LAGOS @ 50

The Nigerian megacity of Lagos, with its 20 million inhabitants, is the biggest in sub-Saharan Africa and is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

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QU Health holds Annual Research Symposium

Qatar University (QU) Health recently held its 2nd Annual Research Symposium aimed to bring together students, researchers and faculty in the field of health. The event engaged more than 100 participants from QU, the Ministry of Public Health, Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), and Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar (WCMQ).

The program agenda included oral presentations under four themes: “Public Health”, “Communicable Diseases”, “Cancer and Diabetes” and “Cardiovascular Diseases”, and presentation of around 80 research posters by faculty, graduate and undergraduate students from QU Health colleges – Health Sciences (CHS), Medicine (CMED), and Pharmacy (CPH).

It also included a roundtable discussion led by QU Vice-President for Medical and Health Sciences and CMED Dean Dr Egon Toft, CPH Dean Dr Mohammad Diab, CHS Dean and QU Biomedical Research Center (BRC) Director Dr Asma Al Thani, and WCMQ Associate Dean for Research Prof Khaled Machaca, and moderated by CHS Professor of Human Nutrition Prof Mohamed Ahmedna. Discussions focused on the role of QU Health Cluster and its relation with other health institutions in Qatar, and the new ways to fund research especially medical research in Qatar.

Also on the event’s program were an award distribution to the three best oral presentations and three best poster presentations for faculty and undergraduate and graduate students from CHS (five awards), CMED (two awards), and CPH (eight awards).

Commenting on the event, Dr Egon Toft said: “Uniting research across the three health colleges at QU and with the stakeholders is very crucial. Advancing medical knowledge and improving population’s health through addressing the national needs lies at the top of our priorities. This symposium is definitely a great networking-channel opener and by joining efforts, focused collaboration and leveraging of resources, we will sure make greater impact on the health of the nation.”

Dr Mohammad Diab said: “QU Health’s 2nd Annual Research Symposium has been an excellent platform to bring together faculty, graduate and undergraduate students from the colleges of Pharmacy, Medicine and Health Sciences to showcase extraordinary research on a variety of health related topics, in line with Qatar National Research Strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030. We are so proud of the high-quality research that our students and faculty are conducting, and the awards won during this forum highlight these efforts.”

Dr Asma Al Thani said: “It is indeed very rewarding to see such research accomplishments here at QU, that do not only involve faculty, but also students as well. This is definitely a sign of progress towards an integrated Health Cluster research and education where we soon hope to start the common first year and introduce new interdisciplinary programs in key national health priorities.”

Prof Khaled Machaca said: “The Health Cluster initiative is a positive development for Qatar University and the nation. It supports our continuous efforts to align our biomedical research activities with Qatar University especially in the difficult current fiscal environment.”

SIS students excelled in ‘Colosseum 2017’

Students of Shantiniketan Indian School (SIS) brought laurels to the institution by winning top positions in the Colosseum 2017- Inter-school Dance and Music Festival held recently, organised by Max Media and Events Co.

The teams that won first position include for Thiruvathira are Riya Jayaprakash, Radhwa Murshid, Meghnaa Manvendra Kamath, Vaishnavi S Leksmi, Tanushiya Varadharan, Sneha Tom, Ganga CV, Anna P Mathews and for Oppana are Maisa Ismail, Megha Treesa, Minha KP, Liya Sherin, Habeeba, Noubha, Naja Hameed, Sanooja, Mirza Muhammed Rafi, Naja.

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The Nigerian megacity of Lagos, with its 20 million inhabitants, is the biggest in sub-Saharan Africa and is celebrating its 50th anniversary. But how do those who have made their name in Lagos envisage the city in 50 years’ time?

**Leye Adenle**

Leye Adenle was born in Nigeria in 1975. His first book, “Lagos Lady”, is a gripping crime novel that flits between the city’s less salubrious neighbourhood and the high life of the islands. “It’s the year 2067 and global warming has become global flooding but Lagos, a coastal megacity in Nigeria, has figured out an ingenious solution that the rest of the world is keen to copy.

“The floating islands of the city, half-submerged wonders of engineering, featuring underwater boulevards with 360-degree aquatic-views, are home to the world’s mega-rich: movie stars, rappers, footballers, musicians, celebrity bloggers.

“The annual rising, when the islands lift out of the Atlantic Ocean and hover above the turquoise waves, the glass walls of their interconnected transport routes gleaming beneath them, has become the greatest tourist attraction in Africa, maybe even the world. “The city the gods envy’ is now the world capital of innovation, banking, art, and tourism. And today, the richest state in Africa, finds herself in the grip of LAGXIT as she conducts a referendum to determine whether to remain in Nigeria or breakaway and become the newest and wealthiest country in the world.”

