Vikram Bhatt
an ocean full of knowledge: Zareen

Tasmania’s Three Capes trail is the stuff of a hiker’s dream with its picturesque views.

Weight-loss surgery may halve risk of death in adults

THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2018

A HIKERS’ PARADISE

P 4-5
Qatar's Favourite...
India's Treasure

Imported & Distributed By:
Al Majed Marketing and Distribution
Ph. No. +974-44478478

Available at all Supermarkets & Hypermarkets
Birla Public School hosts Annual Sports Events

Students of Birla Public School had their school sporting activities of the academic year 2017-18 come to an end with three campuses hosting the sporting and athletic events at three different venues.

While Primary 1 (grades 1 and 2) and Primary 2 (grades 3 and 4) had the events conducted on their own campuses, the main school from grades 5 to 12 held the athletic and sporting events at Al Sadd Stadium.

About 2000 students tested their mettle in various categories and events such as running race, obstacle race, long jump, relay race, shot put and a variety of fun games. Primary Annex I and II mesmerised the audience with their energetic performances.

The Drills on wheels, wing blasters, sprinkling glimmers, dazzling stars and dancing toes performed by the students remained as the main attraction of the mega event.

The winners were awarded medals and certificates.

The annual sports celebrations will be concluded in the main campus with sporting activities for both teaching and non-teaching staff on the Qatar National Sports Day, in the second week of February.

Cloud Telematics Soccerboyz Premier League 2018

SoccerBoys Qatar, a fraternity of football enthusiasts, is organising the first season of ‘Cloud Telematics Soccerboyz Premier League 2018’ on January 19 at the Doha Rugby Club football ground.

The event is planned to be a celebration of the love of football and a fun outing for families with food stalls, selfie booths and various other activities. The team jerseys for the participating teams were unveiled by Anwar, Managing Director of tournament sponsor Cloud Telematics by handing them over to SoccerBoyz Chairman, Hashin.

Qatar Steel Electrical & Instrumentation hold farewell party

Qatar Steel Electrical & Instrumentation Engineers and Supervisors hosted a farewell for their colleague, Sayed Abdul Wahab (centre). Mahmoud Shama (centre left), Section Head is presenting a memento to Sayed.
Hilly, forested and wet Tasmania is regarded by many Australians as their most picturesque state, a kind of Vermont of the Southern Hemisphere. It is also the most economically depressed, which is one of the reasons the Tasmanian government has upended a great walking tradition - that natural beauty owned by the state should be open to all, at minimal cost, in the spirit of democracy.

Less than two years ago, the state’s Parks and Wildlife Service finished construction of the Three Capes, a 29-mile track that starts at one of Australia’s most important historical sites and takes in some stunning coastline.

The project includes custom-designed accommodations, a spectacular boat ride and miles of boardwalks smooth enough to skateboard on. Visitors can borrow books, binoculars and even yoga mats.

Such luxuries aren’t cheap. There is an entrance fee of nearly $400 to access a track which used to cost only blisters, sunburn and time. The venture has been a huge success. Almost 10,000 people paid to take the walk in its first year, funds that the state badly needs.

Open for less than two years, the track is already developing a reputation among Australians for fostering a kind of exclusive camaraderie. Tasmanian authorities haven’t started marketing it overseas, and only 2 percent of walkers are foreigners, a park ranger told us.

As a consequence of the hefty charge, the walk is full of professionals and young families in fashionable hiking apparel, toting the latest in sleeping-bag technology. There are few, if any, hardcore hikers to be seen.

The trail begins at Port Arthur, a village on the Tasman Peninsula, which juts out into the Southern Ocean from Tasmania proper. A tragic site in both history and modernity for Australians, Port Arthur was a brutal penal colony from 1833 to 1877. The open-air prison, which now is an immaculately maintained national heritage site, is one of Tasmania’s top tourist destinations. In 1996, a young, mentally disturbed man from the city of Hobart committed Australia’s worst modern mass shooting at the site, triggering a period of national introspection.

The tragic backdrop provides a moody start to the Three Capes Track, which begins on water, rather than land. Only 48 people are allowed in each day, and all get started with a one-hour speedboat trip around the ocean inlet that used to be the penal settlement’s main route to civilization.

