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SKY WATCHERS IN QATAR

P 2-3
The new year started off on a bright note for sky watchers in Qatar as many came together to get a closer glimpse of Venus, the brightest star in the night sky and the hottest planet of our solar system.

Qatar Astronomy Club organised a meet up of its members at Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Park in Doha recently inviting young and elders to view the planet through telescopes.

There were about seven telescopes set up at different angles to view the Venus. Among the visitors were professionals, novices, curious bystanders and students from various schools who had come to learn about the planet.

One of the founder members of the Club, Jassim Lari, said that every meet up attracts many curious minds to study planets and stars.

“Every meet up, there are students from various schools with many queries and there are also new followers who join us. Most of them see the planets or stars for the first time and it gives them great joy, which in turn make us happy. We humans are a curious lot and there is nothing more beautiful than studying the sky,” said Lari.

Apart from Venus, visitors at MIA Park also got a chance to see a close up of Moon, Mars and few star constellations. One of the visitors, Ishana Rajguru, who was at the venue with a telescope, wrote on her social media page, “A great evening of sky-watching with Qatar Astronomy Club! We observed Venus, Mars, Sirius, Orion Nebula and a couple of other stars. Best way to spend a cold January evening IMO (in my opinion).”

A Doha resident and a teacher, Nithya Madhavan, said that she got a chance to view the Venus quite close and it was exciting to watch the craters on the Moon.

“Venus looks so small like a star but when you look it through a telescope you realise that it is as huge as the moon and in reality it is almost as big as the Earth. I am looking forward to similar meetings as they are quite informative for novices, who are curious but have little resources to study the planets,” she added.

There were many children along with their parents to view the planets. One of them said: “We never thought that the brightest star in the sky was actually a planet”. And now she knows better. She adds that even her seven-year-old now spots the planet through naked eye whenever they go out. After visiting the meet up, the family makes it a point to look up in the sky and spot stars and planets, whenever the light allows.

The Qatar Astronomy Club is a society of like-minded members interested in watching and studying the planets, stars, constellations and galaxy.
The idea was developed by Haji T Mammadov who loved reading up on astronomy and studying the sky. He formed the club on Facebook and was looking for other interested individuals to manage the page along with him. At the same time Lari, an astronomer by passion, was also searching for a group to build his knowledge.

“I coincidentally found him on Facebook and contacted him. It was like we both found what each one was looking for. Qatar Astronomy Club is like a contact-point where experts can share their views, novices can build their knowledge and students can ask their queries. We frequently meet up and spend time to observe the sky,” Lari said.

He adds, “Our aim is to promote astronomy in the State of Qatar through posting interesting and latest information in the world of cosmology, sharing the photos of our own and those from official sources.”

Lari, a physics laboratorian, in a school in Qatar frequently drives to the deserts to spot optical phenomenon in the sky. He said that studying bright stars or planets that can easily be seen through the naked eye can be done in Doha but deep sky objects like a nebula or a galaxy requires you to travel to the North towards deserts to eliminate or minimise the light pollution.

Lari recently spotted a 22° halo around the moon, which is a rare optical phenomenon in Doha. It happens only in winter when moonlight is refracted in millions of hexagonal ice crystals suspended in the atmosphere. It is also called a moon ring or winter halo. He posted the pictures of the same on the Facebook page.

The Facebook page of Qatar Astronomy Club shows some excellent pictures of the stars and galaxies beyond. Lari often travels to places to capture various astronomical objects. There are other enthusiasts in Qatar too who often share their pictures on the page.

Lari has been often asked if the club has an office to which he queries, “What would an astronomer do in his office? We are always out, below the sky with our telescopes in hand.” Adding that all of their events are updated on Facebook page and that’s how everyone — amateurs and professionals — come together.
SIS conducts Nikon photography workshop

Members of the Shantiniketan Indian School (SIS) Photography Club attended a one-day workshop conducted by Nikon at its campus. The occasion was marked by a Photographic Exhibition that was inaugurated by K C Abdul Lateef, President of the Managing Committee and the Principal, Dr Subhash Nair. All members of the managing committee and staff were present.