**Aliko Dangote**

“Africa’s richest man”, as his name is always prefixed, originally comes from northern Nigeria but he now lives in Lagos, where he runs a multi-billion dollar business empire. “In 50 years, I imagine Lagos to have consolidated its position as the industrial hub of Africa with the Lekki Free Trade Zone (on the edge of Lagos, where the Dangote Group is heading a $9bn refinery project to help alleviate the frequent fuel crises and regular power outages that blight the country). “The availability of power, excellent location, international seaports, airports and a friendly environment can only lead to more dynamism economically.

“Lagos has a huge potential for growth. The state has demonstrated consistency in growing its (tax income) even in recession. “Investment in power generation and infrastructure will open up the Lagos economy and projects such as the Lekki Free Trade Zone, will consolidate Lagos State’s position as the foremost industrial hub in Africa.”

**Francoise Aramide Akinosho**

After growing up in France and studying architecture in Paris and New York, Francoise Aramide Akinosho moved to live in the country of her parents’ birth. Space is lacking in Lagos. Except in the large homes of her wealthy clients.

“Lagos is somewhere between magnificent and horrible. It’s a bit like New York but worse and tropical. I think that — the worst, like the best of Lagos — will only get bigger. “We’ll continue to suffer daily pain, like constant traffic jams. But people will build private refuges for themselves, ever more beautiful and expensive.

“We’ll have to pay for everything, even to walk on the pavement. “There’ll be designated zones for and by a few rich people, who will be able to take advantage of their sterilised bubble before returning to the chaos.”
Bruce Onobrakpeya

At 84, Bruce Onobrakpeya is one of the most famous and most prolific Nigerian artists. His last work — a sculpted stone triptych — depicts Lagos as a magic flute player around which all Nigeria’s people flock. “When I arrived in Lagos in 1962, it was like any small town in Nigeria. It was many small towns and all of them came together: VI (Victoria Island) was being developed, and the only most impressive building was the cathedral in Lagos Island.

“It was green and plenty of water. Couples were walking down the old Bar Beach, but that is no more now. In 50 years time. Lagos... will have swallowed up Bagadry (60km to the west), Epe (60 km to the east). It will go all the way to Ibadan (a city with four million people 120 km to the north).

“Apart from that it will grow higher with sky-scrapers. We will still have the same challenges with transportation, water, control of people, like any other cities in the developing world.

“But I think Nigerian artists will grow also with new ideas, new challenges and they will bring new art forms. (Lagos State governor Akinwunmi) Ambode is very interested in art, it’s giving education to the people, it gains attention and it’s more important in their life.

“I think art will play an very important role.”

Ono Bello

Ono Bello has more than 150,000 followers on Instagram and an online magazine, onobello.com. The former model and journalist dictates fashion in Nigeria and lives in Lekki, a Lagos suburb popular with the city’s young bourgeoisie. “Lagos might not be like London or New York but it will be close. The pace of development of the city is going so fast, especially in art, entertainment and fashion.

“Today it’s Johannesburg but in 50 years, Lagos fashion week will take over for Africa fashion week.

“The centre of everything that has to do with African fashion will be about Lagos... I think we will go back where we were in the post-colonial years, in the 50s, 60s.

“People are already looking back, buying Nigerian, African indigenous fabrics. There will be no more Gucci, no more Armani. “All the greatest designers will be Nigerians, they will be Africans.”

Femi Kuti

The son of the king of Afrobeat, Fela Kuti, Femi Kuti carries on his father’s legacy by performing every Sunday evening at the New Africa Shrine — the mythical Lagos concert venue.

Twenty years after the death of Nigeria’s most revolutionary, engaged and engaging artist, his son denounces the same scourges that blight the country: corruption, corruption and corruption. “I've lived all my life in Lagos. Lagos is everything to me. I love its energy. But when I imagine it in 50 years, it doesn’t look good.

“Don’t take me wrong, I don’t wish for what I see, but there is too much uncertainty, the population is too much. “Everyday at 3:00 pm, all the children are coming out of school and I keep wondering, ‘How are we going to create so many jobs for them?’

“Crime will rise, for poor people it’s going to be even more difficult, traffic will rise. Politically something needs to be done, otherwise we are in big, big trouble. This city is about to explode. But once again, I do hope that I’m wrong.”

Kemi Adetiba

The 37-year-old former radio presenter turned film-maker used to make music videos. In 2016, she won acclaim for her first film “The Wedding Party”, which beat Nigerian box office records and made her a Nollywood icon.

“Lagos is the city of my birth and my dreams; the land that brought my parents together; the land that dirtied the feet of my brothers; Nigeria’s very own ‘New York’. “Sometimes, I can’t help but wonder about the Lagos of the future. What would it feel like? What would it smell like? Would it still be ‘home’ with the same tenacious, diverse, ‘never say die’ spirit of its people?

“Would it still be a melting pot of colours and cultures, steaming up in one voice. Will our infamous traffic still be on the list of ‘Sights and Sounds’?

