



Important

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Powerful, unchecked clan surges in Gaza

Saudis claim success in Al Qaeda rehabilitation

By Ian Black in Riyadh

The vast influence of the Dagmaoush family is a reflection of the enduring instability in Gaza. Report by DION NISSENBAUM and AHMED ABU HAMDAN



Tal'at Dagmaoush, a leader of the influential Gaza Strip family, addresses reporters in Gaza City on Monday (above) to deny that his family has played any role in the kidnaping of BBC correspondent Alan Johnston (inset).

ALONG the southern stretches of Gaza City, in a stronghold surrounded by concrete barriers and patrolled by armed guards, a powerful clan has evolved into a force that the Palestinian Authority is afraid to confront.

Palestinian officials suspect Mumtaz Dagmaoush and his extended family of 15,000 of involvement in every major recent crisis in Gaza, from the capture of an Israeli soldier last summer to the unresolved kidnaping of a BBC correspondent last month.

Israel's security establishment sees the clan as something even more dangerous: a rogue organisation that could become a conduit for international terrorism.

The unchecked Dagmaoush influence is a reflection not only of an enduring instability in Gaza, but also of early shortcomings in the new Palestinian coalition government, which has been unwilling or unable to handle this challenge to its power.

"If there is a way to describe Gaza, it is Mumtaz Dagmaoush," said a veteran Israeli security official who has tracked the rise of the family. He spoke about the issue on the condition of anonymity because of the classified nature of his work.

"It's clan, it's business, it's terrorism, it's international terrorism and it's a place where everybody has lost hope that the government is going to do anything about it."

Members of the new Palestinian Authority recognise the threat. But they're reluctant to challenge the family's power, which often trumps all other Palestinian loyalties.

"If I try to arrest someone I will end up in a confrontation with the whole society," said Ali Sartawi, a member of the Hamas and the Palestinian Authority's new justice minister.

"An agreement with the families is very important for establishing law and order. They have to be partners. Confrontation is not an option."

The Dagmaoush family has tried to stay out of the public eye. But with pressure on the clan increasing, one of its leaders went public last week to deny any role in the kidnappings.

Tal'at Dagmaoush told McClatchy Newspapers that his family is willing to co-operate with the new government only if it demonstrates that it's willing to crack down on all crime in Gaza, not just on one group.

"At this point my allegiance is to my clan," Tal'at Dagmaoush said in a telephone interview from Gaza City.

"My allegiance is to my family, but I look forward to co-operating with a strong government."

He scoffed at the notion that his family has links to global terrorist networks. "If the connection was real, do you think we would still be alive?" he said. "Israel would have acted against us."

The Dagmaoush family's home turf is a large Gaza City neighbourhood cordoned off by huge concrete barriers, charred cars and burning dumpsters. Guards keep watch on who comes and goes down a narrow street that serves as the main entry into the neighbourhood.

At night, gunfire into the air warns off possible intruders from the stronghold, which is home to more than 3,000 men among its 15,000 residents.

From here, Mumtaz Dagmaoush built his power base largely by aligning himself with Hamas, which swept elections 16 months ago, though the groups have since had a falling-out.

Over the past two years, according to the Israeli army, Dagmaoush and his allies have been involved in a series of provocative attacks, including the September 2005 assassination of a revived Palestinian intelligence chief and a thwarted assault last April on the main cargo crossing between Gaza and Israel.

In a report released last month, Israel's Shin Bet security agency suggested that Mumtaz Dagmaoush was embracing a more radical ideology linked to international terrorist groups.

Dagmaoush, the agency wrote, "is recognised as working in co-ordination with, or under the directions of, the Hamas military organisation and (global jihad) elements belonging to - it would seem - to Al Qaeda."

The family gained new prominence last June when Palestinian militants stormed an Israeli outpost along the Gaza Strip border and captured a 19-year-old soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit. Among those taking part in the attack was a group calling itself the Army of Islam, which Israeli security sources say is led by Mumtaz Dagmaoush.

Two months later, a group calling itself the Holy Jihad Brigades kidnapped two Fox News journalists and held them for nearly two weeks. The pair won their freedom only after being forced to make a videotaped conversion to Islam.