The students enjoyed the workshop conducted by Nikon trainer Chitra Shergil. The event was conducted in association with Salam Studio.

It was a great learning opportunity for 50 budding photographic students who enjoyed every moment of the session.

They displayed skills that was highly appreciated by the trainer. SIS congratulated Sandeep — the chief coordinator for his effort in organising the event.

BPS holds blood donation drive

Birla Public School (BPS) organised a blood donation drive in consideration with HMC Blood Donation Centre in the main campus of the school on January 18.

Many took part in the drive. Principal AK Shrivastava and Senior Vice-Principal Shirly Rappal thanked Abdul Khader of HMC for the coordination.

HMC’s team also expressed their appreciation for organising such campaigns in school. The HMC team has promised to visit the campus again for another round of blood donation drive in March and April.

MES wins CBSE National Athletic Championship (Boys)

MES Indian School Principal Dr Mohammad Harun Khan, Managing Committee President, Abdul Karim, General Secretary Kashif Jaleel, Coaches Akbar Ali and Steeson, and other officials with students who won the CBSE National Athletic Championship (Boys) 2016-2017 held at the Gujarat Public School, in India.

Pic: Salim Matramkot/The Peninsula
QatarDebate holds ‘Training of Arabic Debate Trainers’

QatarDebate — a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development — recently organised the TOT “Training of Arabic Debate Trainers” between January 15 and 19 at QatarDebate Classrooms, Student Centre. The five-day event featured 50 participants from 47 universities, with 36 Arab and non-Arab countries represented.

The event brings together coaches of different nationalities from universities around the world to equip them with the necessary skills to select and train students upon return to their respective institutions in order to participate in the 4th International Universities Arabic debating championships 2017 that will be held entirely in Arabic.

The event supports the mission of Qatar Foundation to unlock human potential by fostering a culture of discussion and debate, helping shape the global citizens of the future and create intellectual leaders of tomorrow.

Ali Al Muftah, Communications Manager, QatarDebate stated that QatarDebate aims through this academy to upgrade the debate skills in order to nominate and qualify the potential teams to participate in the 4th International Universities Arabic debating championships 2017.

He said: “We believe that our role is not only providing trainings and workshops, but also to deliver our cooperation to spread the culture of debate in Arabic and enhance the communication channels with all institutions in Qatar to ensure the activation of the essential outputs of intellectual creativity.”

He thanked all QatarDebate coaches for their effort and thanked participants for accepting the invitation and their cooperation with the centre to disseminate the culture of debate.

‘Bangara Dance’ at Asian Town attracts many

IbnAjayan Projects, the managers of Asian Town, has organised the second ‘Weekend Festival’ at Plaza Mall in Asian Town last Friday. ‘Bangara Dance’ was the main art form on stage.

The live music and dance enthralled thousands of viewers at the event. The organisers have given a chance for some among the audience to showcase their talents on stage. Many talented singers among the workers community also sang on the stage.

This is a new initiative from IbnAjayan Projects to entertain the visitors of Asian Town especially those who visit Plaza Mall. The entry to the event was free.

While the entertainment events were intended for visitors of Asian Town, it was mainly enjoyed by workers living in the Labor City accommodations as well as industrial area.

Asian Town is a place where one can meet all the necessities of a life. It has healthcare, sports, entertainment and shopping facilities. Plaza Mall is an affordable shopping mall and attracts visitors during the weekends.

Atlas Polyclinic in Asian Town is providing best quality healthcare options for Asian Town. The 4 cinema screens and amphitheatre cater to the entertainment section. The international cricket stadium in Asian Town is a premium sports facility. The weekend festival at Asian Town will continue on all alternate weekends.
IndoQapco Junior Football Tournament organised

The Indonesian community once again rose to the occasion to support Qatar in paving the road for the 2022 World Cup as Al Meer Club’s field of Qapco conducted the 4th IndoQapco Junior Football Tournament. Thirty-one squads from 5 clubs of under-15 players from Mesaieed, Al Wakrah, Doha, and Al Khor brought their talents to bring home the coveted Indonesian Ambassador’s Cup.