The ride was interesting and exhilarating. The crew provided facts about the geology, geography and sealife of the spectacular cliffs that dominate the area, then spun the boat so hard that seawater sprayed over us. We were deposited on a small, sheltered beach, where we began our walk through rain forests, woods, grassland, heaths and along sea cliffs – which we were told were some of the highest south of the equator - that plunged 1,000 feet into the ocean.

Even though there are 1,500-foot changes in elevation over several days, the Three Capes walk is easy enough for preteens and reasonably fit people in their 60s. The path is mostly composed of packed dirt and gravel or wooden boardwalks. Wooden benches overlook interesting views, including a rock ledge popular with seals at Cape Pillar.
Animals that make appearances along the walk include eagles, seals, dolphins, whales - and deadly snakes, although no one has died of Tasmanian snake bite in decades.

Tim Farrell, a 25-year-old Australian public servant I met on the trail, reasoned that the entrance charge has made the area more accessible by generating the funding needed to turn a sometimes-strenuous rocky trek into an easy-to-moderate walk. No roads extend into the area, which means that the materials for the track and huts had to be delivered by helicopter and assembled by workers living in temporary camps.

“It’s a necessary evil to allow so many people to explore the area,” Farrell told me one night in a heated, pristine dining hut while families sat around us playing Scrabble. “I like not being totally spent by the end of the day.”

Tim and seven friends had even ordered T-shirts for the walk with their own slogan: “Chafing the Dream.”

Each night, we stayed in a different cabin. Made from Tasmanian ash, they were in immaculate condition. Each room has bunk beds. There are separate kitchen and dining areas, all with tap water, sinks, pots and pans, kitchen utensils and cleaning supplies. One site boasts a hot shower. There are mobile-phone chargers, too.

Yoga mats and lounge chairs can be used on the decks surrounding the cabins. Each site has a small library of Australian fiction and reference books, including two by Man Booker Prize-winning Tasmanian author Richard Flanagan. The collection is identical at each hut, to allow walkers to leave a book behind and pick it up again at the next location.

Every walker is assigned a hut from the start, which means there is no need to rush ahead to get the best room. (One night, on a bathroom run, I became disoriented and entered the wrong hut. I reached out to what I thought was my empty sleeping bag, which suddenly moved. I got out quickly.)

Each night, a resident ranger briefed us on the next day’s weather, local history and wildlife, and answered questions. They explained that one of their jobs was picking up excrement left behind by hikers who ignored requests to go well into the bush for bathroom stops.

The walk includes two capes with spectacular views: Cape Pillar and Cape Hauy. At Cape Pillar, it is possible to walk up a steep stone staircase and stand on a rock platform about the size of a child’s bed.

One night, I asked a ranger, Daniel, where the missing cape was on the Three Capes track. The question was, admittedly, a little cheeky. “We get asked that question a lot,” the ranger said, sounding a little sheepish. “The third cape is part of the national park.”

Cape Raoul is located on the other side of Port Arthur and is too far away to be incorporated into the walk. Presumably, the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service felt that Two Capes didn’t sound impressive enough.

A private company is building its own cabins and plans to start operating a rival walk in September. For about $2,400, it will provide two guides, beds with linens and three-course dinners. The cheaper state-run walk doesn’t include food - although, it does provide toilet paper.

The Tasmanian government encourages the competition, which it hopes will eventually attract many of the foreign tourists who flock to the mainland’s sunnier beaches. The consequence could be a more glamorous crowd exploring the area.
Oldman was waiting all his life to play Churchill’s role

Film: “The Darkest Hour”; Director: Joe Wright; Cast: Gary Oldman, Kristin Scott Thomas and Lily James; Rating: “1/2

The true measure of a masterly performance is in its proclivity to hide the craft that goes behind the process of creating a character. In playing the blustering, bullying, opinionated, pigheaded, unorthodox, raunchy but finally effective British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who took on the might of Hitler, Oldman pulls out all the stops. He isn’t afraid to let his impressive skills shine through the astonishing prosthetics. It is a performance designed to win awards.