“Would we have our very own ‘Time Square’ with lights, and lights and more lights hypnotising its tourists that refuse to go to sleep?

“Will they finally catch that horrible, mischievous ghost that comes out in the dead of night to steal large chunks of the tar-roads, creating craters for cars to manouevre during the day?

“Whatever it may be, however it may be, I pray it is still the land of hope, the land of people with an unbreakable spirit, the city where everyone knows that ‘if you make it here... you can make it anywhere.’

Bruce Onobrakpeya
The Department of Architecture and Urban Planning (DAUP) at Qatar University College of Engineering (QU-CENG) held its 8th Architecture Day on May 17.

Themed “Less is More”, the event was organised with the assistance of DAUP students through the American Institute of Architecture Students-QU Chapter (QU-AIAS), and was sponsored by the Arab Engineering Bureau (AEB).

The event provided DAUP students with the opportunity to present and showcase their architectural projects designed under the supervision of DAUP faculty and in collaboration with industry partners and architectural institutions. The projects covered various topics such as hotels, touristic villages, villas, mosques, cultural centres, hospitals, and housing.

The event included a symbolic T-shirt design competition and a panel discussion on “Education and Professional Practice in the 21st Century” by AEB CEO and Principal Architect Ibrahim Jaidah, DAUP Acting Head Dr Fodil Fadli, DAUP Professor Dr Attilio Petruccioli, Msheireb Properties Senior Architect Fatma Fawzy, and Milan Polytechnic Professor Dr Massimo Tadi, as well as DAUP faculty, students and alumni.

Commenting on the event, CENG Dean Khalifa Al Khalifa said: “The event reflects the cemented relationship between CENG and its stakeholders who are committed to support our students’ projects through the exchange of knowledge and experience, and to help them to innovate and to unlock their potential towards success.”

Dr Fodil Fadli said: “The exhibition provides a wide range of architectural and urban design projects that feature the profession and community needs and aspirations in enhancing our cities and buildings towards more resilient sustainable futures by adopting a flexible yet contextual architecture.”

DAUP Assistant Professor and 8th Architecture Day exhibition curator Dr Anna Grichting said: “It is important to engage our students in the organisation of such events and to foster their leadership skills, as well as to engage them in discussions with professionals from the industry.”

DPS-Modern Indian School bagged the overall championship in the CBSE Qatar Cluster Chess Tournament in Boys’ category held on May 11th and 16th, 2017 at Bhavan’s Public School. DPS-MIS chess masters secured the first position in under – 14 Boys, under – 14 Girls and under – 11 Boys and clinched to the third place in under-19 Boys and Girls categories.
Home Centre launching Joy of Giving themed catalogue

Home Centre, the region’s leading home retailer, is set to launch its Joy of Giving themed Ramadan catalogue for 2017 across all its stores. Inspired by the spirit of giving, the 28-page catalogue will feature interior inspirations in royal shades of purple, white, silver and gold, spectacular gifts and Iftar recipes.

The holy month celebrates compassion and togetherness with family and friends. A special time of the year, this season presents a wonderful opportunity to create precious moments with loved ones by coming together to exchange gifts and share meals.

To commemorate this occasion, Home Centre is launching its stunning 2017 Ramadan collection, which will comprise of timeless furniture pieces, arabesque accessories, festive lighting options and essential tableware and kitchenware.

During Ramadan, the Joy of Giving comes alive in the sharing of heartfelt gifts. Shoppers can make their selection from a wide range of decorative platters, artsy candle holders and lots more. Customers can also purchase Ramadan gift cards in-store throughout the month to ensure their loved ones get the perfect gift this season.

Médéric Payne, CEO of Home Centre, said: “Ramadan is the perfect occasion to celebrate the joy of giving which forms the central theme of our catalogue. With inspirational pieces, delightful gift ideas and styling tips that reflect the needs and preferences of the local consumers, our catalogue has everything one needs for their home, this Ramadan.”

The 2017 Ramadan collection will be available at all Home Centre stores in Qatar, and can also be viewed online on www.homecentre.com.

Winners of No Tobacco Day competitions honoured

Anti-Smoking Society and Ministry of Public Health jointly organized a function to honour the winners of No tobacco day interschool painting and elocution competitions recently.

Dr R Seetharaman, CEO of Doha Bank, attended the function as the chief guest. Dr Majdi Yousif Ashour, Anti-Smoking Supervisor at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Al Arabi Ataula Kohidiri, therapeutic psychology specialist at the Ministry of Public health, Davis Edakkulathur, President of ICBF and Faisal Hudavi, community reach out officer at the Ministry of Interior attended the function as guests of honour. Anti Smoking Society Chairman Dr Hassan Kunhi chaired the function. The chief coordinator Amanulla Vadakkanagara conducted the event.
Bonnie S. Benwick  
The Washington Post

Sauces that are complex and require hours of reduction are wondrous kitchen assets, but then again, so are the ones that take shortcuts to achieve the same lustrous, glaze-y results.