The annual one day tournament was inaugurated by the Indonesian Ambassador, Muhammad Basri Sidehabi along with Ehab Fouad Mohamed from Qapco on January 21. “The tournament was part of the Indonesian community’s continuous support to the 2022 World Cup. With as many as 31 squads competing, it was well poised to instil the competitive spirit, tolerance, team work, and fair-play in the new generations,” said Sidehabi.

“The IndoQapco Committee has done a great job in arranging the tournament. My appreciation to the Qatar Petrochemical Company’s management for the endless support given to Indonesian Community activities.”

Mujiyanto, the President of the Indonesian Community, said: “The selection and development theme is also consistent with the aim to find and nurture new talents for future football stars. The only way to screen new talents is through frequent competitions.”

“The Indonesian community is always supportive of the Qatar Football Association. We are always on the lookout for new talents on the field, and looking forward to compete in the annual Asian Communities Football Tournament,” said Dr Rakhmat Soebekti, the chairman of Indonesian Football Association in Qatar (IFQ).

Fatullah Adrai, chairman of the organising committee, was excited to see how kids applied their experiences from the IJFT to their football futures. “I am very proud of the performance of individual players. To see the levels of pride and confidence at such a young age is encouraging. I hope winning this year’s overall championship will push the members to train harder and play better in the future,” said Manager of IndoQapco FC, Jhon Hendra.

Bazm-e-Alig elects executive committee

Bazm-e-Alig, the alumni association of Aligarh Muslim University, Qatar Chapter, elected a new executive committee to carry out its social and educational programmes for the next two years. Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is one of the prestigious educational institutions of India.

The programme started by the recitation of Holy Quran by Nadeem Mahir. Nadeem Jafar, General Secretary, highlighted the activities of the last two years. Irshad Faridi, the President of Bazm-e-Alig, presented the financial report and the achievements of his term. A discussion was held among all members to improve the performance and strengthen the Bazm. Mohammed Amir, the appointed Election Officer by the Advisory Committee, carried out the election process.
This recipe sounds like a mouthful, and it is — in a good way. Cashews and red onion provide a tender crunch, and there's just enough chicken to satisfy a carnivore. The niftiest thing about it, though, is how it treats the eggplant.

You'll want to use what’s called for here: slender Japanese eggplant or the baby Indian ones, so you can cut same-size rounds. Soaking them in salted water will draw out any bitterness and help reduce the amount of oil that eggplant typically soaks up once it hits the pan. The rounds cook evenly and even get a chance to sear a bit, without losing their shape or moisture. They’re almost meatier than the chicken. Just be sure each one gets turned so it can cook on both sides, which is easy to do when you’re cooking in a large wok.

A minimal sauce finishes the dish quite nicely.

Cashew Eggplant Chicken Stir-Fry

2 to 3 servings
Serve with rice, or atop sweet potato noodles.
Adapted from a recipe at TheFudUpFoodie.com.

Ingredients
1 pound slender Japanese eggplants or Indian (baby) eggplants
1 tablespoon sea salt, for the soaking water
1/2 medium red onion
12 ounces boneless, skinless chicken thighs
2 cloves garlic
1/2-inch piece fresh ginger root
1/3 cup no-salt-added chicken broth
1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil
1 teaspoon Sriracha
1 teaspoon fish sauce
1/3 cup no-salt-added chicken broth
1/2 teaspoon low-sodium soy sauce
1/2 teaspoon cornstarch (may substitute arrowroot)
1/2 cup (about 2 1/2 ounces) roasted cashews (salted or unsalted)

Steps
Trim off and discard the eggplant stems, and then cut the eggplant crosswise into 1/2-inch rounds.

Dissolve the salt in a large bowl of water, then add the eggplant rounds. Weight them down with another bowl so they stay submerged. Soak for 18 minutes, then rinse, drain and pat dry.

Meanwhile, cut the onion into thin half-moons. Trim off and discard all visible fat from the chicken, then cut the chicken into 3/4-inch chunks. Peel the garlic and ginger root; mince both and place in a liquid measuring cup, along with the broth, half the toasted sesame oil, the Sriracha, fish sauce, soy sauce and cornstarch, whisking to form a slurry.