“The Darkest Hour” revels in shadowy whispers and silhouetted innuendos. The parliamentary sessions shown in the film never rise above the level of staged drama and the famous Churchill speeches delivered through swigs of the trademark cigar, do not transcend the mood of doctored dogma. Interestingly, cinematographer Bruno Delbonnel had earlier collaborated with director Tim Burton on “Dark Shadows”.

Nonetheless, the lengthy film has passages of excellence popping up like a clown at a very dull birthday party. One noteworthy portion of the film has Churchill jumping out of his car at a traffic signal and taking a ride on the subway train with British working class passengers.

As played by Oldman, Churchill is a bit of a defiant brat. His limited understanding of British politics is perpetually overridden by his determination to do what is right for the country. While the sequences where he brokers peacetime preconditions with his cabinet members are done with a self-important clumsiness, Churchill’s personal relationships with the King (Ben Mendelsohn), with his wife (Kristin Scott Thomas) and especially with his personal secretary (Lily James) come across with rigorous sinewiness.

In a moment of unguarded emotional honesty, the secretary tells Churchill that the war has taken away her brother. When she catches the Prime Minister staring at her, he tells her with disarming disingenuousness, “I just want to look at you.” “The Darkest Hour” never quite expels the feeling of being a vehicle for Oldman’s virtuosity. Yes, he was born to play Churchill. But was Churchill born so that an actor as skilled as Oldman could one day play him?

Zareen Khan a great fan of Vikram Bhatt

Actress Zareen Khan (pictured) has praised her “1921” director Vikram Bhatt, saying he is an ocean-full of knowledge.

On her experience of working with Bhatt, Zareen told IANS on phone from Mumbai: “It was great. I did not know him on a personal level before this movie. For me, he was a great director, and I have always been a fan of his work.”

Zareen, who portrays a ghost-whisperer named Rose in the film, added: “I always wanted to work with him and finally got a chance. I am happy I got this chance because apart from being a part of an amazing film, the experience was very cherishable and memorable.

Shraddha ‘nervous & excited’ to shoot ‘Stree’

Actress Shraddha Kapoor (pictured), who began the shoot of horror-comedy “Stree”, was a bag of mixed emotions.

“First day of shoot for me on ‘Stree’. Wish me luck everyone! Excited, nervous and feeling very thankful,” Shraddha tweeted.

The film, directed by Amar Kaushik, also stars Rajkummar Rao. It is being backed by Maddock Films, jointly produced by Dinesh Vijan and Raj and DK.

Other details of the film are still under wraps.

This will be the first time Rajkummar and Shraddha will be seen sharing screen space together.
Best ways to decorate your space with plants

IANS

Plants look just adorable and keeping them indoors not only brings life to the entire place but they also improve the air quality by reducing toxins existing in the atmosphere so make sure you are decorating your abode with plants nicely.

Myna Batavia, Founder of Green Carpet, and Preeti Narula, Founder of Living Balconies, list down ways to decorate your house with plants.

Your living room is the best place to be decorated with a lot of greenery. Potted plants are the best choice to be kept in the living room. These pots are available in different sizes and colours to suit your requirements. Ensure that they are visible over the furniture kept in the living room.

The dining area should be graced with plants such as money plants, bamboo plants, and ferns in glass bottles and vases.

Embellish your bedroom with indoor plants such as Sansevieria which increases oxygen levels at night to have a sound sleep. You can keep small potted plants on bedside tables on either side of the bed.

In the open space or balconies, install a shelf or hanging flower boxes along the railings to make it look attractive from outside. Also planter in sync with wall colours & embellishing the place with animal artefacts will increase the beauty quotient of these areas.

Also just to fill in the empty area of your apartment, you can try keeping big plants in colourful pots. Decorate your living space with indoor plants as they make any area feel bright, lively, calm and beautiful.

Place your plants on shelves or wooden pallets to create a mini indoor garden.

One can also hang indoor plants like Chinese money plant, Staghorn ferns, snake plants and weeping fig in the balcony.

Use your old crockery set for planting to decorate your kitchen, living room, and even bathrooms.

Make your own terrarium with succulents to create a decorative piece in your kid’s room or dining table.

