GU-Q launches executive course on global markets

Avocado extract in food may prevent bacterial illness

Force 2: Furiously forceful

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Make your house comfortable and more efficient, and save a little bit of money before the winter chill comes.
Fix your home before the seasonal chill takes hold

Every year you tell yourself things will be different. You'll actually start winterising your home ahead of time. But you procrastinate and end up curling up in a fleece blanket once again when the thermometer dips.

Now is the time to look around your home, determine the spots where it may be vulnerable and take steps to fix them before the first cold snap.

Here's how you can make your home comfortable and more efficient this winter, and save a little bit of money:

Sealing drafts: If you added up all the air leaks, holes and gaps in a typical home's envelope, it would be the same as having a window open every day of the year, according to EnergyStar.gov, the Environmental Protection Agency's website. Cold air can sneak into your house through a variety of energy-hogging openings, including doors, windows, attic hatches, fireplace dampers, ceiling-to-wall joints, gaps around light fixtures, pipes leading outside and electrical outlets on exterior walls.

Sealing drafts and adding insulation are key to improving the comfort of your home and reducing your energy bill.

“If you have drafty windows and doors, and you seal those drafts, you can increase the energy efficiency of those openings by up to 70 percent, saving you real dollars on what it costs you to heat your home. You'll be more comfortable, too,” said Lou Manfredini, Ace Hardware's home expert.

A small investment of about $50 to $60 in products can go a long way in improving your home's energy efficiency.

“Clay caulking rope is inexpensive and can be stuck in the gaps where window sashes meet the frame and can be removed in the spring without damaging the finish,” Manfredini said. “Removable caulking like Zip-A-Way is the modern version of this and can be applied and peeled away as well.”

Weather seals on doors can deteriorate over time. Seal gaps with weather stripping and install door sweeps along the bottom of exterior doors.

Check under sinks and in the basement for gaps around pipes. Fill them with an insulating foam sealant.

Installing foam seals around electrical outlets and switch plates is a quick and inexpensive way to block cold air as long as you take the proper safety precautions.

Poorly insulated attics are a major source of heat loss. When heat escapes from the top of your home, it never makes it into the rooms that need it.

According to EnergyStar.gov, your home might benefit from attic air sealing and insulation if it experiences any of these problems in the winter: drafty rooms, uneven temperature between rooms, high heating bills, dust, dry indoor air and ice dams, which form when water from melting snow freezes at the edge of your roofline. The water can back up under shingles and leak into your home.
“There are a lot of reasons that ice dams can occur,” Manfredini said. “Mother Nature is a huge cause. But lack of insulation in the attic, poor ventilation and roof orientation, typically the north side of the roof, will contribute to ice damming. Most of these factors can be addressed. For example, adding more insulation to an attic space will have a positive effect.”

**Windows:** If new windows are not an option, make existing windows more efficient with window treatments that block heat loss. Pleated cellular shades and curtain panels with interlinings harness the warmth of the sun. Look for insulating shades that feature several layers of fiber batting and sealed edges. Shades should be mounted close to the glass to establish a sealed airspace. For greater efficiency, open south-facing shades and drapes on sunny days and close them after dusk.

Shrink-to-fit plastic wrap is an easy and effective option for reducing air leakage or infiltration. “Plastic window kits, while not the most attractive, do an excellent job of sealing out drafts at windows and even patio doors,” Manfredini said.

**Chimney:** Make sure the chimney is clean and in good repair before you fire up the wood logs. Jordan Whitt, spokesman for the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA), said homeowners should have chimneys regularly checked and cleaned by a chimney sweep certified by CSIA to reduce the risk of chimney fires. An annual inspection can identify any potential hazards inside the flue such as cracks, creosote buildup or venting problems.

**Energy audit:** An energy audit can pinpoint trouble spots. Many power companies offer a free home energy assessment to give homeowners ideas on how to save money. A fee-based, professional audit goes into a more in-depth analysis of your home’s energy use.
DPS-Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS) hosted the second edition of TEDxYouth@DPSMIS continuing the tradition of TEDx that its students pioneered 2015. Conceptualised and delivered entirely by students, DPS-MIS was one of the few schools to host such an event advocating ideas that provoked thought in the youth.