Heat 1 teaspoon of the toasted sesame oil in a wok or nonstick sauté pan over medium-high heat. Swirl to coat; once the oil shimmers, add the eggplant. Stir-fry for about 5 minutes, until browned on both sides, then transfer to a plate.

Add the remaining 1/2 teaspoon of toasted sesame oil to the pan; swirl to coat, then add the chicken. Stir-fry for 2 minutes, then add the onion and cashews; stir-fry for about 2 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through. Stir in the slurry and return the eggplant to the pan; stir-fry for a minute or two, just until warmed through and evenly coated.

Divide among individual plates. Serve right away.

Nutrition | Per serving (based on 3): 450 calories, 23 g protein, 21 g carbohydrates, 32 g fat, 7 g saturated fat, 100 mg cholesterol, 740 mg sodium, 6 g dietary fiber, 8 g sugar.
A diet rich in fruits and vegetables outweighs the risks of pesticides

Cara Rosenbloom
The Washington Post

When you shop for groceries, do you carry a copy of the Environmental Working Group’s “Dirty Dozen” list with you? It’s a list of the 12 vegetables and fruits with the most pesticides, and some people only buy organic versions of the items on the list. It’s the companion piece to the “Clean Fifteen,” which showcases the 15 options with the least pesticides.

These annual reports generate a lot of media coverage, and their presence seems to influence our grocery shopping habits. But research shows that the lists — which are being questioned for their scientific validity — may be doing more harm than good.

Organic . . . or nothing?
It’s vital to eat your veggies. Low in calories but rich in vitamins and antioxidants, vegetables and fruits have been linked with a reduced risk of heart disease, cancer, diabetes and obesity. Yet, most Americans aren’t getting enough. Could the “Dirty Dozen” list may be part of the problem?

That depends on what message we take away when we read about pesticides in vegetables and fruit. Researchers at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago wanted to know how the list influences our buying habits. They surveyed more than 500 low-income shoppers about their thoughts on organic and conventional vegetables and fruit, and published results in the journal Nutrition Today.

They found that specifically naming the “Dirty Dozen” resulted in shoppers being less likely to buy any vegetables and fruit. That’s right — it’s not just consumption of the top 12 pesticide-laden items that drops, it seems we buy and eat less of every vegetable and fruit. Misinformation about pesticides breeds fear and confusion, and many find it easier to skip fresh produce altogether.

And when asked about the promotion of organic produce, 61 percent of participants said they felt the media encouraged them to buy organic . . . or nothing?

A diet rich in fruits and vegetables do have pesticides. Winter says “actual exposure levels are typically millions of times lower than those that are of health concern.”

“Foods on the Dirty Dozen list pose no risks to consumers due to the extremely low levels of pesticides actually detected on those foods,” says Winter.

Think of it this way. Pesticides may be present, but mere presence is not enough to cause harm. Winter explains that the first principle of toxicology is that “the dose makes the poison”. It’s the amount of a chemical, and not its presence or absence that determines the potential for harm.

The methodology used to rank produce items on the Dirty Dozen list was seriously flawed as it failed to consider the three most important factors used in authentic risk assessments — the amounts of pesticides found, the amounts of the foods consumed, and the toxicity of the pesticides,” says Winter. “When we consider these factors, foods on the Dirty Dozen list are clearly safe to consume.”

Even the Environmental Working Group doesn’t recommend avoiding the items on its own Dirty Dozen list. Their website says “the health benefits of a diet rich in fruits and vegetables outweigh the risks of pesticide exposure. Eating conventionally grown produce is far better than skipping fruits and vegetables.” That should be the key message that everyone hears in 2017.

Vegetables and fruit account for 43 percent of US organic food sales, so it’s a big industry. And organic vegetables are healthy — no doubt. Some studies show that they have more of certain vitamins and minerals compared with conventionally grown produce, and the farming methods may be better for the planet. If organic items are affordable, available and preferable to you, buy them.