In the open space or balconies, install a shelf or hanging flower boxes along the railings to make it look attractive from outside. Also planter in sync with wall colours & embellishing the place with animal artefacts will increase the beauty quotient of these areas.
Weight loss surgery may halve risk of death in adults

Obese middle-aged men and women who undergo bariatric surgery for weight loss may have reduced their risk of death by 50 percent than those tackling their weight through diet and behaviour alone, finds a study.

Weight loss is achieved by reducing the size of the stomach with a gastric band or through removal of a portion of the stomach (sleeve gastrectomy or biliopancreatic diversion with duodenal switch) or by resecting and re-routing the small intestine to a small stomach pouch or (Roux-en-Y gastric bypass(RYGB)surgery).

The rate of death in individuals who did not have surgery was 2.3 percent compared to 1.3 percent in those who had surgery, the findings showed.

“We showed that a long-term effect of bariatric surgery is a longer life for obese patients. They had half the death rate, which is significant,” said Philip Greenland, Professor at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

For the study, published in the journal JAMA, the team compared 8,385 people who had the surgery (65 per cent women and 35 per cent men) to 25,155 who did not, with an average age of 46 with a body mass index (BMI) of 40.

Apart from weight loss, the surgery also lowered rates of new diabetes diagnoses, improved blood pressure, and a greater proportion of diabetic individuals going into remission.

“Bariatric surgery is an increasingly frequent treatment for severe obesity,” added Laura Rasmussen-Torvik, Assistant Professor at the varsity.

“Bariatric surgery is an increasingly frequent treatment for severe obesity,” added Laura Rasmussen-Torvik, Assistant Professor at the varsity.

However, there are various concerns about complications such as malabsorption of nutrients including vitamin deficiency, anemia and protein deficiency.

Previous study, published in Bariatric Surgical Practice and Patient Care, showed that men who underwent RYGB surgery reported elevated levels of the estrogen hormone estradiol and deficiency in vitamin D, factors which could negatively impact semen and fertility.

Eating high-salt diet may lead to dementia

Love to eat crispy roasted nuts and potato wafers that are high in salt? Beware, besides harming your heart, it may also harm your brain and lead to dementia, researchers have warned.

In mice, the high-salt diet reduced the resting cerebral blood flow by 28 percent in the cortex and 25 percent in the hippocampus—brain regions involved in learning and memory.

This impairment in the blood flow to the brain was caused by a decrease in the production of nitric oxide—a gas generated by endothelial cells —, the findings showed.

“We discovered that mice fed a high-salt diet developed dementia even when blood pressure did not rise,” said Costantino Iadecola, Professor at the Weill Cornell Medicine in New York.

“This was surprising since, in humans, the deleterious effects of salt on cognition were attributed to hypertension,” Iadecola added.

In the study, published in Nature Neuroscience, the mice were given food containing 4 percent or 8 percent salt, representing an 8-to 16-fold increase—comparable to the high end of human salt consumption.

Rodents that only ate the high-salt diet developed dementia, and performed significantly worse on an object recognition test, a maze test and nest.

Further, as a result of the high salt intake, the mice’s white blood cells produced more interleukin 17 (IL-17) — a protein known to regulates immune and inflammatory responses, and reduce nitric oxide in endothelial cells.

However, when the researchers treated the mice with a drug called ROCK inhibitor Y27632, it reduced the levels of IL-17 and reduced the production of nitric oxide.

The drug also improved the behavioural and cognitive functions in mice, Iadecola said.

“The IL-17–ROCK pathway is an exciting target for future research in the causes of cognitive impairment. It appears to counteract the cerebrovascular and cognitive effects of a high-salt diet,” explained Giuseppe Faraco, Assistant Professor at the varsity. The results illuminate a potential future target for countering harmful effects to the brain caused by excess salt consumption.
GIFT OF GOD, DELIVERED SAFE AND SECURE

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
At Naseem Al Rabeeh Medical Centre.
Offers you best pregnancy care.

