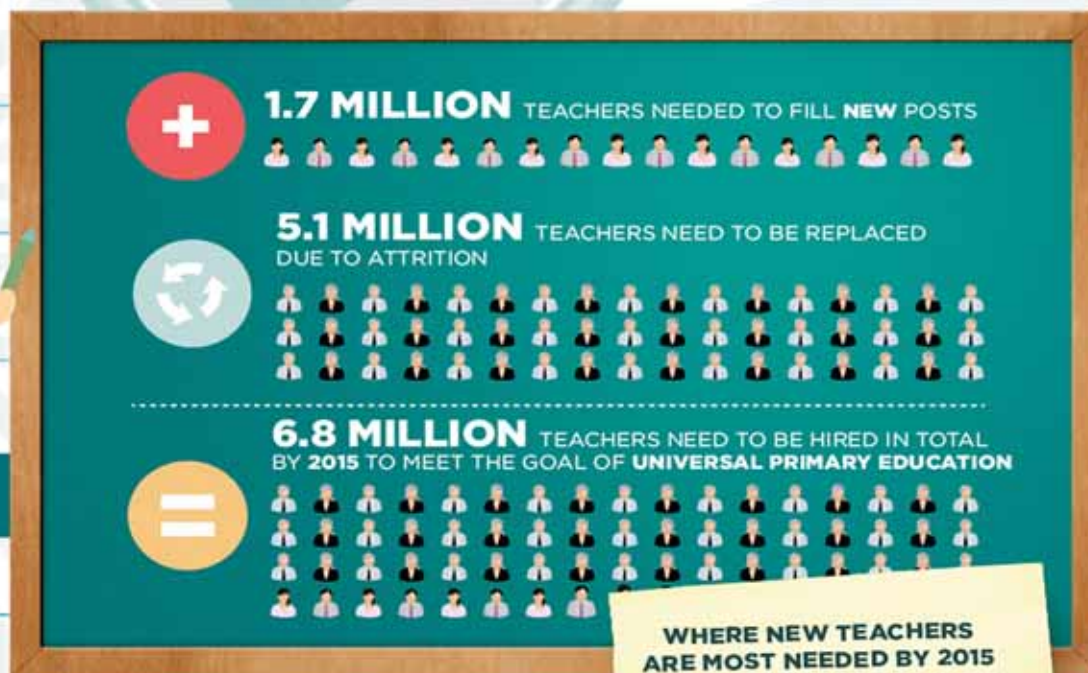
small token of appreciation. Speeches by Khorshed, Sheeba, Anshu, Subair and Sebastian, and recognition of D20 award achievers added value and colour to the meeting, which was led by Nufaisa and managed by Aparna. Division S Director Philip and all the 5 club presidents - Sameer, Shaji, Salauddeen, Aparna and Nizamudheen - attended the meeting along with other senior members. The meeting concluded with an Iftar.





GLOBAL TEACHER SHORTAGE

ENROLLMENT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IS SOARING, BUT QUALITY IS COMPROMISED IN MANY COUNTRIES THAT CAN'T GET ENOUGH TEACHERS INTO CLASSROOMS



CONSEQUENCES

OVERCROWDED CLASSROOMS

WHERE NEW TEACHERS ARE MOST NEEDED BY 2015



6 OUT OF 10 NEW POSTS ARE NEEDED IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

RIISING NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER TEACHER



THE **SHORTAGE** OF WELL-TRAINED TEACHERS **IMPEDES** ALL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, DEPRIVING YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE **QUALITY** INSTRUCTION NEEDED FOR TODAY'S KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES



61 MILLION CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN

26% HAVE DROPPED OUT
27% START SCHOOL LATE
47% WILL NEVER ENTER SCHOOL

SOURCE: UNESCO ATLAS OF TEACHERS



QUALITY TEACHERS ARE THE PILLARS OF QUALITY EDUCATION - A HUMAN RIGHT.



Cool deck time fun in the summer sun: three tips to beat the heat

During the winter months, many people eagerly anticipate the sunny days of summer. But, when summer rolls around, these same people are often busy looking for ways to cool off.

Getting outside on the deck or porch is an ideal way to relax and escape stifling indoor heat for many Americans. To make sure your outdoor living retreat is a cool oasis, consider these three tips to beat the heat:

Create stylish shade

While an umbrella or a roll-up sunshade provides a fast and easy way to block direct sun, they can quickly fade or become a dingy eyesore. A stylish alternative is to cast refreshing shade with a gazebo or arbour. With either option, you also can create a lush and fragrant grotto using climbing vines such as roses, clematis, wisteria or honeysuckle.