The event featured Dennise ANN, a 14-year-old student who presented her idea “The Theory of Numeric worth”. The second speaker was Hamad Al Amari, a standup comedian and entrepreneur. Layla Al Siyabi, Fashion blogger and empowerment advocate was the third speaker. The penultimate speaker was famous photographer and avid traveller Lubaib Gaizira.

TNG student leaders elected

A defining day for the students where they have the right to vote for their student leaders, The Next Generation School (TNG) organised an oath taking ceremony in its three campuses selecting head girl, head boy, deputies and student council members. The election process began a week ago where eight candidates stood for the positions.

Candidates canvassed enthusiastically where the school witnessed activities in the form of speeches, posters and pamphlets. They visited students in each class and spoke about voicing student concerns and playing an important role in the school environment. The ceremony began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Students cheered excitedly as the voting results were announced by school coordinator Ms Vanessa Baritogo.

The first session began with announcing the student council members. Excitement rose as the most anticipated moment arrived. Students chanted the names of their favourite leaders as Vanessa announced names of the Head boy, Head girl and the respective deputies for session 2016-17.

The newly elected leaders were then called upon the stage to take their oath of duties. CEO Shagufta Bakali conferred sashes on the newly elected members of student council.

She then briefed the student leaders of their respective roles and duties and addressed the audience, “TNG leaders are expected to be positive role models and set good example for other students through compliance with school rules, punctuality, self-discipline, appropriate uniform, good behaviour at all times and achieving academic excellence at a positive rate”.

She emphasised that the student leadership body are trusted to maintain the ethos of the school. Student Council members will assist in the day to day school activities and ensure discipline on the ground.

The elected leaders pledged to stand by the school regulations, contribute to the welfare of the students and display exemplary leadership skills.

The ceremony was organised with equal enthusiasm at the TNG primary school in Ain Khalid and TNG preparatory school in Al Wakra. Head boy, Head girl, deputies and student council members were honoured with sashes by Principal Qudsia Asad.

The election process is organised in The Next Generation School every year to allow students to participate in the leadership roles so that they get the opportunity to experience responsibilities which enables in strong character building and instill leadership skills.
Q-Chem staff donates blood in collaboration with HMC

It was wonderful to witness the warmth of human spirit at the Qatar Chemical Company (Q-Chem) blood donation day which was conducted recently. So many employees who came forward to give blood that will help save the lives of men, women and children the donors will never know.

The noble act of giving blood made for a fun and busy day in the Q-Chem clinic at Mesaieed plant. The HMC staff stayed late to allow everyone who wanted to participate to give blood. We successfully collected 43 units. The blood units collected has the potential to provide 129 lifesaving units.

Q-Chem’s Chief Executive Officer Saad Rashid Al Mohannadi said: “This campaign is in line with the company’s strategic goals and we are proud of the cooperating with HMC’s Blood Donation Unit due to its significant important role in increasing blood storage which, in turn, will contribute to alleviate the suffering of a large number of patients who need blood on daily basis.” He added that “this step was a part of Q-Chem’s social responsibility, it’s commitment to good citizenship and enhancements of social bonds.”

Q-Chem would like to thank Hamad Blood Donation Unit and everyone who participated in this noble cause.

WCM-Q team publishes first comprehensive review of e-health in GCC

Students from Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) have published the first and most comprehensive systematic review of e-health in the GCC. e-health is an emerging best practice in modern healthcare in which the electronic delivery of health information and services over the Internet can benefit healthcare practitioners, patients, and scientists in numerous ways.

The WCM-Q study surveyed the state of research into e-health in the GCC countries and located several research gaps where further studies are needed, such as cost-benefit analyses and more randomised controlled trials to demonstrate actual benefits of e-health initiatives in the region. The results were then published by the Royal Society of Medicine’s Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare, the number one ranked publication in its field.