Here, it mingles with pan juices from just-sauteed fish fillets, plus butter, freshly grated ginger and lime juice; in less than 10 minutes, the mixture becomes a slightly thickened, vaguely spicy and mildly sweet complement for the fish and steamed bok choy on the plate.

2 servings

The original recipe calls for sea bass, which can be pricey. That fish elevates this dish, but we liked it with cod just fine.

**Ingredients**
- 8 ounces baby bok choy or small bok choy
- Kosher salt
- One 1-inch piece ginger root
- Leaves from 2 to 4 stems cilantro
- Cod fillets (6 to 8 ounces per person), about 3/4-inch thick
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil, preferably dark
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 8 ounces ginger juice
- 1 lime

**Steps**

Rinse the bok choy and discard any torn or discolored leaves. Cut the bok choy in half from top to bottom, and trim some of the bottoms if they are especially thick or tough.

Heat about 2 inches of water in a large saute pan. Bring to a boil over high heat.

Place a steamer basket in the pan, then arrange the bok choy in the basket. Season them lightly with salt and cover the pan with a tight-fitting lid; steam for 5 to 7 minutes, then uncover and turn off the heat.

Meanwhile, peel and grate the ginger. Finely chop the cilantro leaves. Season the fillets lightly with salt and pepper.

Heat the oil with 1 tablespoon of the butter in a separate saute pan over medium-high heat. Once the butter becomes foamy, add the fillets and cook 3 or 4 minutes per side (depending on their thickness), turning them over carefully, until just cooked through. Transfer them to a plate and cover loosely to keep warm.

Pour the ginger juice into the saute pan, stirring to incorporate. Reduce the heat to medium; cook for about 6 minutes, or until the mixture has reduced a bit to form a slightly thickened sauce. Use a wooden spatula to dislodge any browned bits.

Add the grated ginger, then cut the lime in half and squeeze its juice into the pan. Add the remaining tablespoon of butter, stirring to incorporate.

Divide the bok choy between warmed plates. Place the fish on top of each portion, then spoon the sauce over what’s on the plate. Scatter the cilantro over each portion. Serve right away.

**Nutrition**: Per serving: 430 calories, 32 g protein, 15 g carbohydrates, 27 g fat, 10 g saturated fat, 105 mg cholesterol, 280 mg sodium, 1 g dietary fiber, 13 g sugar.

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**Cod with ginger juice and bok choy**

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**Ramadan Kareem**

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Here, plump scallops are threaded onto skewers with scal-lions that, once grilled, mellow in flavor, soften and frizzle beautifully. The skewers are then drizzled with a classic Mediterranean combination of lemon, extra-virgin olive oil and herbs for a simple but irresistible dish.

The scallops also can be cooked on the grill. If you’re using bamboo skewers, they’ll need to soak for 30 minutes before going over the fire.

Ingredients
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest and 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves
- 16 scallions
- 1 1/4 pounds large scallops (about 12)
- 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Steps
Whisk together 2 tablespoons of the oil, the lemon zest, lemon juice and oregano in a medium bowl. Stir in the parsley.

Trim the scallion roots and greens, leaving about an inch of the white and light-green part. (Save the greens for another use, if desired, such as in a salad.)

Thread the scallops and scallions onto four skewers, alternating them on each skewer. Brush the skewered scallops and scallions on both sides with the remaining tablespoon of oil, and season with the salt and pepper.

Preheat a grill pan over medium-high heat. Add the scallops and cook for 5 to 6 minutes total, until grill marks have formed and the scallops are no longer translucent, turning them over once.

Serve right away, drizzled with the lemon-herb mixture.

Nutrition: Per serving: 210 calories, 18 g protein, 9 g carbohydrates, 11 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 35 mg cholesterol, 600 mg sodium, 2 g dietary fiber, 1 g sugar.
Walking linked to improved brain function

Reuters

A moderate-intensity walking regimen may reduce symptoms of mild cognitive impairment that are linked to poor blood vessel health in the brain, a small study suggests. Participants with vascular cognitive impairment, sometimes called vascular dementia, who walked three hours per week for six months had improved reaction times and other signs of improved brain function, the Canadian team reports in British Journal of Sports Medicine.

Vascular cognitive impairment, or VCI, refers to mildly impaired thinking or more advanced dementia that’s due to the same kinds of blood vessel damage seen with heart disease elsewhere in the body. It is the second most common cause of dementia after Alzheimer’s disease.

“It is well established that regular aerobic exercise improves cardiovascular health and cerebrovascular health,” the study’s senior author Teresa Liu-Ambrose told Reuters Health in an email.