Spritz yourself with a mister
Sunbelt residents and visitors are familiar with outdoor cooling

misters installed at popular outdoor cafes, theme parks and other places people gather on

hot days. Now, homeowners throughout the US are installing these systems on their decks or

porches. The ultrafine droplets of water created by these systems can cool the air as much as 35 degrees. In addition to providing cool and refreshing moisture on hot summer days, some manufacturers report the systems help repel flying insects and clear the air of smoke and pollen.

Don't forget the deck surface

Many deck surfaces become uncomfortably hot in direct sun. The problem is especially acute for dark-coloured deck boards, which absorb heat throughout the day, as well as some dense composite boards that hold heat. As a result, rather than a comfortable stroll to your favourite chair, you might end up hot-footing it across a scorching deck. An overly hot deck is especially problematic for young children and pets, whose feet are more heat sensitive.

©Brandpoint



ARIES

March 21 – April 19

You may feel like your resources are depleted and you want to throw in the towel, Aries. Don't give up yet. Today may not be the best day of your life, but that doesn't mean you should write everyone off and become a hermit. You may be moodier than usual, but you will snap out of it. You may need to be a bit more adaptable in order to roll with the punches today.



CANCER

June 21 – July 22

This is a wonderful day. You feel emotionally strong, Cancer. You have all of your energy available for use. Don't miss this opportunity by feigning a headache and staying at home doing nothing. Instead of analysing everything and criticising everyone else's life, look at your own and see what choices you can make right now. Take the best course of action based on the resources you have at your fingertips.



LIBRA

September 23 – October 22

While this may be a day when all you want to do is to relax, you may not feel like you can, Libra. A little voice is telling you to work. Perhaps you're inspired to clean out your closet, change the landscaping, or wash your windows. Put these tasks aside. Forced manual labour isn't the way to go today. If you're going to put that much energy into something, put it into having fun.



CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 19

Your emotions and actions are well aligned, Capricorn, meaning that you're likely to do things that are more in tune with your true beliefs. This wonderful alignment of energies will keep you busy and out of trouble. As long as you're true to yourself, no one can argue with what you do or who you are. There is no reason for you to make excuses about anything.



TAURUS

April 20 – May 20

Your energy is running high, Taurus, and you have a great deal of fire that you can use to transform anything. You have a wonderful capacity to turn a bad situation into a good one. You know exactly how to lift others' spirits when they're down. Today certain issues may be a bit too emotional for you to handle comfortably. There's an aggressive, combative tone to some people. Keep your guard up.



LEO

July 23 – August 22

Nothing seems to be clicking the way you want, Leo. Your rational mind tells you that things are fine and you have the green light to proceed with your plans. But there's a small voice inside you that's suggesting otherwise. Perhaps you have an inkling that your plan is flawed in some way. Perhaps you're ignoring a certain pain in your heart by keeping it secret when in reality you need to let it out.



SCORPIO

October 23 – November 21

This may feel like a day made just for you, Scorpio. You're emotionally strong. You feel like you're able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Tackle all those projects you love but have been too scared to start. You have a great deal of energy and confidence in your favour. You will succeed in almost anything you try, so don't waste this moment by just watching TV.



AQUARIUS

January 20 – February 18

You may feel emotionally stuck, Aquarius. Perhaps you feel your sensitive, loving nature isn't fully appreciated. Today is energetic and lively, but you'd rather sit home and relax. Your best strategy is to do just that. Why is it so hard for some people to see that doing nothing is really doing something – relaxing? Don't let anyone talk you into something you don't want to do.



GEMINI

May 21 – June 20

Every time you bring up a sensitive, important, or deep subject, does someone squash it? You may feel like you aren't relating well to other people today, Gemini. You may want to dive deeper into issues while others prefer to skim the surface. There are many ways to see the same things and deal with the same problems. Find people who see things your way rather than fight those who don't.



VIRGO

August 23 – September 22

You're emotionally much stronger than usual. You will be surprised at the events, thoughts, and conversations you command with your words, Virgo. Most of the time, you follow others. You go with the flow. You're laid-back and happy with just about anything. Today, however, you want to take the lead and show others how things should be done. People would be foolish not to follow you today.



SAGITTARIUS

November 22 – December 21

Your energy may be a bit scattered, Sagittarius. Although your days are jam-packed with activities, you still go to bed every night feeling like you didn't get anything done. It's time to prioritise. Examine all the things you do for others and those you do for yourself. You may be surprised at the imbalance you've created in your world. Use this day to do things for yourself instead of others.



PISCES

February 19 – March 20

It feels like you have more emotional armour on, Pisces, which will help you deal with a looming battle. Somewhere in your world a conflict is brewing. It may not be obvious, it may not be large, but it's there. Today you're more prepared to deal with things out in the open. You have a larger arsenal of weapons, and your witty, aggressive banter is at a peak.



Wordsearch

Wordsearch grid containing letters for a word search puzzle.