Dr Alan S Weber, Visiting Associate Professor of English at WCM-Q, led the research team, which comprised students Rebal Turjoman, Mu Ji Hwang, Faryal Mallick, Farah Al Sayyed and Yanal Shaheen. Qatar’s leading role in developing new data privacy laws and secure networks was an important finding of the study. “Researchers at ICTQatar, Qatar University and Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar know that medical privacy and confidentiality are key patient concerns in the Muslim world,” Dr Weber said. “Also, although a cybercriminal is probably not interested in intercepting the medical information of the average person on the Internet, the medical records of VIPs or the famous are highly sensitive information.”

Several studies have shown that patients are reluctant to use Internet services related to medicine or banking if they feel that their private information could be stolen or misused. Most of the studies located by the authors were conducted in Saudi Arabia, which has a thriving research culture in medical informatics, telemedicine and e-health.

Medical researchers in Saudi Arabia, as well as in Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, and UAE, are very interested in understanding patient and doctor satisfaction with the new electronic medical records systems that are being implemented across the GCC. Such studies create a feedback loop in which problems in using the new technology can be identified and used to improve the service.
Naseem Al Rabeeh holds diabetes awareness day

To mark World Diabetes Day, a campaign led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and World Health Organization, Naseem Al Rabeeh Medical Center conducted a comprehensive free health checks at C Ring Road branch on November 14.

According to the IDF, one in two adults with diabetes is undiagnosed, and the theme of this year’s campaign, ‘Eyes on Diabetes’, aims to promote the importance of screening to ensure early diagnosis of type 2 diabetes and treatment to reduce the risk of serious complications.

The comprehensive diabetic checkup consisted of random blood sugar, blood pressure BMI, eye checkup, dietitian diet counselling, doctors consultation and medicine dispense. More than 150 people are identified at risk of developing diabetes and educated them to take preventative action, including changing their eating habits and doing more exercise.

Dr Abdulla O Al Hamaq, Executive Director of Qatar Diabetes Association inaugurated the camp and he reminded the audience the importance of regular blood sugar checkup and consequence of ignorance and untreated conditions.

Dr Deepak Chandra Mohan, diabetologist, Naseem Al Rabeeh Medical Center, said, “As the theme of this year’s World Diabetes Day demonstrates, screening for Type 2 diabetes is the most important factor in identifying those at risk of developing the disease and preventing long-term complications. Diabetes is of particular concern in the Qatar and Middle East.

Babushanavs, Naseem Healthcare Group CEO, mentioned in his presidential speech Naseem Al Rabeeh’s comprehensive diabetic check-up programme can provide individuals with a better understanding of their potential to become diabetic and how they can avoid it.”

Dr Munir Ali Ibrahim also added the importance and role of regular diet control and exercise for preventing and prolonging the diabetic conditions. Mohammad Arif, marketing manager, took hospital tour and explained contents of comprehensive diabetic checkup to the chief guest and Rishad, Admin Manager, delivered vote of thanks.

GU-Q launches executive course on global markets

In an increasingly globalised world, Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) is offering a way for executives to gain a deeper knowledge of the movement of global market through a new intensive course.

Led by GU-Q Associate Professor and Director of International Economics, Dr Alexis Antoniades (pictured), Understanding Global Markets enables participants to anticipate, understand, explain, and respond to movements in the international financial system. The three-day course will provide executives with an in-depth analysis of the components of the financial system, of the dynamics that characterise them, and of the mechanisms that connect them.

“There is a noticeable increase in uncertainty and anxiety among investors about the state of the global economy in 2017,” said Antoniades, who is an expert on international finance and on the economies of Gulf countries. “Understanding Global Markets will provide executives and business leaders with the theoretical framework and tools needed to make sense of what is going on in the markets now, and will equip them with the intuition to anticipate changes in the short- to medium-run, so that they can better prepare themselves and their companies for the challenges and opportunities ahead.”

Although the programme is aimed at mid- to senior-level professionals, the content will be beneficial to participants from a range of backgrounds, from those working in finance and marketing to strategy, human resources, and media. It will run from December 3 to 5 this year.