“More specifically, it reduces one’s risk of developing chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes (type II), and high cholesterol. These chronic conditions have a negative impact on the brain — likely through compromised blood flow to the brain,” said Liu-Ambrose, a researcher with the Aging, Mobility, and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

The brain is a highly metabolic organ and to keep it healthy, it requires good blood flow to deliver the necessary nutrients and oxygen to its tissues, she added.

“It is worth noting that in our study, reduced blood pressure (secondary to exercise) was associated with improved cognitive function,” Liu-Ambrose said. Aerobic exercise may also benefit the brain by increasing growth factors, which are substances made by the body that promote cell growth, differentiation and survival, she said.

Liu-Ambrose and colleagues randomly assigned 38 older adults with mild VCI to one of two groups. One group followed an aerobic training program consisting of three one-hour walking classes each week for six months, while the other group continued with their usual care.

In addition, both groups were given information about vascular cognitive impairment and tips for eating a healthier diet.

Before the exercise programme began and at the end of six months, all the participants also had functional MRI brain scans and other tests that measured neural activity and cognitive ability. People in the aerobic training group showed significant improvements in their reaction times on the cognitive tests, and showed changes in their brain activity that made them resemble healthy brains more. The comparison group showed no changes.

Overall, exercise appears to be a promising strategy for promoting cognitive health in older adults, Liu-Ambrose said.

“While more research is needed to better understand how it brings about its benefits and what factors may impact the degree of benefit observed, there is minimal negative consequence of exercising,” she said. Liu-Ambrose said she doesn’t know if exercise can actually prevent VCI because there have been no studies to determine that.

“However, population based studies do suggest that physical activity does reduce the risk of developing VCI. Moreover, as mentioned earlier, aerobic exercise is very effective in reducing vascular risk factors associated with VCI, such as high blood pressure.”

The study was small, and because participants had to be able to walk for up to an hour, it’s possible they were physically healthier than average, the authors note. The socializing involved in the walking classes might have also had some effect, they say.

“Given the small sample size, one needs to be cautious about interpreting the results of this pilot study. However, it is encouraging to see that the six-month aerobic exercise program improved certain aspects of cognition and showed changes on functional brain imaging,” said Dr Joe Verghese, director of the Montefiore Einstein Center for the Aging Brain at Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

“The effect of exercise in this, and other studies seems to be on improving executive functions, which are required for planning, thinking and judgment,” Verghese, who wasn’t involved in the study, said by email. “The findings, if confirmed in larger studies, may have implications in advising exercise in older patients with vascular risk factors for brain protection,” Verghese said.

More women report osteoarthritis than men: Study

Osteoarthritis — a disease of joints — is reported more among women than men, says a study conducted by the Arthritis Foundation of India (AFI). The study suggested that the severity of arthritis is also much higher in females as compared with males. It found an alarmingly high incidence of arthritis — 26.5 percent — among younger people in their 30s.

“In all, 55 per cent of the patients (with osteoarthritis) were females, as compared to 45 per cent males,” said the AFI study conducted among 600 OPD patients in Doctor Hedgewar Arogya Sansthan, Vir Savarkar Hospital, Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital and R K Hospital here.

The AFI, Indian member of International Osteoporosis Foundation and the World Health Organization (WHO), conducted an epidemiological study on the situation of osteoarthritis in Delhi and found obesity and lack of awareness as a leading factor contributing to its prevalence.

“Obesity was a major contributing factor, with 53 per cent of the respondents found to be obese,” the study said. Also, with the risk factors like hypertension, diabetes, thyroid and others, the progress of the diseases was much quicker in many cases within two years, it added.

The study also considered the socio-economic background of the patients and found that 70 percent of the total participants (in the study) belonged to less than Rs25,000 per month income group, while the remaining 30 percent belonged to above Rs25,000 a month bracket. “The marginally high severe cases can be attributed to the lifestyle in lower socio-economic group like elevator-less multi-storied housing, Indian toilets and more of them sitting frequently on the floor, etc.”
Feminism stands for equality for many: Huma Qureshi

Huma Qureshi says feminism is first seen as a dirty word, but the attitude towards it is slowly changing. The actress, who spoke about representation of women in media and gender equality at the UN headquarters in New York in March, feels feminism stands for equality for many.

“I think worldwide, feminism was first seen as a dirty word. But now feminism is seen as a word which is about equality. This is about giving equal options to everyone. India is no different from the west. We also looked at it in a certain way and now it is completely different,” Huma said over phone from Mumbai.

When it comes to gender disparity at work place, Huma said: “More women in workspace means more security for women. I am all for that. I think things are changing slowly, but surely they are changing for the better.”

From “Gangs of Wasseypur”, “Ek Thi Daayan”, “Dedh Ishqiya” to “Jolly LLB 2”, Huma takes up strong female characters in films. And it doesn’t happen by fluke.

“It is a part conscious and part luck. I want to see interesting and strong characters and I am lucky enough that the directors and makers are doing such kind of projects with me. So it is a mix of all.”