Be Bold

- ABILITY, AUDACITY, BACKBONE, BOLDNESS, BRAVERY, COURAGE, DARING
- ENERGY, FIRE, FORCE, GRIT, GUTS, HARDINESS, HEART
- HEROISM, METTLE, NERVE, PLUCK, POWER, SPIRIT, STAMINA
- STRENGTH, TENACITY, VERVE, WILL, ZEAL, ZEST

Codeword

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

Codeword puzzle grid with numbers and letters for a logic puzzle.

Sudoku

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers for a logic puzzle.

Sudoku Book advertisement with a small grid and text.

Adam

Adam cartoon strip showing a boy and a man talking about a snake in the pool.

Pooch Cafe

Pooch Cafe cartoon strip showing a dog on a bicycle and a dog eating kibble.

Garfield

Garfield cartoon strip showing Garfield and Odie talking about cheese.

Bound And Gagged

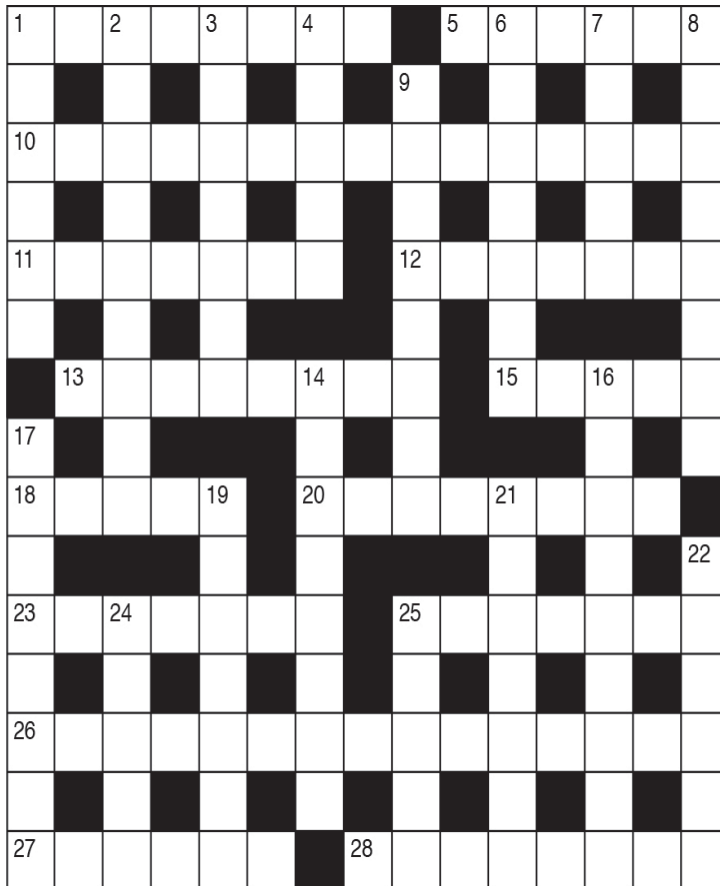
Bound And Gagged cartoon strip showing a man and a dog talking about biting nails.

PUZZLES

COMMUNITY



Super Cryptic Clues



ACROSS

1. The word 'sly' I slurred, in a sleepy way (8)
5. It's difficult to hide the directory and it's dangerous (6)
10. One almost as lovely as the other? (6,4,5)
11. The sot bashed in the vehicle's wheels (7)
12. Not knowing the girl has something to sell (7)
13. The stones outside, it shakes (8)
15. Try to get time to repair the seat (5)
18. Chuck something black at? (5)
20. Stand while a chum catches the runaway steed (8)
23. Made runs and gets run out, which is unusual (7)
25. He plays ball and gets rid of the undesirables (7)
26. With all below, particularly (5,10)
27. Pass round and see in trouble outside (6)
28. An agreement there's nothing wrong with? (3,5)