But organic food isn’t necessarily pesticide-free either, explains Winter. “Studies have indicated that as much as one quarter of organic fruits and vegetables may contain pesticide residues.” But remember, as is the case with conventional fruits and vegetables, the pesticide levels are not high enough to be a health concern. So, the bottom line remains: The best thing you can do is consume lots of vegetables and fruit for their health benefits, whether you choose to buy organic or not.
How smartphones transform healthcare

More than 1.2 million people living in London are to be offered medical diagnosis using Babylon — an “artificial intelligence” (AI) app which gives patients access to a virtual health service in their pocket.

**Babylon:** Free app enables patient to talk to a doctor via live video chat.
**Check a symptom** feature gives automated diagnosis from anywhere in the world, using highly accurate AI triage service.

**SpiroSmart:** App uses microphone as sensor in smartphone-based spirometer to monitor chronic lung ailments such as asthma, cystic fibrosis and chronic bronchitis. App analyses sound wave frequencies in patient’s trachea and vocal tract.

**PoopMD:** Free app reads stool colour to identify **bilary atresia (BA)** — disorder which causes paediatric liver disease.
BA is most common in East Asia, with incidence of one in 5,000 live births. If left untreated BA can lead to liver failure.

**CliniCloud:** Includes digital stethoscope and thermometer — two essential tools of doctor’s clinic.
Both work with phone app to record and analyse temperature, heart rate and respiratory readings. Data can be sent directly to physician.

**Lumify:** Philips ultrasound system plugs into Android tablet or phone.
Scanning app enables imaging of lungs, abdomen, musculoskeletal and soft tissue structures.
App allows ultrasound scan — performed at urgent care centre — to be sent directly to radiologist at hospital for expert evaluation.

**iExaminer:** Hand-held ophthalmoscope uses iPhone camera to capture high-resolution pictures of back of eye. Field-of-view is five times larger than traditional ophthalmoscope and does not require dilation of pupil. App allows image and text to be sent from remote locations to specialist.

**Kardia Mobile:** Blood pressure monitor and electrocardiogram (ECG) detects **hypertension** and **atrial fibrillation** (AF) from patient’s fingertips. App relays data to doctor.
High blood pressure among patients with AF is associated with 50% increase in risk of stroke.

**Biome馴 System:** Turns an iPhone into mobile DNA laboratory.
Hand-held real-time PCR* thermocycler works by creating billions of copies of pathogen’s DNA in patient’s blood sample and tagging them with fluorescent dye.
*polymerase chain reaction

**2013-16 Ebola outbreak:**
More than 28,600 cases and over 11,300 deaths occurred during West African epidemic of Ebola virus.
Real-time PCR was used to identify virus, but few tests were applied in the field. Biome馴 PCR could screen someone in less than two hours from a single finger prick.

Sources and pictures: AliveCor Kardia, Babylon Health, Biome馴, ClinioCloud, CDC, Johns Hopkins, Philips, SpiroSmart, Welch Allyn © GRAPHIC NEWS
SRK takes AbRam’s help to promote ‘Raees’

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan took his three-year-old son AbRam’s help to promote his forthcoming film “Raees”.

The 51-year-old posted a black and white image of his son wearing a pair of glasses and captioned it with a dialogue from the film.

“And bola na ‘battery nahi bolne ka’ (Told you not to call me battery),” Shah Rukh captioned the image on his Twitter account.

The “Dilwale” star had earlier shared his own photograph wearing the similar pair of glasses that have been donned by AbRam. “And if the glasses are 3D then I guess Battery bol lo... Alas ‘Raees’ is in 2D but the story is multi-dimensional,” he tweeted.

Set against the backdrop of prohibition in Gujarat, “Raees” touches upon the way the alcohol industry crumbled and several illegal activities followed. Its trailer gives a glimpse of the story backed by heavy duty action sequences, and many thrilling moments.

In the film, the “Chennai Express” star essays the title role of Raees, a bootlegger. It also marks Pakistani actress Mahira Khan’s foray into Bollywood.

The Rahul Dholakia directorial will clash with Hrithik Roshan-Yami Gautam starrer “Kaabil” at the box-office on January 25.