Dr. Zeba Iqbal MBBS, MD
SCH Lic No 5807
Dr. Preethi Balan MBBS, DNB
SCH Lic No 5553
Dr. I.N. Bindu MBBS, DGO, MD
SCH Lic No 5882

Working Hours: 7.00 am to 12.00 Midnight (Saturday to Thursday)

C Ring Road, Opp Gulf Times, Doha - Qatar
Tel: +974 44652121/44655151, Fax: +974 44654490
For decades, vegetarians have looked to global cuisines for inspiration. The pioneer was Anna Thomas, author of “The Vegetarian Epicure,” a 1972 bestseller. As Jonathan Kauffman writes in his captivating new book, “Hippie Food,” at a time when much vegetarian food was brown-on-brown, Thomas “pored over Italian and Middle Eastern cookbooks, in which vegetables were integrated in ways meat-and-potato Americans never imagined.” For the book’s sequel, she traveled widely and wrote firsthand about dishes from throughout Europe, the Middle East, Mexico and more.

Thomas’s influence extended not just to virtually every vegetarian restaurant of the time, but to the spate of vegetarian cookbooks that followed. “For a short period, vegetarians were the culinary avant-garde, evidence that Americans - particularly white Americans - were emerging from an era of dominant-culture assimilation into a multicultural one,” Kauffman writes. I thought about Kauffman’s take, and Thomas’s influence, when I paged through yet another book, Rebecca Seal’s “Lisbon: Recipes From the Heart of Portugal,” looking for ideas for something different to satisfy me this cold winter. I hit on a recipe for Watercress Soup, a Portuguese staple that adds the green to a simple base of pureed potato, carrot and sometimes turnip.

I’ve never been to Portugal, but Seal’s prose and recipes took me there, and I was thrilled to read that in addition to the chorizo pâté and the salt cod croquettes, the pork with clams and the chicken pies, she found a Portuguese love for broad beans, pumpkin, chickpeas - and this traditional soup. She writes that some families add small pasta or barley to make it even heartier, but I wanted to keep it as simple as possible. Simple it is: You cook the aromatics and roots in broth, puree, and fold in the chopped watercress. The result is silky and mild, with little bursts of peppery flavor from the greens.

This simple but lively soup can get enriched with a little butter, but to make it vegan you can omit it, or use olive oil instead. Cover with crusty bread. 4 to 6 servings (makes about 8 cups), Healthy

**Ingredients**
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 yellow or white onion, chopped
- One 14-ounce potato, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 2 medium carrots, scrubbed well and cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 5 1/2 cups no-salt-added vegetable broth, heated
- 1 teaspoon sea salt, or more as needed
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, or more as needed
- 5 ounces fresh watercress
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter (optional; may substitute extra-virgin olive oil)

**Steps**
1. Pour the oil into a large saucepan over medium heat. Once the oil shimmers, add the onion, potato and carrots. Cook, stirring often, until the onion starts to soften, 5 minutes. Add the crushed garlic and cook, stirring, for 1 minute.
2. Add the hot broth, salt and pepper. Once the liquid starts to bubble, reduce the heat to medium-low, cover and cook until the vegetables are tender, 30 minutes.
3. While the soup is cooking, rinse the watercress and remove any large or tough stems. Reserve 4 to 6 whole sprigs to garnish the soup, then coarsely chop the rest of the watercress.
4. Once the soup vegetables are tender, remove the saucepan from the heat. Use an immersion (hand-held/stick) blender to puree the soup until smooth. (Alternatively, you can use a jug blender, working in batches if necessary to avoid filling more than halfway, to prevent splatters.) Add the butter, if using, stirring until it has melted. Taste, and add more salt and/or pepper, as needed.
5. Return the soup to medium heat and bring to a very gentle bubble, then add the chopped watercress. Cook just until the watercress wilts, a minute or two, then divide among serving bowls, garnishing each with a reserved sprig of watercress. Serve hot.

**Nutrition:** Per serving (based on 6, using butter): 160 calories, 2 g protein, 21 g carbohydrates, 9 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 10 mg cholesterol, 410 mg sodium, 1 g dietary fiber, 6 g sugar.
What the Victorians learned by looking at rocks

‘Reading the Rocks’ is filled with interesting characters: The surveyor William Smith, who created the world’s first nationwide geologic map, was protected from pillaging highwaymen by a guard with a blunderbuss.