DOWN

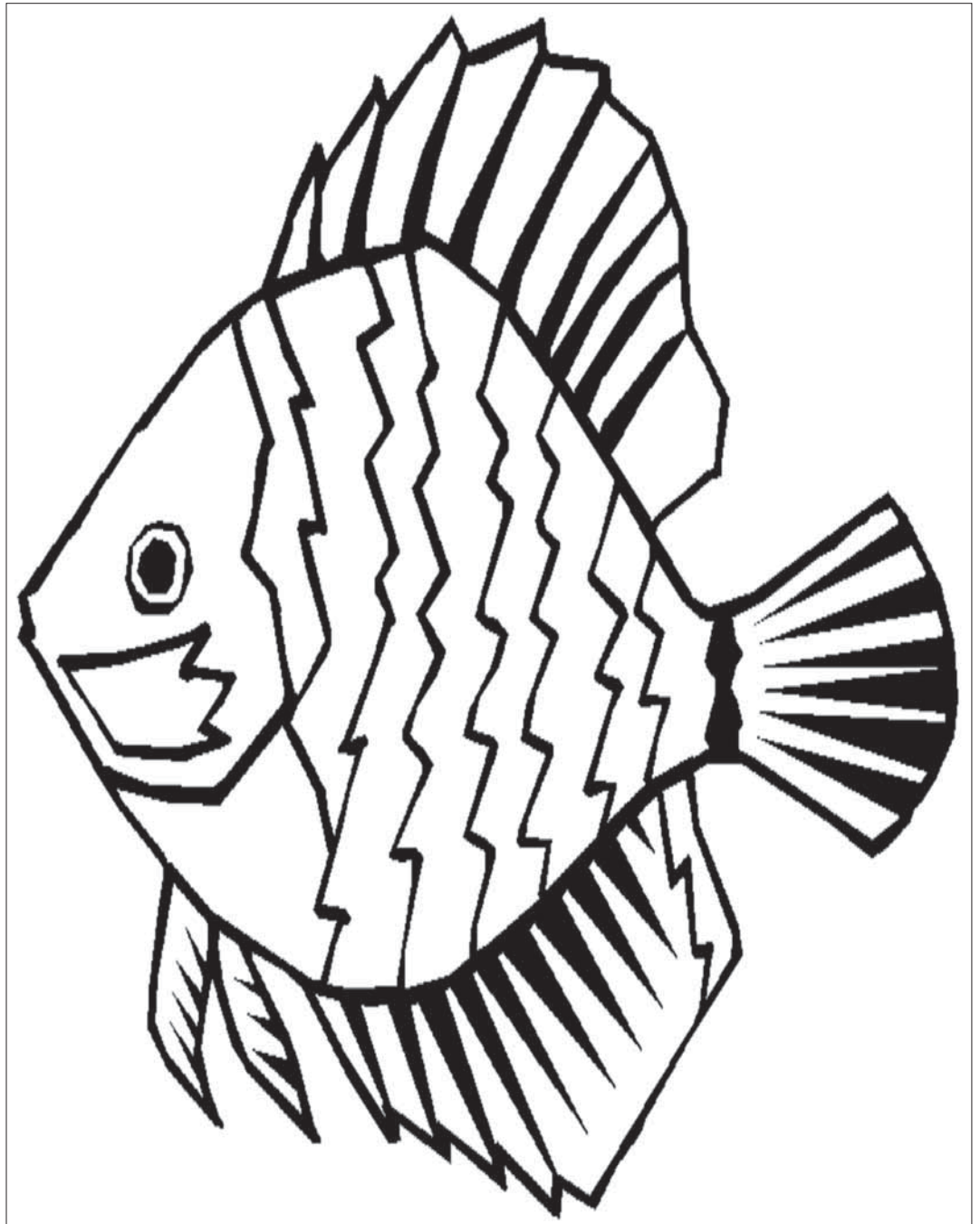
1. Show to have wrongly cited the president in it (6)
2. A failure to notice the clear indication of unhappiness in it (9)
3. Prepared to oust in some way, embarks on it (4,3)
4. Bring back half a pound of fruit (5)
6. Insistent the man meant me to leave (7)
7. Doubly a fool to enter her name (5)
8. Made the bed lower (8)
9. With the blinking dog unleashed, cased the exterior (8)
14. Having a rear light? (3-5)
16. Trying to find in the burning church (9)
17. Send tea out to a renegade (8)
19. The killers that took one's clothes (7)
21. The rest fluttered round the cabin in the shade (7)
22. Being right in the melee gives one a scare (6)
24. Bother! The hour is up, miss! (5)
25. The girl with the instrument has the key raised (5)

Yesterday's Solutions

ACROSS: 1 Strapped 5 Adults 9 Acrostic 10 Letter 12 Minims 13 Prospect 15 On the warpath 18 Sigmund Freud 23 Outgrown 24 Marian 26 Satrap 27 Prodigal 28 Strays 29 Heedless

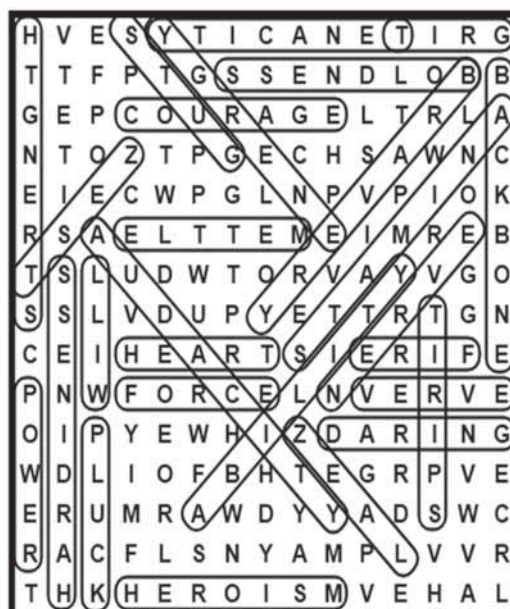
DOWN: 1 Swarms 2 Reruns 3 Postman 4 Eric 6 Dresser 7 Lutheran 8 Scratchy 11 Drawers 14 Shadows 16 Espouses 17 Agitator 19 Unready 20 Unaided 21 Single 22 Angles 25 Cree.