After doing some short films, Huma, who hails from Delhi, came into spotlight with Anurag Kashyap’s dark thriller “Gangs of Wasseypur - Part 2” in 2012. Since then, it has been a case of hit and miss in Bollywood.

She has delivered hits like “Ek Thi Daayan”, “Badlapur” and “Jolly LLB 2”, but failed to generate the expected response with films like “Dedh Ishqiya” and “D-Day”. The films might have missed hitting the spot at the box office, but she made the right noises with her performances.

At the moment, Huma is looking forward to horror film “Dobaara: See Your Evil”, in which she features with her brother Saqib Saleem. Directed by Prawaal Raman, the film also features Lisa Ray, Adil Hussain among others and is slated to release on June 2.

Talking about the film, Huma said: “It is a very special film because we are acting together for the first time. We never thought that we will get an opportunity to act in a film together so early in our career. We are very excited about that.”

“Saqib is very sensitive as a co-star. He is very involved with everything and hard working. It was a great pleasure to work with him.

I discovered new aspects to Saqib’s personality that I didn’t know. I understand him better as a co-star than a sister.”


It revolves around a young woman who is convinced that an antique mirror is responsible for the death and misfortune that her family suffered. The actress says it is better to go for official adaptation than just lifting ideas without crediting the source.

“We are very proud that we did not steal it. A lot of people lift ideas from a lot stories and try to pass it on as their own,” she said. Huma is also excited for filmmaker Gurinder Chadha’s “Viceroy’s House”, which is yet to release in India.

There are also reports of her being roped in to play superstar Rajinikanth’s love interest in a new project, but she prefers to remain mum on it. The makers will give out a statement soon, she said.

My dream is to be in world cinema: Radhika

Not just Hollywood or the British film industry, actress Radhika Apte says her dream is to be a part of world cinema. “I would love to work in Hollywood. My whole dream is to be in world cinema, so there are thoughts. I hope something comes through,” Radhika said from Mumbai.

Radhika entered the industry with a small role in the 2005 release “Vaalie! Life Ho Toh Aisi!”, and is known for films like “Shor in the City”, “Kabali”, “Phobia”, “Badlapur”, “Manjhi - The Mountain Man” and short film “Ahalya”.

The actress, who hails from Pune and lives in London with her husband Benedict Taylor, said she hopes she gets “work which is aspiring and challenging”.

“I have done commercial films like ‘Badlapur’, ‘Hunterrr’, ‘Manjhi - The Mountain Man’, and now ‘Padman’. There is a thin line between commercial and non-commercial. Work is getting better for women in the country. I hope that I am offered work that is more aspiring and challenging,” she added.

She will next be seen in “Padman”, which tells the true story of a man’s journey to make affordable sanitary napkins. Filmmaker R. Balki has picked the story of real life hero Arunachalam Muruganantham to narrate through “Padman”, with actors Akshay Kumar, Sonam Kapoor and Radhika in the lead roles. The actress says all her focus is on the film, and nothing else.

‘Sachin’ mints Rs84m on the opening day

“Sachin: A Billion Dreams”, a documentary drama on ace Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, registered an opening day collection of Rs84m, according to the makers. The film released on Friday in Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and English. “Sachin: A Billion Dreams creates history as docu-drama. Biggest opening in the genre with Rs84m in India in all languages,” read a statement issued on behalf of the film’s makers.

The movie takes viewers through Tendulkar’s journey in his personal and professional life. It features the master blaster himself as he lets his fans into parts of his life they may not have known yet.

Members of the film and sports fraternity have already given the tale a thumbs up. Responding to the praise coming his way on Twitter, Tendulkar wrote in one post: “For me, it’s always about intention rather than expectation. We gave it our 100 percent. So glad you liked it.”
‘Captain Underpants’ to save planet

AFP

Step aside, Spiderman. Move over, Man of Steel. Cool it, Caped Crusader, because there’s a new superhero in town — and he doesn’t need tights to feel like a tough guy.

Sporting his trademark red cape, enormous tights and literally nothing else, Captain Underpants is about to leap from the pages of Dav Pilkey’s best-selling children’s books into theaters, boasting a cast of comedy superstars.

“I discovered these books about 20 years ago. I happened to be in a bookstore right when the first book was hitting the shelves and I picked up a copy,” director David Soren told a news conference ahead of the June 2 release of “Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie.”

“I looked at it like, ‘Captain Underpants — this is silly,’ and was leafing through the pages and probably read half the book right there in the aisle.”

Captain Underpants may not be as fast as a speeding bullet or as powerful as a locomotive but Pilkey’s unconventional superhero has managed to shift 80 million copies across 12 stories since 1997, delighting children across the world in 20 languages.

The heart and soul of DreamWorks Animation’s 35th release is the friendship between mischievous George Beard and his goofy companion Harold Hutchins, played by Kevin Hart (“Central Intelligence”) and Thomas Middleditch (“The Wolf of Wall Street”).