Alia Bhatt scores 10 million Twitter followers

After hitting 10 million followers on Twitter, Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt thanked her fans and admirers for the “10 million love”. “Goodnight all you beautiful people! Thank you for the 10 million love. Have to be up early for shoot but off to bed with all your love!” Alia tweeted on Saturday night.

The actress, who made her debut in Bollywood in 2012 with filmmaker Karan Johar’s “Student Of The Year”, is an avid user of social media through which she stays connected with her fans and well-wisher.

Sonakshi wants to do underwater fashion show

Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, who became a muse for designer Monisha Jaisingh’s Lakme Fashion Week Summer/Resort 2017 show, says she would love to do an underwater fashion show someday.

“There are so many things I still want to achieve. As for walking on the ramp, I am a water baby and love swimming, so why not do an underwater fashion show,” Sonakshi said here on Friday.

With the Arabian Sea as the backdrop, the show was organised on the international luxury cruise liner Costa.

Sonakshi looked vibrant in an off-shoulder tangerine gown. “Walking on the cruise wasn’t tough for me. I had to walk on a side and there was no such twists and turns with the dress, so I managed it very well,” she said.

The actress recently performed at the Filmfare Awards ceremony, and said “being on stage” is her favourite part of being in showbiz.

“I love to perform. And every performance — like dancing on stage or walking on the ramp — is very important to me.” She expressed happiness about her father and veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha receiving a Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sussanne praises Hrithik’s Kaabil performance

Interior designer Sussanne Khan has lauded her former husband Hrithik Roshan’s performance in the upcoming film “Kaabil” and says it is the most “hearted performance”. Sussanne on Sunday took to Twitter to laud Hrithik. She also congratulated actress Yami Gautam and “Kaabil” director Sanjay Gupta.

“The most hearted performance in the history of Indian cinema Hrithik ‘Kaabil’ will melt you! Kudos to the team Yami Gautam, Sanjay Gupta,” she tweeted. The 38-year-old entrepreneur also shared a photograph of her hugging the “Bang Bang!” star and said she was “incredibly proud” of him.
James Marsden considered for ‘Green Lantern Corps’

Actor James Marsden is reportedly being eyed by DC Comics to star in “Green Lantern Corps”. An insider said that Marsden is included in the shortlist of actors being considered to play Hal Jordan, one out of two Green Lanterns, in the upcoming movie, reports aceshowbiz.com.

“I’ve heard one more name, too,” the insider said about Marsden’s potential casting. “Ever since ‘Westworld’, Marsden has been pretty hot around here. They’ve discussed him for Hal as well,” the insider added. Previously, there were reports about possible shortlist of actors who may play Hal Jordan.

The list included names such as Tom Cruise, Jake Gyllenhaal, Armie Hammer, Bradley Cooper, Joel McHale and Ryan Reynolds -- who had played the character in the 2011 film “Green Lantern”.

While the company is busy trying to find the perfect actor to play the part, the other Green Lantern, John Stewart, will be played by Sterling K. Brown.

Unlike the previous adaptation “Green Lantern” which focused more on Hal Jordan, the upcoming movie is expected to focus on the Corps, the intergalactic police force formed to protect different sectors of the universe.

“Green Lantern Corps” is scheduled for a July 24, 2020 release in the US.

Madonna makes surprise appearance in Women’s March in Washington

The songstress Madonna made a surprise appearance in the massive Women’s March in Washington that included many artistes that refused to attend Donald Trump’s inauguration as President of the United States this Friday.

EFE news quoted Madonna as saying that she had “thought an awful lot about blowing up the White House” after Trump won the November 8 election, but instead she chose a “revolution of love”.

She immediately proclaimed that “the revolution starts here,” and added “To the rebellion. To our refusal as women to accept this new age of tyranny.”

“Yes, I’m angry. Yes, I am outraged,” she said.

With the same strength, she danced and sang her 1989 hit “Express Yourself” at a place near the Capitol, where demonstrators had been gathering since the early hours.