Colouring



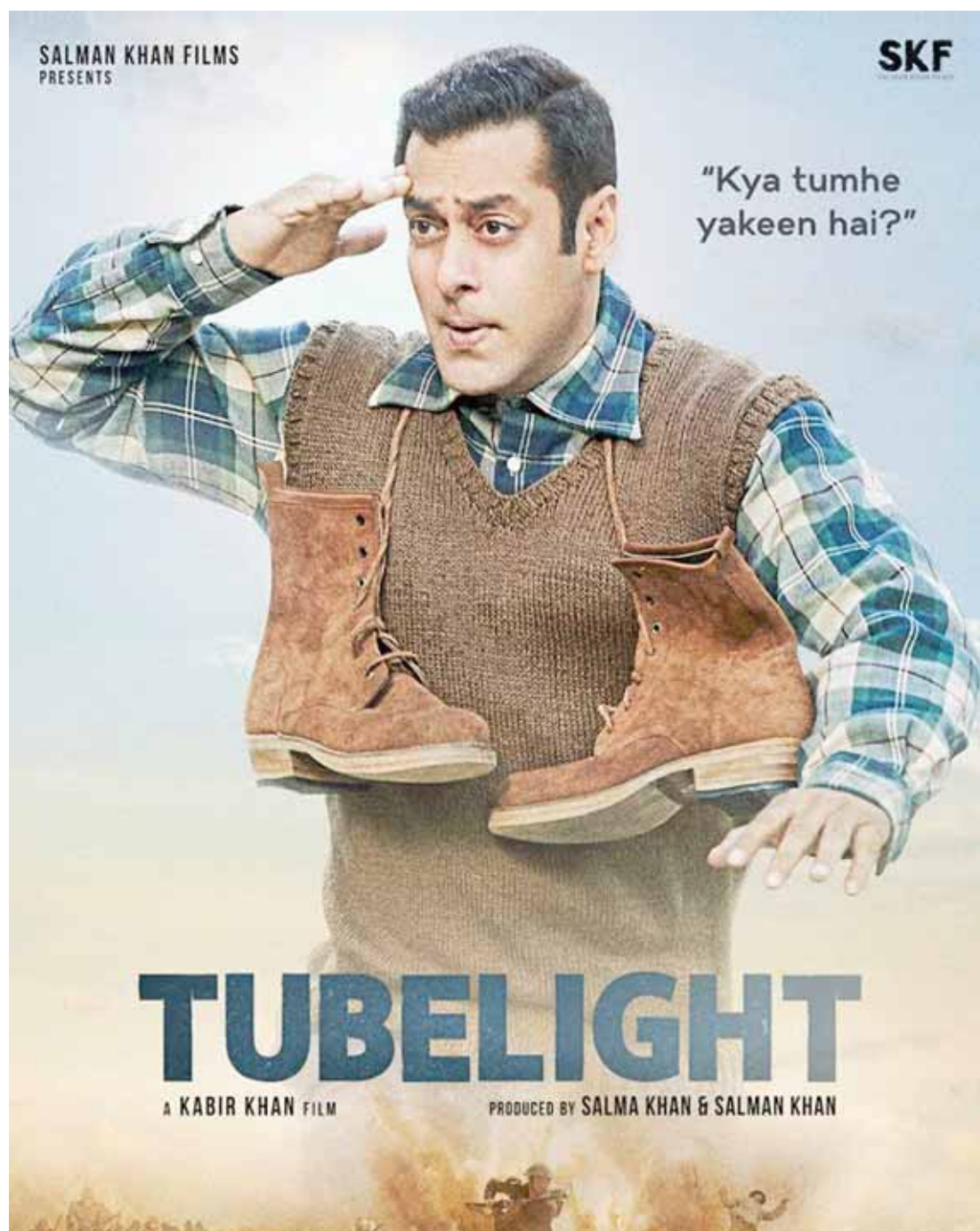
Answers

Wordsearch



Codeword





The poster for Salman Khan's next film.

Reluctant to talk

There is never a dull moment when Salman Khan makes his appearances before the media for interviews, a ritual that he is forced to go through every time one of his movies is set for release.

Normally contemptuous of the media, he reluctantly has to court them to promote the movie. This time *Tubelight* is going to be the next release and it is important to him for various reasons. He is producing the movie and it is a role which might further establish him as an actor, instead of just a superstar.