In 1650, Archbishop James Ussher of Armagh counted the Bible’s begats and determined that God created the Earth on the evening preceding October 23, 4004 BC. The idea of a young Earth was accepted by clergy and academics and was often printed in the margins of Bibles.

But in 1830, Charles Lyell, a lawyer with a passion for rocks, published “Principles of Geology,” which argued that the Earth’s geologic changes took place over millions of years. An elegantly written book, it was a best-seller on par with the works of Jane Austen and Lord Byron. It went through multiple editions. A young Charles Darwin brought a copy of it with him on the HMS Beagle and read it before he reached his first destination. The idea of an ancient Earth would have a profound impact on the young man’s thinking. And the world:

“It stirred him to wonder about the changes in life forms over time,” Brenda Maddox writes in “Reading the Rocks,” her lovely, spry history of Victorian geologists. “He shifted his attention from rocks and fossils to man – a direction that would lead him to write ‘On the Origin of Species.’”

Maddox points out that such was Darwin’s passion for geology that his notebook contained more jottings about rocks than creatures.

Victorian scientists found evidence of an Ice Age and determined that the world was once dominated by monstrous reptiles, long before man traipsed on his two legs.

Rock and fossil hunting was a popular pastime among the 19th-century British public. One could often find a top-hatted gentleman and his wife exploring the shores of Dover or the Scottish highlands. There wasn’t much barrier for entry, either. All one needed, a Victorian writer noted, was “a quick eye, a good judgment, a clear notion of what had already been accomplished, and a stout pair of legs.”

“Reading the Rocks” is filled with interesting characters: The surveyor William Smith, who created the world’s first nationwide geologic map, was protected from pillaging highwaymen by a guard with a blunderbuss. The meetings of the Geological Society were so raucous they resembled the noisy proceedings of Charles Dickens’ Pickwick Club. Two scientists had a dispute so intense over the division of two geologic ages that they didn’t talk to each other for 20 years.

The fossil collector Mary Anning would scour the coastline near her home in Lyme Regis “in her long skirt, shawl, bonnet and basket.” Her discoveries include the first fossil ichthyosaur, a marine reptile; the first two complete fossil reptiles known as plesiosaurs; and the first pterosaur, a flying reptile, found outside Germany. She was the greatest fossil hunter ever known.

Later generations of scientists would uncover continental drift and radiometric dating, and would begin to understand the cataclysm that exterminated the dinosaurs, but the Victorians launched the first great broadside against young-Earth creationism. Their discoveries, which culminated in Darwin’s theory of evolution by natural selection, “led them,” Maddox notes, “to a bigger truth than they had been looking for.”

Brenda Maddox writes in “Reading the Rocks,” her lovely, spry history of Victorian geologists. “He shifted his attention from rocks and fossils to man - a direction that would lead him to write ‘On the Origin of Species.’”
Structuring of universe detected via quasars for first time

IANS

Researchers have recently managed to detect the structuring of the universe via quasars for the first time, the National Astronomical Observations (NAOC) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences announced.

The work was conducted by the international group of eBOSS, the biggest ongoing spectroscopic survey in the world, which discovered redshift distortions signals when observing the spatial distribution of quasars that are 6.8 to 10.5 billion light years from earth.

Redshift distortion refers to a special three-dimensional cluster mode formed by stars under the effect of gravitational potential, and is considered one of the most important probes in researching gravitation on the cosmological level due to its direct correlation with gravitation.

The signals discovered this time were generated during the time when the universe was only one third or half the size of today, according to a report published by the eBOSS group on the finding.

Redshift distortion refers to a special three-dimensional cluster mode formed by stars under the effect of gravitational potential, & is considered one of the most important probes in researching gravitation on the cosmological level due to its direct correlation with gravitation.

The discovery is significant for future research in cutting-edge cosmological subjects such as dark energy and the essence of gravitation.

Launched in 2014, eBOSS has attracted research institutes from a number of countries, including the NAOC.

China to build deep-space lab in Luxembourg

A leading Chinese science-technology institution announced that it was going to establish a deep-space lab in Luxembourg.