The huge sea of protesters from cities all over the country exceeded the expectations of organisers, who put the number of participants at at least a half million, double what had been expected. EFE news reported.

Authorities in the US capital likewise said around 500,000 people were taking part in the march.

Among those participating in the march was former Secretary of State John Kerry, who spoke with other demonstrators while walking his dog.

For three hours, speakers including actresses Scarlett Johansson, Ashley Judd and America Ferrera, as well as prominent liberal documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, called for the protection of civil and human rights and slammed Trump.

Moore ripped up a Saturday newspaper with news of Trump’s inauguration on the front page.

Kanye West working on surprise projects

Rapper Kanye West is focusing on his family and is working on “surprise projects” two months after hospitalisation. He was hospitalised for exhaustion in November last year, and he has kept a relatively low profile in recent weeks. “His kids are his number one priority for him and he wants to be a good dad and make his mother proud. He thinks about her every day,” eonline.com quoted a source as saying. In addition, West is “feeling more on track” as he works on several business opportunities away from the public eye. “Kanye has a few surprise projects coming up that involve music and concerts in the spring and summer. Plus he is working on his fashion line and some collaborations,” the source added. West, who is married to reality star Kim Kardashian, had cancelled the remainder of his Saint Pablo Tour days before he was voluntarily hospitalised.
Apple adds new features to its music creation apps

Apple has updated its music creation apps — GarageBand for iOS 2.2 and Logic Pro X 10.3 — with new features for music makers on iPhone, iPad and Mac. “Music has always been part of Apple’s DNA, and we are excited to deliver yet another fun and powerful update to our music creation apps, GarageBand for iOS and Logic Pro X,” said Susan Prescott, Vice President, Applications Product Marketing, Apple, in a statement.

GarageBand for iOS 2.2 now features the powerful creative synthesiser Alchemy and a new sound browser that makes searching through instruments and patches easier than ever. Logic Pro X 10.3 becomes more powerful tool for pros with a modern interface, new features for professional audio production as well as support for the “Touch Bar” on the new MacBook Pro — putting intuitive, context-sensitive controls right at users’ fingertips.

Logic Pro X users can also remotely add new tracks to their Logic sessions from their iPhone or iPad when they are away from their Mac.

“Logic Pro X is an indispensable part of the creative process for me and the artists I work with. I am thrilled to see all the new professional features that have been added,” added Paul Epworth, Grammy and Academy award winning producer and composer.

GarageBand for iOS features a redesigned sound browser that makes it faster than ever to explore touch instruments and quickly find the exact sounds the user wants. Recording music in GarageBand also gets easier with multi-take recording, giving users multiple passes to capture their best performance and the ability to audition and switch between their favourite takes, Apple said.

Facebook mulling over ways to curb fake news

To mitigate the impact of fake news and curb its spread, Facebook is considering to notify users if they ended up sharing or reading a fake story. According to a report in TechCrunch on Friday, Facebook may let people know retroactively about a fake story.

“You want to make sure as little comes in the system as possible and when it happens, you need to react as quickly as you can. And if you didn’t find it until later then you need to consider letting people know. The question is who and how. I don’t know if we’ll do that but it’s certainly something we’re considering,” Adam Mosseri, Facebook Vice-President of News Feed was quoted as saying.

Mosseri was speaking on Friday on a panel, ‘Separating fact from fantasy: Is fake news undermining the truth?’ at the University of California Berkeley, the report said.

Ever since the results of US Presidential elections were declared, Facebook was accused of spreading and promoting fake news that favoured the win of US President Donald Trump. Though the company has taken number of measures to prevent fake news from spreading, there are still concerns being raised.

Anonymous browsing habits may reveal who you are

If you think that going incognito online will save you from being seen or noticed, you are wrong. According to researchers including two of Indian-origin, online behaviour can be identified by linking anonymous web browsing histories with your Facebook, Twitter and Instagram profiles.