But Salman being Salman, there is no telling how will behave during interviews. In one such interaction, the interviewer questioned him on how he perceives criticism and his answer

was that reviewers had no right to just pass opinion while all the hard work is done by those who work on the movie! Then when the questions started to be on the court cases against him, he got rattled. He said that there was a deliberate campaign against him just because he was a superstar and if he had been an ordinary person none of these cases would be there. When pressed on whether he was using his charity foundation as a public relation ploy to build his image, Salman got up and walked out.

In another interview, he spoke against war and said that people who ordered it should be the first to fight. This is more comfortable territory to speak on given that *Tubelight* itself is connected to war and his character is a symbol

of someone who bridges those differences.

Meanwhile, there was another strange news connected to Salman which got many all agog. There was a rumour doing the rounds that Rohit Shetty had managed to rope in Salman and the *Bahubali* hero Prabhas for a movie. This would have been a huge casting coup by any reckoning since both actors are pan-Indian sensations given the extraordinary performance of their movies. And Shetty could certainly do with a mega blockbuster since his reputation has lost some its sheen after the poor showing of *Dilwale*.

As it turned out, the news was not true. He put a statement on Twitter which said, 'It is fake news, I've been in Spain since the last 3 weeks, I don't know how this rumour started.'

The return

Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai have done a number of movies together and some of them, under the eye of good directors, have even been noteworthy.

Guru, the Mani Ratnam movie based on the life of the industrialist Dhirubhai Ambani, was one such. Ratnam also cast them in *Raavan* but that one didn't do very well at the box office. There have been a scattering of hits like *Sarkar Raj* and *Dhoom 2* which featured the two but these all go back a decade.

Both have careers that have more or less ended as leading actors and while Abhishek is trying to stay afloat by being second leads to other actors, Aishwarya's comeback has been a series of flops.

But that has not stopped them from once again coming together in a movie. Reportedly, they are in talks with Anurag Kashyap for it. Recently, Abhishek was asked about it at an event and he confirmed the news. But Kashyap, he clarified, will be producing the project and not directing it.

What has worked for Abhishek throughout his career is being the son of Amitabh Bachchan. He inevitably gets top filmmakers to cast him despite his run of flops. The Abhishek-Aishwarya combination might have some curiosity value to viewers. But that won't necessarily translate into large footfalls to theatres unless the movie is exceptional.



Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai are hoping for a comeback with an upcoming project.



Jail talk

In 1993, Mumbai, following communal riots, was rocked by a series of bomb blasts. Since the law goes really slow in India, it is only now that some of those who were behind the blasts have been convicted. One of those, a gangster named Abu Salem, was the one who had supplied illegal arms to Sanjay Dutt at the time. Dutt has however paid for his sins. He has done his time in jail and walked out a free man, presumably immune from any more punishment.

A public interest litigation filed in the high court has accused the government of allowing Sanjay Dutt to be released eight months before his allotted time.

But it is not so easy to put your past behind you. A public interest litigation filed in the high court has accused the government of allowing Dutt to be released eight months before his allotted time. In between he was also out on parole for many days citing medical and other reasons. The judge who was hearing the PIL has asked the government to explain all this. The reason cited for his early release was ostensibly 'good conduct' and they have now to show what exactly was Dutt's conduct.

The government however is planning to justify its decision as being within the rules and so Dutt might not be under any threat of having to return to jail.

A father's doubt

Saif Ali Khan is an actor. His mother, Sharmila Tagore, was an actress. His first wife, Amrita Singh, is an actress. His present wife, Kareena Kapoor, is also one. And yet being entirely involved in this profession, he seems to be somewhat ambivalent about his daughter Sara joining the industry.



Sara will be seen in an upcoming movie.

She has a movie with Sushant Singh Rajput. In an interview to a newspaper, Saif spoke about how he had known that she would be an actor ever since her childhood. But now when that dream is coming true, he seems unsure about her choice. He said in that interview that he was tense because the industry can be cruel and make everyone fearful. And his daughter had had the option of settling down in a place like New York instead of testing her luck in a place where despite very good work there is no guarantee of results.

Though it must be said that the situation is really not as bad as Saif puts it for children from star families. They get lots of breaks and even if there is a slight amount of talent in them, it is possible to find a footing.

Send your feedback to
bollywood.ey@gmail.com

How Pixar put fresh tyres on its franchise



SPOTLIGHT: Disney Pixar's *Cars 3* Tour kicked off at Disney Springs.

By Josh Rottenberg

In Hollywood, as it is everywhere, no-one escapes from the ravages of time. Not the beautiful people who walk the red carpets. Not the power players who pull the strings in the executive suites. And evidently not even the animated talking cars.

In Disney/Pixar's *Cars 3*, in theatres Friday, the hard-charging race car Lightning McQueen (voiced by Owen Wilson) finds himself grappling with the automotive version of a midlife crisis as a younger, faster car named Jackson Storm (Armie Hammer) emerges on the racing scene and threatens to force him into involuntary retirement. With the help of a plucky, tech-savvy young trainer named Cruz Ramirez (Cristela Alonzo), Lightning tries to get his mojo back.