Antoniades is a Fulbright scholar who holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University. He has previously worked as an assistant economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and was awarded the Niehaus Fellowship by Princeton University in 2012 – a fellowship given to the most talented scholar on issues of globalisation and governance. He spent the 2012-2013 academic year at Princeton, where he became a member of the European Union Program at the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs.
Vicki Vanilla. Susie Sausage. Buncho Bananas. If these names sound like gibberish to you now, consider yourself warned: There’s a good chance you’ll soon be on a frantic hunt to get them under your Christmas tree.

These tiny plastic characters are part of an explosively growing line of toys called Shopkins, which can perhaps best be described as personified versions of items you’d find at the grocery store or the mall – miniature pastries or high heels with cute faces.

After just over two years on store shelves, Shopkins has become a huge business: Market research firm NPD Group reports that a 12-pack of assorted Shopkins was the single best-selling toy in 2015, edging out items from popular properties such as Star Wars and Barbie. The line’s US market share rivals that of established brands such as My Little Pony and American Girl, according to Euromonitor. And so far this year, Shopkins has seen a 98 percent increase in sales.

As with any toy craze – Cabbage Patch Kids, Tickle Me Elmo, Skylanders – it’s hard to pinpoint exactly why these characters have captured kids’ attention and parents’ wallets to the extent they have. But industry analysts say that much of it has to do with finding a niche in the noisy toy marketplace that wasn’t being filled.

Shopkins are designed to be collectibles. Like baseball cards or Pokémon, you trade them with your friends. There are rare characters that keep you constantly scouring the toy store, hoping to add to your trove.

Prior to Shopkins’ arrival, “there really hadn’t been a strong collectible for girls,” said Laurie Schacht, co-publisher at toy review site The Toy Insider.

Indeed, that was an opening that executives at Moose Toys noticed when they decided to develop Shopkins, whose primary audience is 6- to 10-year-old girls. The relatively small Australian toy company had seen some healthy sales for a boy-centric line called Trash Pack, a collectible set of what chief executive Paul Solomon describes as “gross little characters who live in garbage cans.”

“We saw the opportunity to come out with more of a girl-skewed or girl-themed line,” Solomon said.

At a moment when properties such as Lego, Star Wars and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are relying on movie tie-ins to boost sales, Shopkins has taken a different tack, relying heavily on YouTube to connect with kids. From the get-go, the brand has posted one- or two-minute cartoons on the video site – short bits that can easily be watched on a smartphone or tablet. Collectively, the videos have been viewed some 100 million times.

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“We call it snackable content,” Solomon said. That’s not the only way YouTube fueled the rise of Shopkins: They have also become popular subjects for so-called unboxing videos, where people film themselves opening a new item. The company has recently pushed to expand its media tie-ins, releasing a full-length movie on DVD this fall.

In this era of fast fashion and same-day delivery, Shopkins has made it a practice to introduce new toys at a breakneck pace. It rolls out an army of new characters about every six months, betting that a focus on freshness is important at a moment when kids (and parents) have so many programming and toy choices. Jim Silver, chief executive of toy review site TTPM, said this strategy may be another reason the brand has gained traction.

“You can go back to Beanie Baby, how that lasted for many years,” Silver said. “What was part of the key is continually refreshing the lines.”

The price point doesn’t hurt either, Silver said. Some items in the line are priced at $2.99, and Solomon says 80 percent of sales are on items that cost $19.99 or less. That means it’s the kind of thing kids can buy with their allowance money.

To be sure, though, the tiny toys will be up against some stiff competition. “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story” is set to hit theaters Dec. 16, providing a jolt of momentum to that property. Old-school toys such as games and puzzles have seen monster sales growth so far this year, so items such as Pie Face and Pie Face Showdown are likely to draw big dollars, too.

And then there’s Hatchimals, a new toy from a company called Spinmaster in which a fuzzy, dancing-and-singing creature hatches from an egg. Stores were starting to run out of Hatchimals in early November, and the $59.99 toy is already popping up on eBay with three- and four-figure price tags. Silver said he predicts Hatchimals will sell three times as many units as Tickle Me Elmo did in its 1996 holiday heyday.
Be sure to chop the rosemary as finely as possible, for even distribution in the dough and to avoid a bite with tough or chewy bits. To reduce the need for re-rolling, we used a sharp knife to cut the slab of dough into squares. You can use a 2-inch round cutter as well. These are best served when freshly made.