Anita McNaught, the wife of the abducted Fox cameraman, said all the available evidence pointed to Mumtaz Dagmaoush as the man behind the kidnapping. But, as with previous kidnappings of journalists and aid workers, the Palestinian Authority didn't punish or arrest anyone.

The Dagmaoush alliance with Hamas crumbled in December when two family members were killed in a clash with Hamas militants. Since then, the clan has demanded that Hamas turn over 18 men who it says

are responsible for the deaths.

"The blood is hot and we cannot suppress the feelings of vengeance," said Tal'at Dagmaoush, who called on Hamas to accept a mediator to solve the dispute.

Dagmaoush is also suspected in the March 12 kidnaping of veteran BBC correspondent Alan Johnston, who was snatched by gunmen just as the formation of a unity government that included Hamas and rival Fatah was ending months of street battles that were dragging the factions toward civil war.

Johnston, who was wrapping up three years in Gaza, hasn't been heard from since, making this the longest and most unusual kidnaping of a Westerner in Gaza.

Last Thursday, the British government broke an international boycott of Hamas officials to meet with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniya - but only about Johnston's abduction.

Johnston's kidnaping isn't the only worrying bellwether. Four days after his abduction, militants staged an unprecedented ambush on John Ging, the director of United Nations refugee programmes in Gaza, soon after his team drove in from Israel.

Gummen apparently tried to kidnap Ging and then opened fire on the armed UN-marked SUV before he and his colleagues were able to escape. Since then, the UN has scaled back its operations.

Ging called the Palestinian Authority response to the attack and Johnston's kidnaping a "key test" for the unity government.

"The fact is that there haven't been any arrests arising from the very many kidnappings that have taken place and that creates its own perception of impunity," said Ging.

"What we want to see (is) that the unity government means that things are going to change, and where better to start than on this issue?" MCT

(Nissenbaum reported from Ramallah, West Bank, and special correspondent Hamdan reported from Gaza City. McClatchy special correspondent Ashraf Masri contributed to this report.)

SAUDI Arabia claims to be winning its domestic "war on terror" with the help of a programme of re-education and rehabilitation for hundreds of repentant Al Qaeda militants once led by Osama bin Laden.

Officials in Riyadh say they have seen an 80-90% success rate in a "counter-radicalisation" campaign designed to wean extremists off the "takfir" ideology that permits the killing of fellow Muslims and motivates Saudis involved in jihad in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some 140 members of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula have died in clashes with security forces since attacks began in May 2003.

As many as 2,000 men have been through the programme, with 700 released and a negligible rate of re-offending, said General Mansour al-Turki, the government security spokesman.

Abu Saleim, 33, has seen the error of his ways. "I got involved in jihad when I was 20," he explained in the American-accented English picked up during four years spent in Guantanamo Bay after his capture at Tora Bora in late 2001. "Bin Laden is a quiet guy but he can work magic with people when he talks," said the holy warrior-turned financial analyst.

"Being in jail gives you a lot of time to think. I had good intentions. I wanted to help Muslims round the world, but I felt I was being used for other purposes. This programme is working for a lot of people."

Prisoners undergo social and psychological profiling, take part in 10-week courses and are helped to find jobs and even wives as part of intensive after-care support that includes cash handouts for their families. Some refuse to participate. "But we don't force them," General Turki said.

The more invertebrate detainees will face trials, but no major cases have yet been launched and there seems to be no hurry to start, diplomats say, underlining the sensitivity of the issue in this deeply conservative country, home to 15 of the 19 9/11 hijackers. The death penalty will probably be imposed in some cases, with public proceedings in central Riyadh.

The softly-softly approach contrasts sharply with reports of the torture of security detainees as documented by Human Rights Watch. The official Saudi account of the programme cannot be independently verified but many details are confirmed by Western diplomats, with the US and Britain keen to point to its successes.

Another "graduate" of the scheme, Abu Khaled, 25, works in civil defence after retraining during a two-year jail term served on returning from Afghanistan. "I recognised that I made a mistake," he says. "I feel guilt and remorse for what I did but I don't regret it."