Middle-age angst may seem like an unusual plot driver for a kids' movie whose core audience is still in elementary school. Even Wilson admits it took him by surprise at first.

"I was like, 'Wow, even my animated characters — they're making them get older?'" the actor, 49, says with a laugh. "I'm aware that, as an actor, you're probably not doing romantic comedies or buddy comedies as much in your late 40s as you would in your early 30s. But I thought this one was kind of safe."

With the *Cars* franchise itself now over a decade old, though, this grown-up-oriented story line offers a way for the series to appeal to both parents and to the kids who fell in love with the first *Cars* movie in 2006, many of whom are now approaching adulthood themselves. At the same time, Pixar and Disney are working hard to cultivate a new generation of *Cars* fans — and, in particular, bring more young girls into the fold with the introduction of a major female character in Cruz.

Pixar has never shied away from incorporating grown-up themes into its

films, of course, whether it's the fear of mortality in *Toy Story 3*, parental anxiety in *Finding Nemo* or environmental destruction in *Wall-E*.

Indeed, the animation studio plumbed the indignities of middle age once before in its 2004 film *The Incredibles*, which centres on a pair of married superheroes in the suburbs trying to adjust to the sometimes spirit-crushing struggles of work and parenting.

"We really don't make our movies for a particular age group or gender — we truly make them for everybody," says John Lasseter, chief executive of Pixar Animation Studios and Walt Disney Animation Studios, who directed the first two *Cars* films. "If someone is breathing, they're our target. That's my philosophy."

Lasseter says the initial inspiration for McQueen's emotional journey in *Cars 3* — which sees him transition from hotshot racing champion to elder statesman and mentor — came from his friendship with NASCAR racer Jeff Gordon, who announced his retirement from the sport in 2015 at age 43.

"In the last few years of his racing career, Jeff would talk to me a lot about the young drivers coming in," Lasseter says. "There was this energy they had and he realised, 'That's the way I was when I was younger.' I started thinking, 'Well, that could be where Lightning McQueen is at.'"

That said, *Cars* has proven a particularly potent series with very young kids and, as *Cars 3* director Brian Fee acknowledges, kids don't, as a general rule, suffer from midlife crises.

"Hopefully they don't," Fee, making his feature directorial debut, says with a laugh.

"But while kids don't understand midlife crisis, they do understand that McQueen can't race anymore. They do understand the thing they want to see, the thing that makes their favourite character happy, is something that he can't do anymore."

The power of the franchise's appeal to young kids — and especially boys — is

evidenced by the merchandising bonanza it has spawned over the years, which rivals those of juggernauts like *Harry Potter*, *Star Wars* and Pixar's own *Toy Story*.

Though the first two *Cars* films are only the 10th- and 15th-highest-grossing Pixar movies at the domestic box office, respectively, and have not been as widely embraced by critics as many of the animation studio's other films, they have powered a booming industry in everything from Cars-branded toys to school supplies to apparel to bedding to video games.

In just the first five years after the release of *Cars*, the franchise generated \$10 billion in global retail sales. In 2012, Disney opened Cars Land at its California Adventure theme park to further capitalise on the appetite for all things *Cars*.

But while a beast of that size clearly needs to be continually fed, Fee says he did his best to tune it out while making the film.

"I don't think or care about merchandise," he says. "The thing is, if we make a good film, that machine will have whatever it needs to keep going. But it's all about the movie for me. If any kid is carrying around a backpack or holding a toy, that's hopefully because they like the story and the characters — not the other way around."

"John Lasseter loves all the toys, all the merchandise — he's such a perfectionist about making sure they're the best and coolest products possible," says *Cars 3* producer Kevin Reher. "But it's Brian's job to tell the story."

Though Lasseter himself has had a deep passion for cars since boyhood, he says that from the earliest days of the *Cars* franchise he tried to make something that could appeal to anyone, regardless of their level of interest in cars or their gender.

"When I was working on the first one, my wife, Nancy, said, 'You can't make this movie just for yourself and your car-geek buddies — you've got to make it for me and your nieces and people who aren't into cars,'" he recalls. "Through the whole first movie, it became what was known as 'the Nancy factor.' There

are young boys that really love Lightning McQueen, but there are a lot of girls that love him too. It was a conscious decision to make him red — it's not the typically quote-unquote 'boy colour.'"

With the introduction of Cruz Ramirez, Pixar is clearly hoping to rev up the series' appeal to girls a few more notches. In advance of the movie's release, Disney's online store has been stocked with T-shirts for girls and women emblazoned with the character's name and the words "My Way or the Highway."

Fee says he hopes the character — who set aside her racing ambitions because she didn't see any other female cars on the track — will inspire young girls like his own two daughters to not hold themselves back from pursuing their dreams.