The lab will focus on the coordinated design and analysis of deep-space probes, as well as the development of key technologies in exploring and utilising space resources in the solar system, according to a press release from the National Space Science Centre (NSSC) with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, reported Xinhua. A memorandum of the cooperation was signed by the NSSC and the Luxembourg Ministry of the Economy. The memorandum also made arrangements on the operation of the lab and intellectual property rights. Luxembourg launched a government initiative in 2016 to support the utilisation of space resources.

China launches research ship

A Chinese university has launched a new deep ocean scientific research ship in Shanghai. The Ocean University said that Dongfanghong Number-3 ship is 103-metre-long and 18-metre-wide with a weight of 5,800 tonnes. It has a maximum speed of 15 knots, Xinhua news agency reported.

The vessel will be put into service by the end of the year, said the university, adding that “Dongfanghong Number-3 would work with other scientific ships to conduct surveys and analyses of air, water and the seabed”.

China launches research ship
OPPO launches A83 with AI beauty

Chines smartphone maker OPPO launched the A83 smartphone that claims to deliver natural selfie experience to young consumers through its ‘AI Beauty Recognition Technology’.

The device with 4GB RAM and 3,180mAh battery is priced at $219. OPPO A83 will be available on Amazon and Flipkart as well as offline stores from January 20 in black and gold colours.

“We have received an immense response for our Selfie Expert ‘A’ Series and ‘F’ Series. With A83, we wish to bring an affordable selfie camera with advance features such as the HD + Full Screen Display and AI Beauty Technology,” Will Yang, Brand Director, OPPO India, said in a statement. OPPO A83 comes with 8MP front lens and 13 MP rear camera.

The ‘AI Beauty Recognition Technology’ employs a Cloud database from premium suppliers that have sufficient power to support diversified facial recognition in smart terminals. The AI can learn automatically once it has amassed enough imaging data.

The technology classifies, recognises and beautifies the portrait in three aspects: skin colour and texture, gender and age by capturing captures more than 200 facial points when a photo is taken.

The AI will optimise the scene to integrate the portrait and background.

A83 has a 5-inch display with 18:9 aspect ratio and 1440 X 720 resolution. It is also equipped with face unlock.

Moreover, users could “train” the device to recognise which signals should apply to intended app behaviour.

Algorithms would learn the brain behaviour and use neuron fluctuation to draw or move objects at the user’s will based on detected patterns.

Some operative gestures include intention to swipe, finger pinch, mouse clicks and button pushes. Once the user thinks or focuses on these movements, the data is communicated to the computer system that runs the app.

“Neurological user intention data corresponding to a physical gesture is generated when a user thinks about and/or focuses on a movement, in the same way an amputee might think about moving an amputated limb,” according to the patent, as quoted by theamerican genius.com.

While any kind of app can be used, the patent mentions video games, augmented and virtual reality simulators, three-dimensional modelling software, web browsers and even word processors.

Apps controlling mechanical tools and machinery like robotic arms could also be used with Microsoft’s new patent technology.

The patent could also one day open up the possibility for less dystopic things like controlling prosthetic limbs and giving differently abled individuals the ability to control apps and devices even if they are not able to physically move.

In 2017, Facebook claimed to be developing a brain computer interface.

### Microsoft patents ‘mind control’ brain interface

Technology giant Microsoft has been granted a patent for a brain control device that can give users mind control powers to operate apps with just their brains, without any movement.

Using sensor-equipped head bands, the device could ideally interpret neurological data to have users open and use apps with thoughts instead of gestures, the americangenius.com reported.

These sensors would send neurological signals like the electroencephalogram (EEG) readings, which the device can decode to launch and operate compatible apps.

Resolving its long standing issues with Tencent, the owner of WeChat, Apple has now allowed the social platform to send tips over the popular messaging app.

According to a report in The Wall Street Journal, WeChat creator Allen Zhang revealed Apple and China-based multinational conglomerate Tencent have reached an agreement over tips. WeChat disabled its built-in tipping system last year after Apple asked the creators of popular messaging apps in China to disable ‘tip’ functions to comply with App Store rules.