It helps to roll these on a cold surface; lay a large sealed zip-top bag of ice cubes on your surface for 15 minutes beforehand, then remove and wipe dry before you dust the surface with flour.


**Ingredients**

- 2 cups flour, plus more for rolling
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/3 cup vegetable shortening
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh rosemary leaves (from 4 to 5 stems)
- 1 cup half-and-half

**Steps**

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone liner.
2. Combine the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar in a food processor; pulse a few times to incorporate. Add the shortening and rosemary; pulse just long enough to form pea-size pieces, then add the half-and-half; process just long enough to form a dough that pulls away from the sides of the bowl.
3. Lightly flour the (preferably chilled) work surface. Transfer the dough there, rolling it out to a rectangle about 8 inches wide and about 9 inches long, with a thickness of 1/2 inch. Use a very sharp knife to cut into 16 squarish biscuits, rerolling scraps as little as possible.
4. Arrange the biscuits on the baking sheet, spacing them at least an inch apart. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until puffed and golden brown.

**Nutrition** | Per biscuit: 120 calories, 2 g protein, 14 g carbohydrates, 6 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 45 mg sodium, 0 g dietary fiber, 2 g sugar
Extracts and isolated compounds from avocado seeds can potentially be used as a natural additive incorporated into ready-to-eat foods to control microbes that cause bacterial illness, researchers say.

The researchers found that the extracts from avocado seeds could be effective in controlling microbes that cause Listeria, a foodborne bacterial illness that can be very serious for pregnant women and people with impaired immune systems.

In the study, the researchers from Tecnologico de Monterrey, in Mexico compared enriched acetogenin extract (EAE) from avocado seeds with two name-brand synthetic antimicrobials.

They found that the EAE presented similar listeria-properties and chemical profiles to the synthetic antimicrobials.

The EAE was effective at 37 degrees celsius and at a refrigeration temperature of four degrees celsius.

Avocado seeds are a waste product of the food industry, and these results offer a value-added, sustainable opportunity for manufacturers, the researchers said.

Food products are usually formulated with synthetic additives that enhances the flavour so that it gives food a particular taste or smell. It may be derived from natural ingredients or created artificially.

However, food still has to be safe for consumers to eat, so food scientists are looking for ways to replace synthetic additives.

Since some additives are needed for food safety reasons, food product developers are faced with the challenge of developing more “natural” additives that can produce comparable results, the study said.

The study was published in the Journal of Food Science.

Poor sleep may adversely affect kidney function

Short and poor quality of sleep may worsen kidney function in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD), says a study.

“Short sleep and fragmented sleep are significant yet unappreciated risk factors for CKD progression,” said one of the researchers, Ana Ricardo, from the University of Illinois at Chicago in the US.

“Our research adds to the accumulating knowledge regarding the importance of sleep on kidney function, and underscores the need to design and test clinical interventions to improve sleep habits in individuals with CKD,” she added.

Although there is increasing evidence that sleep disorders are common in individuals with CKD, its link with CKD progression is unknown.

To investigate, Ricardo and her colleagues examined the sleep patterns of 432 adults with chronic kidney disease. Participants wore a wrist monitor for five to seven days to measure sleep duration and quality, and their health was followed for a median of five years.

Participants slept an average of 6.5 hours per night, and during follow-up, 70 individuals developed kidney failure and 48 individuals died.

The researchers calculated that each additional hour of nighttime sleep was linked with a 19 per cent lower risk of developing kidney failure.

There was also a significant association between sleep quality and kidney failure risk - each one per cent increase in sleep fragmentation was linked with a four per cent increase in the risk of developing kidney failure.