“The best pals hang out making comic books in their treehouse to escape the drudgery of their prison-like elementary school in small-town Ohio, and one day they hypnotize their principal into thinking he’s the incredibly dimwitted star of their superhero stories.”

“I love the relationship that Thomas and I had with those characters,” said Hart, 37, who has spoken of his tough upbringing with his parents and I had with those artists. Pilkey and Soren both learned to draw by emulating Charles Schulz’s “Peanuts” comic strip and, because they were kindred spirits artistically, the novelist felt able to leave his creation largely in the director’s hands.

“When I first wrote the book, I had imagined it as a live-action movie in my head. But then I realized that nobody wants to see a real-life grown man running around in his underwear. That would look a bit creepy,” says Pilkey.

Ed Helms (“The Hangover”), who has known Hart since their days on the 1990s New York stand-up circuit, starts out as Principal Krupp, a repressed, angry man — with perhaps a kernel of goodness — who hates laughter, singing and George and Harold most of all.

Krupp periodically turns into Captain Underpants, a well-meaning but delusional trainwreck of an alter-ego who does the wrong things for the right reasons, all while bellowing out his nonsensical “Tra-La Laaaa!” catchphrase.

“They’re both super fun and it was a blast to get into both. Principal Krupp was a little harder maybe because he’s more gruff and it was just physically harder on my voice,” said Helms. “But then on the other hand, Captain Underpants is always so loud, always shouting, so it was kind of taxing on my voice but always just a ton of fun.”

The movie’s confident subtitle would suggest a franchise and Helms, 43, said he would love to still be playing the character when he turns 80, although he added that this would depend on the success of “The First Epic Movie.”

“There’s so many Underpantsian adventures for him to have, so many absurd villains for him to conquer,” added Middleditch, 35.

Ben Stiller splits from wife

Actor Ben Stiller and his wife Christine Taylor, whom he married in 2000, have announced that they are splitting.

They announced the separation in a joint statement to Entertainment Tonight on Friday, but did not state the reason for their decision, reported etonline.com. “With tremendous love and respect for each other, and the 18 years we spent together as a couple, we have made the decision to separate,” Stiller and Taylor said.

“Our priority will continue to be raising our children as devoted parents and the closest of friends. We kindly ask that the media respect our privacy at this time,” the statement read further.

The couple had met while filming a never-broadcast TV pilot called “Heat Vision and Jack.” They got married in May 2000 at an oceanfront ceremony in Kauai, Hawaii. The two welcomed daughter Ella Olivia in April 2002 and son Quintin Dempsey in July 2005.

Jolie takes daughter Shiloh on Disneyland tour for birthday

While actor Brad Pitt is busy promoting his Netflix film “War Machine”, his estranged wife Angelina Jolie made sure their daughter Shiloh’s 11th birthday was memorable with a trip to the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim. She turned a year older yesterday, and days before her special day, the little girl was able to enjoy a trip to the Disneyland Resort, reported eonline.com. Shiloh was accompanied by family and friends while exploring the theme park and surrounding attractions since Thursday. Social media users spotted the group enjoying rides like Alice in Wonderland, Roger Rabbit’s Cartoon Spin and Tarzan’s Tree House. They also enjoyed a bit of shopping. “The store clerk was showing her kids the remote control cars that they offer,” an eyewitness told eonline.com, adding that Jolie was in a good mood and was asking the kids if they liked any of the cars.
Britain’s real-life ‘Iron Man’ has high hopes for jet suit

Reuters

The British inventor of an “Iron Man”-style jet suit has lofty hopes that his project, which started as fun experiment, could become a practical tool for industries ranging from entertainment to the military.

Richard Browning, a 38-year-old former commodities trader with little experience of engineering, developed his jet suit with the help of friends over the last 18 months. It is powered by six gas turbine engines which combined generate 800 horse-power.

“We didn’t set out to build an “Iron Man” suit – it’s just accidental,” Browning said, in reference to the highly successful trilogy of super hero films starring Robert Downey Jr.

The suit’s engines are mounted on the pilot’s lower back and on each arm. It powers up using a hand-held throttle. Browning said the suit is capable of carrying a person thousands of feet in the air, and in theory could attain a speed of around 280 miles an hour (450 kph).

For safety reasons, however, Browning hovers just a few feet off the ground.

Browning, who first developed the suit in his garage, describes it as a cross between a jet ski and a Formula One car. He believes it can be adapted to be used in the military, search and rescue and theme parks - or in fact anyone who has the funds to buy one.

Browning showed off his piloting skills at a flight test on Thursday, breaking his record for distance of several hundred meters.

Browning said he has received investment from a venture capitalist, and has also secured interest from entertainment giants and the British and U.S. militaries. If man hours were taken into account, he said the suit would have cost “millions” to develop, and that the hardware alone cost a six-figure sum.