Researchers from the Princeton and Stanford universities found that anyone with access to browsing histories can identify many users by analysing public information from social media accounts. “It is already known that some companies, such as Google and Facebook, track users online and know their identities,” stressed Arvind Narayanan, Assistant Professor at Princeton University. Researchers said that those companies, which consumers choose to create accounts with, disclosed their tracking. “Users may assume they are anonymous when they are browsing a news or a health website, but our work adds to the list of ways in which tracking companies may be able to learn their identities,” added Narayanan.

The Federal Communications Commission recently adopted privacy rules for internet service providers that allow them to store and use consumer information only when it is “not reasonably linkable” to individual users. “Our results suggest that pseudonymous browsing histories fail this test,” the researchers wrote. It was found that online advertising companies build browsing histories of users with tracking programmes embedded on web pages. “Each person’s browsing history is unique and contains tell-tale signs of their identity,” wrote Sharad Goel, Assistant Professor at Stanford University.

The study is scheduled for presentation at the World Wide Web Conference 2017 at Perth, Australia in April.
The story revolves around a young man who takes up his girlfriend Keerthi Suresh’s fight for justice against an unscrupulous, corrupt man who had created a multi million dollar business by misleading aspiring medical students and their parents.
ATTENTION, ABOVE, ABBUTTING, ACROSS, ADJACENT, ADJOINING, ADVANCE, AROUND, ASCENDING, BACKWARDS, BELOW, BENEATH, CIRCLE, CONTIGUOUS, DECLINE, DECREASE, DESCENDING, DIAGONAL, DOWN, EAST, EBBING, FALLING, FLOWING, FORWARDS, HIGHER, HORIZONTAL, INCLINE, INCREASE, INSIDE, LEFT, LOWER, NEXT TO, NORTH, OUTSIDE, OVER, RETREAT, REVERSE, RIGHT, RISING, SOUTH, THROUGH, UNDER, UP, VERTICAL, VIA, WAXING, WAXING, WEST.

Yesterday’s answer: A C I T R E V R B E M C I R C L E

DOHA TODAY
BRAIN TEASERS

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Poe Teasdale
5 Moving vehicle
8 Twa
12 Opposite of “her”
13 Poem of praise
14 Baseball’s Mouises
16 Comment to a lottery winner
17 “Cut it out”
18 Coffee-flavored liqueur
19 Keanu of “Speed”
21 Heart chart

ATOMS I 1598

DOWN
1 Polio vaccine discovery
2 Water, to Juan
3 Opulent
4 Bracelet site
5 Jupiter probe
6 Commotion
7 Prefix with surgeon
8 End-of-film direction
9 Valentina message
10 Zich
11 Crazy
12 Guffaws
13 Recede
14 Bristle
15 Carnival city
16 “Please go first”
17 “Unh-unh”
18 Omelet need
19 Fanny’s cry
20 Parrot
21 Spa treatment
22 Pop star
23 Hay
24 History
25 Roughly
26 Songwriter
27 Laura
28 Greek vowel
29 Prompted
30 treat
31 Chapeau

Solution time: 25 mins.

ALL IN THE MIND

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

By Dave Green

Conceptis Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9×9 grid. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3×3 box contains the same number only once.

Yesterday’s answer: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

DOHA TODAY
BRAIN TEASERS

CRYPTOQUIP

PA J Y M T P W ’ V K W J L
D Q H J D S W H X W S V J O X H P W H
J O L J O X H P W M T H W P Y W, P V
S Q I S J D M Y P O X - M A H I X W A P K Y?

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: WHEN THAT MEAN GIRL GAVE ME A SHARP SNAP WITH A DECORATIVE PILLOW COVER, I HAD SOME SHAM PAIN.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: P equals I

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
33 Hit hard
35 Forum wear
36 Words of denial
38 Drone
40 “Yech!”
41 Green land
43 Calendar box
45 Doorway
47 “The — Woman” (Lindsay Wagner TV show)
51 Novelist Seton
52 “Merci”
54 Flue buildup
55 Granola morsel

DOWN
57 Verifiable
58 Ultimate
59 Burden
60 “Down
62 Rob L
63 Buried
64 “Bundle
66 “Bust
67 “Bend
68 “Bend
69 “Bend
70 “Bend
71 “Bend

Solution time: 25 mins.

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