Dr Abdul-Rahman al-Hadlaq, a ministerial adviser, argues that although Al Qaeda has been beaten in Saudi Arabia, "military action" cannot be the only means. The "war of ideas" is being fought on websites based in Europe that glorify jihad and violence against "unbelievers".

Saudi religious scholars deploy Qur'anic arguments online to rebut claims about jihad, but dislike suggestions that Wahhabism, the conservative branch of Saudi Islam, has any link to terrorism.

Programmes are in place in Saudi schools and mosques to combat extremist ideas, but the challenge now is the export of extremists, says Dr Hadiqa. Young people, he says, "lie to their families and say they are going to Makkah or Beirut or Dubai and later they turn up in Iraq".

For all the vaunted success of the programme, "we sometimes get questions we can't answer", admitted Sheikh Mohamed al-Nujumi, who works with prisoners. "Like 'Why did you let us go to Afghanistan to fight the Russians then but won't let us go there now to fight the Americans?'"

But the response is clear, insists Gen Turki, faithful to the official line: "At the time the Saudi government permitted it and the ulama issued fatwas encouraging it. And then the government in Afghanistan were communists, not Muslims as they are today."

— Guardian News & Media

ARABIC PRESS REVIEW

By Dr S M M Nainar

Encouraging Qataris to take up media jobs

WHY Qatari men and women do not opt for media jobs was the subject of a debate on the Qatar Television (QTV) recently.

Moderated by the popular Qatari anchor, Abdul Aziz Mohamed, we had the opportunity to listen to divergent views on the subject.

Among the main participants was the doyen of Qatari media, Nasser Mohamed al-Othman and several other prominent Qatari men and women writers and columnists.

There was a consensus on the view that the Qatari youth need to be academically accomplished - which also means a good degree of proficiency in foreign languages; and they should be professionally oriented towards the requirements of media jobs.

They also perhaps need attractive incentives in order to be lured into this vocation.

Luring the youth to a career in the media is in my view, a task that should be taken up very early in life at the middle school stage.

This point was not mentioned by the participants in the debate.

The school is the ideal breeding ground for would-be journalists.

Popularising journalism through bulletin board magazines, a network of broadcasting for schools, and holding literary debates will stimulate the young minds and motivate them towards a career in media.

They could also be given 'training' as would-be journalists in order to have a feel of the profession.

Unfortunately these inputs are not effectively present in the education scene right now.

The independent schools should perhaps take up this task for both boys and girls in an intensive manner.

There is also the need to correct the common misconceptions about the hazards of being a journalist. If a journalist is professionally well-qualified, maintains credibility in his work and does not compromise on his integrity, he is bound to emerge as a successful person in his profession.

There is yet another aspect to the issue that did not figure in the QTV debate: the social inhibitions that stand in the way of girls taking up jobs that involve much field work.

At present, the female presence in journalism is only as occasional contributors or regular columnists.

They no doubt make significant contribution on many issues.

They are remarkable for their lucid style. Yet there is a dearth of female journalists who are willing to take up field jobs.

(Ba Bkr Esa, Arayyah, Doha, April 6)

Seeds of Turkish nationalism sown at school

By Emma Ross-Thomson

"HAPPY is he who says he is a Turk," pipe hundreds of Turkish children in unison, lined up in the playground before a golden statue of Turkey's revered father Ataturk, for a daily pledge of hard work and sacrifice.

The enthusiastic chanting ends and the children file into school, past an inscription saying their first duty is to defend Turkey and another of the national anthem - texts which appear again on the classroom walls and preface all their textbooks.

When they move up to high school, they will take a weekly class from army officers about the military's exploits. Their school books will tell them European powers have their sights set on Anatolia and Turkey's geography makes it vulnerable "to all kinds of internal and external threats".

Textbooks are peppered with the sayings of Kemal Ataturk, who founded modern Turkey in 1923 after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. "Homeland... we are all a sacrifice for you" comes particularly recommended by one textbook's authors.

These are just some of the features of Turkey's education system that reformist teachers and activists want changed.

They say it encourages blind nationalism - something Turkey is looking at more seriously since the ultranationalist-inspired murder in January of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink.

Political rows with the European Union, which Ankara hopes to join, have also fanned nationalism - especially in an election year - but many experts say the seeds are first sown at school.