However, he said flight costs are low as around 12 litres of standard diesel is used.

Browning is not the only person to have pursued dreams of jet-powered glory. In Dubai, firefighters have showcased jet boots that allow the wearer to rise high into the air using water pressure, and French inventor Franky Zapata has created a jet-powered hover-board.

The next step in Browning’s project is the Genesis suit which he is developing with the aid of experts and investors, but challenges still remain. Specifically - how to ascend safely from the ground to a height that a parachute could be deployed.

“It’s a real challenge if you have an engine failure at 50-60 feet. You’re going to really do yourself a mischief,” Browning said, adding “we’re working on a whole bunch of technology to address that, and until we do, we keep pretty low.”

AlphaGo retires on top after humbling world No. 1

AFP

The Google-owned computer algorithm AlphaGo is retiring from playing humans in the ancient Chinese game of Go after roundly defeating the world’s top player this week, its developer said yesterday.

AlphaGo defeated brash 19-year-old world number one Ke Jie of China yesterday to sweep a three-game series that was closely watched as a measure of how far artificial intelligence (AI) has come.

AlphaGo last year became the first computer programme to beat an elite player in a full Go match, and its successes have been hailed as groundbreaking due to the game’s complexity. Go has an incomputable number of moves, putting a premium on human-like “intuition” and strategy.

But this week’s contests in the eastern Chinese city of Wuzhen were its last, said DeepMind Technologies, the London-based AI company that developed AlphaGo and which Google acquired in 2014.

In a blog post, DeepMind founder Demis Hassabis said AlphaGo’s developers will turn to “the next set of grand challenges, developing advanced general algorithms that could one day help scientists as they tackle some of our most complex problems”. These could include “finding new cures for diseases, dramatically reducing energy consumption, or inventing revolutionary new materials,” he said.

“If AI systems prove they are able to unearth significant new knowledge and strategies in these domains too, the breakthroughs could be truly remarkable. We can’t wait to see what comes next.”

Go involves two players laying black and white stones on a grid, trying to capture the most territory. Invented nearly 3,000 years ago in China, it is played worldwide but most popular in East Asia.

Top players have been mesmerised by AlphaGo, describing its play as groundbreaking and opening up new ways of approaching the game.

Likewise, AlphaGo’s feats have fuelled visions of AI that can not only perform pre-programmed tasks, but help humanity look at complex scientific, technical and medical mysteries in new ways.

AlphaGo’s “thinking” is powered by millions of connections similar to neurons in the brain. It is partly self-taught, having played millions of games against itself.

This week’s matches received considerable build-up in China, where it is popular. But Chinese authorities abruptly banned live coverage before the first match on Tuesday, prompting anger and scorn on Chinese social media.
BABY BLUES

A Heffley family road trip to attend Meemaw’s 90th birthday party goes hilariously off course thanks to Greg’s newest scheme to get to a video gaming convention.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

Note: Programme is subject to change without prior notice.
ACROSS
1 Outlet letters
5 Old Testament book
9 Knock
12 Stead
13 “Downton Abbey” countess
14 “Veep” actor
15 Attorney’s alma mater
17 — Dhabi
18 Mon. follower
19 Top Tear up
20 Tear up
24 Elevator name
25 Get wind of
26 DNA source
30 “Entourage” agent
31 Shoe parts
33 Conk out
33 Hammer or wrench

DOWN
1 100% bigwig
2 200%
3 300%
4 400%
5 500%
6 600%
7 700%
8 800%
9 900%
10 100%
11 110%
12 120%
13 130%
14 140%
15 150%
16 160%
17 170%
18 180%
19 190%
20 200%
21 210%
22 220%
23 230%
24 240%
25 250%
26 260%
27 270%
28 280%
29 290%
30 300%
31 310%
32 320%
33 330%
34 340%
35 350%
36 360%
37 370%
38 380%
39 390%
40 400%
41 410%
42 420%
43 430%
44 440%
45 450%
46 460%
47 470%
48 480%
49 490%
50 500%
51 510%
52 520%
53 530%

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday’s answer: 5-30

Yesterday’s answer: 5-30
safety begins here...

OPITO COURSES
- T BOSIET (TROPICAL BASIC OFFSHORE SAFETY INDUCTION & EMERGENCY TRAINING)
- T FOET (TROPICAL FURTHER OFFSHORE EMERGENCY TRAINING)
- T HUET (TROPICAL HELICOPTER UNDERWATER ESCAPE TRAINING)
- BASIC HYDROGEN SULPHIDE (H2S)

OFFSHORE COURSE
- HYDROGEN SULPHIDE & BREATHING APPARATUS (H2S / BA) (QP, OXY APPROVAL)
- HUET & SEA SURVIVAL
- TRAVEL SAFETY BY BOAT

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