Also, patients who experienced daytime sleepiness were 10 per cent more likely to die during follow-up than those who were not sleepy during the day, said the study presented at American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Kidney Week 2016 at McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois.
Subhash K. Jha
IANS

Film: “Force 2”; Director: Abhinay Deo; Cast: John Abraham, Tahir Raj Bhasin and Sonakshi Sinha; Rating: ****

There is something inherently attractive about people who fight for their country at the risk of losing their lives. We recently saw Akshay Kumar doing it in the outstanding Neeraj Pandey actioner “Baby”.

Now it’s John Abraham’s turn. And trust me, he is good at it. The scowl and the skill that go into every punch and jump will make you believe he is well-equipped to defend our nation from damnation. Even in these hard times of demonetization, when money for entertainment is hard to find, John’s action scenes are well worth our hard bucks.

Harshvardhan, the RAW agent that John plays in “Force 2” leads a strangely loveless life. He does take off his shirt twice, one in his introductory scene in a parking lot where he lifts a car carrying goons without batting an eyelid. In another sequence, a blonde insists on taking off his towel in a hotel room for a serious post-bath session of mutual admiration.

Our hero’s reaction is priceless. This is Bond and Bourne with no appetite for the babes. It’s been five years since his wife died. Harshvardhan continues to talk to her ghost.

Genelia D’Souza makes a good-looking ghost for sure and one well worth having a conversation with.

Espionage is a job often misunderstood misinterpreted and subverted by Indian cinema. “Baby” got it right. “Force 2” also gets it right most of the way. There is a sense of urgency and imminent danger lurking in excellently-shot foreign locations that keeps our attention from straying. Here, the locations are not props for the action. They are the reason for the action.

I have to admit that some of the action in the first-half is world class. And my congratulations to the master blasters who have devised the cat-and-mouse chase between John and Tahir Raj Bhasin on the rooftops of Budapest. Imre Juhasz and Mohana Krishna wield the camera with a delightful swagger. In the climax, during the shootout, the gun shots are captured from the audiences’ viewpoint, as though to remind us that the days of enjoying screen action vicariously are over.

If you want to enjoy the action, then be a part of it.

“Force 2” takes us right into the thick of things. Apart from a horribly choreographed and rendered item song (Sridevi should sue for what’s been done with her mythical ‘Kaante nahin katt’), the narrative is unwavering in its determination to keep the momentum from flagging. John Abraham holds up the brawn factor with an arresting elan. He is definitely our best action hero after Akshay Kumar.

But it’s Tahir Raj Bhasin as the defecting RAW agent who is written as a villain with denuded of viciousness. Bhasin brings a child-like delight to his role of a revenge-seeking terrorist. He has some of the best lines and scenes, and John sportingly allows Bhasin to have fun with his role.

In one sequence, where Bhasin is being interrogated stark-naked (no blood and gore in this film, though), he looks at the only female agent in the room and asks if he can put on some clothes if the lady has finished feasting her eyes.

There is a refreshing absence of one-upmanship in the cat-and-mouse game. Instead, a compelling balance is created on the moral campus so that after a point the good guys became interchangeable with the bad guys. And the feeling of patriotic propriety dissolves into a growing sense of easiness in a world that no longer keeps the right removed from the wrong.

“Force 2” is not a great one for spreading the message of peace. It would rather do its job of giving us stunts that keep us riveted to our seats. But it does bring up the issue of a very disturbing political tragedy whereby those who are caught spying, are disowned by their own country. It’s a chilling thought on betrayal and loss, not quite the mood that this upbeat fiery and feisty actioner wants to dwell on. But it really can’t really help acquiring a conscience while taking a well-aimed shot at giving Hollywood stunts films a run for their money.

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Discovered in Ingmar Bergman’s archive, a previously unknown manuscript about social revolution in the 1960s is to be turned into a movie, nearly a decade after the Swedish director’s death.

“Sixty-four minutes with Rebecka,” written by the legendary filmmaker when he was aged 51, was found in 2002 when Bergman donated his work to an institute in his name, shelved among thousands of letters, completed screen-plays and photographs.

“Finding an unknown but finished Ingmar Bergman screenplay would be the equivalent of finding a manuscript by Hemingway or if not Shakespeare,” Jan Holmberg, head of the Ingmar Berman Foundation, told AFP.