"In newly founded nation states like ours education is an effective political lever to train and transform people... but in recent decades this concept, which needs to be loosened, continues," Ziya Selek, university professor and former head of the government's Training and Education Board, told Reuters.

"This government has reformed the curriculum in a way teachers say makes students more active and



Turkish primary school pupils pose for a picture at the steps of the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey.

reduces traditional rote learning, but the emphasis on nationalism remains.

"There's still some emphasis on militarism, the importance of going to war, dying in war and so on," said Batuhan Aydogul, deputy co-ordinator of the Education Reform Initiative.

Teachers also say they feel pressure not to stray from the official line or curriculum in class.

"If you present some arguments which are the opposite of the established arguments... you might get reaction, absolutely, from students, from other teachers, from directors - negative reactions of course," said one teacher who declined to be named.

His colleague, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, laughed at the

idea of criticising Ataturk in a history lesson, saying to do so would spark investigation by prosecutors.

"They think... if you do such a thing you confuse their minds and confusion is not good for young people," the first teacher said.

In its latest progress report the EU also criticised the portrayal of minorities such as Armenians, saying further work was needed to remove discriminatory language from textbooks.

Nationalism is not the only problem with schools in Turkey, which, hemmed in by the budget restraints of an International Monetary Fund accord, spends little on education.

With a population of 74m, Turkey already struggles to find jobs

for its ever-growing army of young people.

But in terms of spending per head as a proportion of the economy, Turkey spends least among OECD countries.

Primary school teacher Ayse Panus said parents at her public school - where there are 21 teachers for 680 pupils - make contributions of about 50 lira (\$35) a year to keep it going.

Turkey is also around the bottom of the OECD league in terms of years spent at school, the proportion of the population with tertiary education and the maths ability of 15-year-olds.

Teachers are low-paid and spend the first years of their career in a state-assigned posting.

This government has increased

spending, but experts say more is needed to narrow the gap in Turkey's two-tier system between high quality selective academies and regular schools.

Enrolment has also improved, especially for girls - helped by a high-profile government and UNicef-backed campaign to persuade conservative rural parents to send their daughters to school.

Citing such progress, the EU says Turkey is well prepared for accession when it comes to education, but many disagree.

"On the one hand they want to be in Europe, and on the other... they are encouraging the feeling that there are enemies all around," said Panus.

— Reuters



Q&A

Noises require checking exhaust, belts, pump

By Brad Berghold

Q: My Honda Civic recently has begun to make a noise from the engine. It is most noticeable when the engine is first started and the car is accelerating. It sounds like a ticking, or a sort of spitting. It is repetitive and matches the engine's speed. It's not apparent at idle or when coasting. There's also a droning or whining sound from the left (driver's) side of the engine that rises and falls with engine speed. This noise occurs at all times while driving, but becomes most noticeable as the engine goes faster. Do you have any suggestions regarding these two noises? I'm hoping this isn't too serious.

—Karen Meyers

A: Your descriptions of these symptoms are excellent! Another similarly great description of a noise I can recall was some years back. As I entered a vehicle to diagnose and hopefully repair it, a tape recorder lay on the seat with a note indicating that I should play the tape. A voice instructed me to drive the car in a certain way and listen to the noise on the tape that occurred, just before it surfaced for real from under the hood. How could I go wrong?

The ticking noise you hear sounds as if it might be the result of an exhaust leak. Exhaust leaks very near the engine tend to be just as you described. Leaks further down the system — near the catalytic converter or muffler — are more of a rumble and occur at all times. My hunch is that there might be a crack in the Civic's exhaust manifold near the confluence point of the four exhaust runners.

Exhaust leaks generally become louder during acceleration as exhaust volume and pressure are greater. And as the cast-iron manifold increases in temperature, the metal expands, reducing the size of the crack. Inspecting the manifold requires removal of a protective heat shield, which is simple to do. Should there be no visible cracking, it also is possible the manifold's mounting fasteners have worked loose, allowing leakage from the cylinder head-to-manifold junction or manifold-to-header pipe flange. One of these conditions would be preferable to a crack, as the exhaust manifold and catalytic converter are combined into one rather piece assembly.