"I'm really hoping kids see themselves in Cruz," Fee says. "My daughters didn't want to learn to play guitar because they decided guitar is just a boys' thing. That broke my heart for them to say that. I'd sometimes watch them be afraid to try things because they didn't want to fail. We hope Cruz speaks for people that have felt out of place, because I think that's everybody more often than they'd probably admit."

With an *Incredibles* sequel and a fourth *Toy Story* film already in the Pixar pipeline, Lasseter suggests that the *Cars* franchise could have more gas in its tank. But for now he isn't getting ahead of himself.

"I love these characters and I love the world, and there are so many other stories that you could tell," he says. "But we don't decide that we're going to do it until we have a story that we think would make a great movie."

On some level, of course, the future of the *Cars* franchise is not entirely up to Pixar and Disney — the audience will ultimately determine how many miles end up on the odometer. To the question of how one knows when it's time to stop and retire, one character in *Cars 3* offers a blunt answer: "The youngsters will tell you." — *Los Angeles Times*/TNS



Fruit as luxury: the Japanese shop where melons cost 250 dollars

Nowhere is fruit savoured more than in Japan, where farmers put huge resources into creating the ideal growing conditions. It's not uncommon for Japanese to fork out seemingly exorbitant prices just for one perfect strawberry. **By Lars Nicolaysen**



In the Senbikiya fruit shop in Tokyo, run by Naoto Hiraishi, one melon is sold for 27,000 Yen, or around 350 dollars. Luxury fruit is a lucrative and prestigious business.

Naoto Hiraishi regards his melon with an earnest expression, turning it carefully in his hands as if it were a diamond and examining it from every angle.

"Look at that, the pattern on the surface is perfectly even," says the manager of the Senbikiya fruit shop with a beaming smile.

In some respects the round fruit is indeed a jewel, though the layman might only recognise that when he sees the price tag – 27,000 yen or around 250 dollars.

"We sell the best melons in Japan," says Hiraishi. "In other words, the best melons in the world."

Fruit is a luxury industry in Japan, and it's very lucrative. That's not to say that fruit is a rarity in the world's third largest economy. The fruit Hiraishi sells is grown in Japan, it's not imported.

At any good supermarket you can buy melons as well as strawberries, cherries, peaches, grapes and all sorts of other fruits – though the prices are perhaps a little higher

than what people in the West are used to.

But what Hiraishi and other similar fruit shop owners supply is in a class of its own.

What makes it possible is Japan's culture of gift-giving. "Eighty per cent of our customers buy fruit as a gift," says Hiraishi.

The Japanese love food in general and particularly fruit, meaning that they will often give it to business partners, friends and relations as a sign of their appreciation.

Japanese food producers therefore take a lot of care with their products, as well as its packaging.

Take the example of a melon. "A melon plant normally bears about six fruit," says Hiraishi. "But with our melons the farmer cuts half off." After a time he cuts off another two and the one that's left is the one that grows "best."

That fruit gets all the plant's nutrients to itself for around 100 days. But what does "best" mean in this scenario?

If the melon is just a tiny bit "lopsided" or "bumpy" its value

immediately drops.

"The fruit has to have an even pattern, be nice and heavy and have a lovely round shape," says Hiraishi.

There are other farmers who specialise in luxury strawberries. Strawberries from Ichigo Co in the province of Niigata cost 1,000 yen (9 dollars) each. They are grown under LED lights in a special high-tech, one-of-a-kind lab, in which the temperature, humidity and oxygen levels are all controlled.

That means the harvest is not weather-dependent and is unaffected by pests, meaning the farmer doesn't have to use chemicals.

You can buy Ichigo's hand-picked strawberries online in sets of six, and they arrive beautifully packed in a box not unlike those used for expensive chocolates.

Senbikiya, which was founded 183 years ago, also sells its fruit in elaborate boxes and cartons.

Back then, when the shop was first set up, the produce it sold was nothing special, says Hiraishi. It was the wife of the second owner, the daughter of a trader in



In the Senbikiya fruit shop in Tokyo, one package of uniform tomatoes is sold for 30,240 yen, or around 275 dollars.

katsubushi (dried and fermented tuna) who began selling fruit as a luxury product.

The shop's main outlet can be found at one of Tokyo's best addresses, surrounded by big banks.

More than half of their customers are business clients, Hiraishi says, as he lays his melon carefully back on the shelf.

Just a few days earlier, at the first auction for this year's harvest in Hokkaido, the northernmost of Japan's islands, a pair of Yubari melons sold for 1.5 million yen (13,700 dollars).

The trader who purchased them announced that he would donate them to a primary school.

Although he didn't get a taste himself, it was still a clever public relations investment. After all, Japan's media dedicates huge coverage to stories about fruit. – DPA