Known for broaching issues of death, loneliness and religious self-doubt, Bergman portrays the main character Rebecka as an emotionally alienated teacher of deaf mutes, seeking political liberation during the tumultuous 1960s.

“This is the mature artist at his very best, making one of his masterpieces,” Holmberg said.

Fellini had contacted Bergman in 1962 to ask if the Swedish director would be interested in filming a joint movie series with Kurosawa, who years later dropped out for unknown reasons, according to Holmberg.

In 1968, Bergman and Fellini signed a Hollywood contract to turn the script into a joint motion picture, but when the Italian screenwriter did not keep his part of the agreement, Bergman was offered to direct the film by himself.

Suffering a major blow to profits because of the emergence and dominance of television in the 1960s, the US film industry began to diversify, drawing inspiration from European cinema.

Holmberg said several letters sent back and forth between Bergman and movie executives indicated “an increasingly irritated atmosphere, where the movie companies suddenly wanted the film to be longer than what had been thought earlier” to turn it into a TV series.

Adapted into a radio play which premiered in Sweden on November 6, the script was directed by 72-year-old Suzanne Osten, a renowned Swedish filmmaker who had a conflicted relationship with Bergman throughout her career. “We had a few confrontations and he was generally known as controlling, but no one has ever questioned his quality as a filmmaker and artist,” Osten told AFP.

“I would never have made it if he lived today. He was a conservative old man and became even more conservative. But he was also a very sensitive artist,” said Osten, who is set to direct the movie adaptation of “64 minutes with Rebecka” in 2018.

Holmberg said Bergman would probably have “turned in his grave” if he knew Osten was directing the script, but later “calm down and realise that this is a pretty fantastic way to continue his legacy.

“He and Susanne were often enemies and stood on opposite sides in the political and cultural rebellion at the end of the 60s,” he added.

“She is younger than Bergman was and stands for something different... This will be a feminist reinterpretation of Bergman,” Holmberg said.

The son of a Lutheran minister and a nurse, Bergman was born in 1918 in the Swedish town of Uppsala, north of Stockholm, and had a strict religious upbringing, noticeable in many of his films. Bergman, who married five times and had nine children, also directed the psychological drama “Persona” (1966), “The Seventh Seal (1957)” and “Fanny and Alexander” (1982), which won four Academy Awards in 1984.

He died in 2007 at the age of 89 in Faro, a Swedish island in the Baltic Sea where he filmed several of his movies.
Game developer Glu Mobile Inc is working to let users play a future release by streaming it on their devices. No sifting through an app store to find it and no download required.

Applications are streamed by clicking a link on a mobile website, in a text or e-mail message or through social media. The ability to access them without downloading is gaining the attention of companies like San Francisco-based Glu because, let’s face it, it takes time and effort to search for and install apps.

Almost half of smartphone users don’t download a single app in any given month, and the average user downloads two, according to researcher ComScore Inc. One of the problems is there are just too many apps, even within games, and that’s made it harder for people to find ones that interest them, said Richard Au, a senior technical director of a Glu studio.

Streaming “presents the experience of your app without all the barriers; that really helps with discovery and brand awareness,” Au said. The ability to tap into apps through social media also boosts engagement, he said. Friends or Twitter celebrities might invite users to join them in games by clicking on a link.

Streaming could threaten the livelihood of app stores run by Apple and Google parent Alphabet Inc, both of which offer more than 2 million applications and take a cut of as much as 30 percent of an app’s price.

That’s a lot of money: Total app store revenue worldwide, excluding in-app ads, should reach $102 billion in 2020, up from $52 billion this year, according to researcher App Annie. And while fewer than 100 are enabled for streaming today, the number will climb to about 100,000 in five years, said Raul Castanon-Martinez, an analyst at 451 Research. He called that a conservative estimate.

“App streaming is certainly a very viable and very threatening future way of interacting with mobile content, mobile games and mobile apps,” said Roger Entner, an analyst at researcher Recon Analytics. “It could very significantly impact app stores, especially if you have a blockbuster app. It’s a huge revenue impact.”