For difficult-to-locate exhaust leaks, I've found a 3-foot length of heater hose makes a great stethoscope of sorts, providing an almost ear-shattering sound as one end is passed near the source of leakage. The whining sound might be caused by a faulty water pump bearing or an incorrectly tensioned timing belt. If the sound had been more of a squeal or repetitive whining noise, I'd suspect a loose or glazed accessory drive belt. I'd start with a visual inspection and tension test of the accessory drive belts, since they're easy to get to.

If these are OK, removal of the timing belt covers is next, and this involves a bit of disassembly. Timing belt tension is simple to check, once the belt is made accessible. Should it be found to be too tight, I'd replace the belt as a precaution, since it might have been stretched or stressed such that it's no longer durable for the long haul. The water pump pulley can be turned by hand once the timing belt is removed, feeling for roughness within its support bearing. If there's any doubt of the water pump's condition, it should be replaced, as it's now readily accessible. —San Jose Mercury News (MCT)

Aston Martin to produce Rapide

ASTON MARTIN is to go ahead with the production of the Rapide first launched at the Detroit Motor Show last year but postponed after Ford decided to sell off the luxury British car maker, it was announced. The decision to go ahead with the Rapide production in 2010 comes after the car maker was bought by a business consortium led by former rally driver David Richards.

Some 2,000 models of the Rapide four-door will be built alongside the new DBS at the Gaydon factory in England, bringing the total annual production run to about 7,000 units. The trend toward a four-door super luxury sports saloon began with the Mercedes with the CLS sports coupe. Porsche is set to launch the Panamera in 2009. —DPA



Class act: Fiat 500 in new retro look

This year, on July 4, exactly 50 years after the launch of the original model, Fiat will present its new Fiat 500, REINO GEVERS reports

FIAT is relaunching the 500 at a special ceremony in Turin on July 4, some 50 years after the popular Italian icon was presented on the same day in 1957 as the answer to growing European inner-city congestion.

With its round lines the Nuova Fiat 500 resembles closely the original but comes with a low-slung look and all the technology and safety systems of a modern car.

Customers have the choice of three engine models: the 55kW/75 hp turbo-diesel and the 51kW/69 hp and 74kW/100 hp petrol versions. Five- or six-gear transmission

is available. The original 500, affectionately dubbed "Cinquetto" on its home Italian market, came with the bare minimum. It puttered along with a 479cc rear engine producing only 13 hp. Later models were souped up with an "impressive" output of 21 hp.

Nevertheless in a career lasting 18 years, from 1957 to 1975, the Fiat 500 became an Italian icon, providing mobility to millions of people and becoming a symbol of the Italian economic revival after WWII. Almost 4mm units had been built when production was finally ceased in 1975.

The new Fiat 500 is, however, only partially a true Italian. It is designed by the Fiat Style Centre but the car is being built entirely in the Polish Tychy factory based on the platform of the Panda and the next generation Ford Ka.

Images of the new 500 reveal that the vehicle is similar to the Trepiuno showcar first presented in 2004 with a retro-design aimed at competing against cars such as the BMW MINI and VW new Beetle at a significantly lower price. The three-door Nuovo measures 3.55m in length with a width of 1.65m and a height of 1.5m.

According to reports, the basic model will sell at just under 10,000 euros (\$13,355). Fiat has planned the relaunch with a major online advertising campaign using the Internet to involve the public in planning the evolution of the car at: www.fiat500.com

Central to the concept is that customers have a wide choice on interior and exterior colour schemes.

Although not yet on the road the car has already created something of a stir, with the readers of one British motoring magazine voting it as "the world's sexiest car" even beating such super sports cars as the Aston Martin DBS and Maserati Quattroporte. —DPA



A combination of pictures shows the old Fiat Cinquecento © and the new one (left).

Angry German drivers take revenge on the speed cameras

By Matthias Brunner

IT SEEMS the fury of a German driver caught speeding knows no bounds and the roadside devices used in the country to catch the culprits can come in for some harsh treatment.

Motorists bent on revenge have been known to set light to the pole-mounted speed cameras, to shoot at them with firearms, pelt them with rocks or even set about them with power saws.