Tips are a popular way for Chinese social network users to compensate content creators and Apple wanted a 30 percent cut of that revenue. It is not clear if Apple will still take a small cut on tips.
The reopening of a long forgotten race brings together a family, old-time friends and an entire colony of the downtrodden to raise a new champion.

Note: Programme is subject to change without prior notice.
Conceptis Sudoku: Conceptis Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9 x 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 x 3 box contains the same number only once.

ACROSS 1 Lustrous black 12 In the style of 13 Hum-dinger 14 Listening device 15 Roman 16 Wry Bombbeck 17 Nick and Nora’s pet 18 Pavlova’s shoe 21 Hosp. hookups 22 Connections 23 Corn 26 “Bobby” subj. 27 Pear-shaped fruit 30 Verdi opera 31 Tofu source 32 Custard recipe 33 Expert 34 Bit of butter 35 Batter’s dry spell
DOWN 1 Doorframe piece 2 First lady of scat 3 Follow 4 Record holder? 5 Smarts 6 Charitable donation 7 Meet the requirements 8 Trades 9 Trace of Q.E.D. 10 Museo display 11 Calendar quota 12 Dick 13 Curly-tailed dog 14 Pen filler 15 Fake name 16 Luke’s mentor 17 Soon, poetically 18 German refusal 19 Give a dam 20 Ashen 21 Way out 22 Country’s McEntire
Yesterday’s answer 1-13

Yesterday’s answer 13:05

DOHA TODAY
BRAIN TEASERS

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Lustrous black
2 Cager
3 O’Neal for short
4 Cast
5 Vaccilate
6 In the style of
7 Hum-dinger
8 Listening device
9 roman
10 Wry
11 Nick and Nora’s pet
12 Pavlova’s shoe
13 Corn
26 “Bobby” subj.
27 Pear-shaped fruit
30 Verdi opera
33 Expert
34 Bit of butter
35 Batter’s dry spell

DOWN
1 Doorframe piece
2 First lady of scat
3 Follow
4 Record holder?
5 Smarts
6 Charitable donation
7 Meet the requirements
8 Trades
9 Trace of Q.E.D.
10 Museo display
11 Calendar quota
12 Dick
13 Curly-tailed dog
14 Pen filler
15 Fake name
16 Luke’s mentor
17 Soon, poetically
18 German refusal
19 Give a dam
20 Ashen
21 Way out
22 Country’s McEntire

Yesterdays answer 1-13

CRYPTOQUIP

VIJYHJ PDHY QOHC ISHJQHNNZ
DCPHHDJ GLJYNEHG KJHH
SHUQDQRXLQNDTDPQ PHHJHN
IV IIJZ EHDTDCRGC

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: BUILDING ON SOMEBODY’S PROPERTY THAT IS LEANING TOWARDS DANGEROUSLY: REAL ESTATE LISTING

Today’s Cryptoquip clue: P equals T

ALL IN THE MIND

ACACIA, ASPIDISTRA, ASTER, AZALEA, BEGONIA, BLUEBELL, BOUGAINVILLEA, BUTTERCUP, CARNATION, CHRYSANTHEMUM, CYCLAMEN, DAFFODIL, DAHLIA, DAISY, EDELWEISS, FOXTAIL, FUCHSIA, GARDENIA, GERANIUM, HIBISCUS, HYACINTH, HYDRANGEA, IRIS, JASMINE, LILAC, LILY, LOBELIA, LUPIN, MARIGOLD, NASTURTIUM, ORCHID, PEONY, PRIMROSE, PRIMULA, ROSE, TULIP, VERBENA, VIOLET, WISTERIA.
OFFSHORE SURVIVAL TRAINING

Offshore survival training is essential for anyone working offshore in the oil & gas industry - both for those individuals who are already working offshore and for anyone who is looking to work offshore for the first time.

1. **H2S & Breathing Apparatus Training (QP & OPITO Approved)**
2. **Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) + Sea Survival**
3. **Tropical Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (THUET) (OPITO Approved)**
4. **Tropical Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training (TBOSIET) (OPITO Approved)**
5. **Tropical Further Offshore Emergency Training (TFOET) (OPITO Approved)**

Enertech Qatar is approved by QP & OPITO to deliver the programs.