Take the summer phenom augmented-reality game Pokemon GO, for example. It drew almost 55 million users in July, according to ComScore.

Sega, the Japanese publisher of Sonic the Hedgehog games, and Glu are using technology from startup IAPP to stream their apps on iPhones or Android devices. Menlo Park, California-based IAPP, which launched this month, takes an undisclosed share of revenue, though Chief Executive Officer Raheel Hasan says it’s less than what the app stores get. He said the company has a second business model in which it charges per use.

Other developers are adopting Google’s streaming technologies, including Instant Apps, which rolled out in May and lets users access parts of an app. Facebook Messenger began letting developers embed app-like capabilities, bypassing app stores so that users can, for example, summon and pay for rides with Uber.

One big drawback: app streaming only works where connectivity is available. That could be problematic in rural areas, emerging countries and even at crowded places like football stadiums where lots of people try to get online with mobile devices at the same time.

“The cons of it is, you need a constant network connection,” said Mike Facemire, an analyst at Forrester Research. “The offline network capabilities are obviated. There’s a difference between having a connection, and having a good connection.”

On the plus side, streaming has shown to increase app usage. Startup Chimani, which has 64 apps that act as guides to national parks, was one of the first developers to try Google’s streaming last year. The functionality increased the number of user sessions -- essentially, the number of times users accessed the app -- by 23 percent from a year ago, according to Chimani, which is one of the measures we track.

One big drawback: app streaming only works on Android devices, and that’s a problem, Gallivan said. Older Android phones working on more dated versions of the Google operating system may not be able to use the streaming feature. With Apple the top smartphone maker in the U.S. with about 43 percent market share in September, according to ComScore, Chimani wants to target Apple devices as well.

IAPP works with all operating systems and devices, which has helped it snag more than 1 million users since it began trials last year. It streams the apps from remote servers.

As wireless networks get speedier and more widely available, streaming will become more reliable and the connectivity risks will likely diminish.

“It is just not practical for users to keep downloading apps endlessly,” said Castanon-Martinez, the 451 Research analyst.
### BABY BLUES

A pair of mischievous high school kids create the illusion of a haunting on an unsuspecting neighbor. While keeping his every reaction under surveillance, they see much more than they bargained for.

### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

"I come with a free offer from the King!"

"Give half your wealth and remain free to live!"
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Golfer
4 Hurler
6 Flamingo
9 Tube top
12 Separated
13 “Way cool”
14 Kimono
15 Stair part
16 Brass instru-
17 Anchors
19 “The Thin
21 I love
23 Glutton
24 Raiment
25 Crucifix
27 Intimad-
29 False humor
31 Tempted
35 Stomach remedy
37 Songwriter
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47 Keyboard instru-
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CROSSWORD CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

ALL IN THE MIND

 Yesterday’s answer

ACROSS
1 Golfer
4 Hurler
6 Flamingo
9 Tube top
12 Separated
13 “Way cool”
14 Kimono
15 Stair part
16 Brass instru-
17 Anchors
19 “The Thin
21 I love
23 Glutton
24 Raiment
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Yesterday’s answer

Today’s Cryptquip Clue: D equals T

CRYPTOQUIP

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D X N J K E L D U M R O L Q N Q.
O L C Z N U D H L G L Z S E C T E D.

Yesterday’s Cryptquip: LOVED KIDS’ MELODY ABOUT A GIRL EATING VERY LITTLE AT THANKSGIVING: “MARY HAD A LITTLE YAM.”

Today’s Cryptquip: D equals T

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Difficulty Level: ★

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Today’s Cryptquip: D equals T

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Difficulty Level: ★

Yesterday’s answer

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NEBOSH COURSES
• NEBOSH Award in Health and Safety at Work
• NEBOSH International General Certificate in Occupational Health & Safety
• NEBOSH Environmental Awareness at Work Qualification
• NEBOSH International Technical Certificate in Oil & Gas Operational Safety

IOSH COURSES
• IOSH Managing Safely
• IOSH Managing Safely in Construction
• IOSH Working Safely

• HEALTH • SAFETY • ENVIRONMENT

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SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE

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