Many drivers see the cameras not as a deterrent to speeding, but as a way for local authorities to line their pockets.

And some speed demons will go to extreme lengths to avoid prosecution, as police in the Harz mountains town of Osterode discovered recently.

In order to avoid being charged, one driver who went too fast on a stretch of road restricted to 70kmph simply ripped out all the speed limit

signs he could find and tossed them into a nearby ditch. Officers came across them several days later.

"It was probably someone caught by a camera while speeding on the B 243 highway," said a police spokesman, pointing out ruefully that countless other speeding motorists had probably slipped through the net in the days that followed since these could rightly claim that no speed limit signs were visible.

Police has not given up hope of catching the sign-basher who will face a heavy fine just like the one handed down to a 75-year-old pensioner convicted recently by a court in the city of Goslar.

Despite a previous conviction for firing bullets at a radar speed trap in Fulda, the elderly man hurled stones at a pole-mounted camera after it had snapped him while driving too fast. Unfortunately for him, the outburst was recorded on film

too. Meanwhile, an unknown driver destroyed a speed camera in the Harz region by dousing it with petrol and setting it alight.

The culprits behind these acts of highway vandalism are still at large, as is the man in Goettingen whose method of avoiding a speeding prosecution was exceptionally thorough.

He dismantled an entire surveillance camera system installed at a traffic light and took the device worth 20,000 euros (\$26,645) away with him.

A 22-year-old man from the Peine area had to wave goodbye to his driving licence and was fined heavily after repeatedly burning past a speed camera while making an obscene gesture with his middle finger.

The motorist had tipped over the car's registration plate in a bid to escape identification and it was only after he was involved in accident that police

managed to track him down. A speed trap installation on the A 44 highway near Kassel became a hate object for a number of motorists.

The first device was stolen by traffic roadies while a 19-year-old took an axe to its replacement, eventually burning it to the ground. Police found the perpetrator by matching the DNA of blood traces left at the scene of the crime. A total of 140 suspects were probed.

Fining motorists for driving too fast is a lucrative source of income in, for example, Germany's Hesse state, amounting to more than a million euros a year.

The speed traps also pay for themselves quickly, as evidenced by one which was recently installed on highway number 1 at Heyersum near Hildesheim. The camera registered more than 5,000 speeding motorists during its first two months, triggering an income of 45,000 euros in fines. —DPA

BRIEFS

Cadillac announces station wagon

CADILLAC is introducing its very first station wagon aimed mainly at the European market and based on the platform of the Saab 9-3 and Opel/Vauxhall Vectra. "This is the first Cadillac wagon in our 104-year history, and we think we do well in many European markets where consumers desire a high degree of versatility and functionality in their performance luxury vehicles," said Cadillac general manager Jim Taylor. Designed by an international team of designers, the BLS Wagon picks up Cadillac design such as the V-shaped chrome-plated grille and the body side character lines. The Cadillac BLS Wagon also features jeweled headlamps, fog lamps integrated into the body-coloured bumper and a wide air intake below the grille. Vertical taillamps define the rear proportions. The front-wheel-drive wagon is offered with a turbo-diesel and three turbocharged petrol engines. A price has also not been announced.

Jeep Wrangler achieves record

TWO Jeep Wranglers have been driven to a world record height of 6,646m on the world's highest volcano, the Ojos del Salado in Chile. A 15-member team led by German adventurer Matthias Jeschke came to within 247m of the mountain's summit with the record height officially confirmed by NASA, the team said in a press statement. It took the team a week to drive up the mountain having to overcome obstacles including a glacier field, ice cliffs and a frozen crater. "We had planned to go only as far as 6,500m but we could not turn back because we were stuck in a steep crevice and just had to go," Jeschke said. The Ojos del Salado is the only volcano that can be driven to such heights on four wheels. The Jeeps were equipped with special 255/75 R17 tyres made to withstand sharp edges, ice and rocks. —DPA

Total control, power-packed performance on Saab 9-5

SAAB as we have said before are independent thinkers and creators. Sporty spirited cars that are also functional are their "thing". Focus could be the keyword when describing a Saab 9-5. The driver's area is more like a cockpit of an aircraft and therein lies a clue because the same people also make aircraft.

The old fashioned flyers used to say that they flew the seat of their pants. The Saab 9-5 conveys signals from the chassis, engine and brakes as it responds to the driver's commands in much the same way. The seat is comfortable but firm but is designed to support this intention.

An item called ComSense, which is also found on other Saab models, reduces the risk of distraction by the briefly delaying priority alerts when the brakes or indicators are operating. This helps the driver to stay focussed when turning or overtaking.

All Saab engines are transversely mounted and equipped with a turbo charger, a charge air cooler and double overhead camshafts, four valves per cylinder, dual balancer shafts and hydraulic engine mounts. There are four petrol engines to choose from. At the high end is the

2.3 litre turbo. This produces 220 bhp. But to go even higher than the high performance Saab 9-5 Aero is indicated with 250 bhp or 350Nm of torque at just 1,900 rpm.

Have this with a manual transmission and there is an overboost function that gives 370Nm that gives more than 370Nm for 20 seconds — suitable for flight combat perhaps?

No range of engines is complete these days without diesels. Saab has two, also turbo charged. The 2.2 TiD has a fuel consumption of only 5.2 litres/100km and can be charged, one driver who went before a refuelling stop becomes essential.

The other, a 3.0 litre TiD produces 170 bhp but with a torque output of 370Nm. The trend towards the top of the line petrol engines above. The day dawns bright, the enthusiasm for driving re-awakens and a manual shift is just the answer. However it is usually not long before now join you and clug up the road. Now an auto is the answer to complete the drag through traffic clogged roads.



Saab 9-5

5 speed automatic is the answer. Saab Tronic is the Saab engine management system and controls turbocharger pressure, ignition and sequential fuel injection. The integrated Saab Direct Ignition system also controls the combustion process inside each cylinder by monitoring ionisation. The responsive chassis has been fine tuned to balance the require-

ments of sportiness with that of comfort. An Electronic Stability Programme, standard on all models compares the car's movements with steering wheel input. Anti tendency to skid triggers the system to brake one or more wheels and if necessary reduce the throttle opening. The system also includes an anti-spin function that distributes drive force to the wheel with the best

grip, reducing the chance of spinning when accelerating on a slippery surface. However, if you really want to give it a go, you can switch the ESP off. ABS and Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD) are standard issues. EBD reduces stopping distances and really comes into its own when carrying heavy loads or towing. High pressure washers keep the

windscreen and the headlamps clean. An optional rain sensor starts the windshield wipers automatically when raining. The headlamps are good anyway, but an option for those who expect to do plenty of night driving are the advanced bi-xenon lamps with auto adjusting beam length. They provide twice as much light in a whiter, broader and more uniform beam.

The Name of Saab has always been associated with safety. A five star rating by the EuroNCAP is just one of various ratings awarded as a result of various safety surveys. Crumple zones, safety cage, air bags and seatbelts only touch on the technology utilised.

Top-of-the-line audio systems (Three) provide in-car entertainment as the phrase has it. Most of the functions can be operated from the steering wheel. As you drive the volume adjust automatically with the speed.

A hands free function can be integrated with your mobile phone, with incoming calls coming via the audio system.

With this attractive package inviting the sticky-fingered fraternity to sample it, theft protection is important. The door lock cylinder will spin uselessly if the wrong key is tried. If a window is broken the deadlocks inside prevent the doors being opened from inside.

An electronic start inhibitor combined with a steering wheel sensor and even a panic alarm, a rolling code key making it difficult to copy the codes plus a radio coded so that it only works in one car at the Saab 9-5 is a very hard nut to crack.



Computech

TimeOut

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Take better pictures with your digital camera

DIGITAL cameras make picture-taking fun, but they don't necessarily make it easy. When you get home from a long day of picture snapping only to find that your digital images do not convey the impact you wanted, disappointment is an understandable reaction. But the road to better digital photography does not have to be long and arduous. Learning a few simple precepts about how to make your images more interesting can go a long way toward giving you the satisfaction you deserve from your investment in a digital camera.

Watch the light

Good photographs are all about light. The word "photography", in fact, has its roots in the Greek and means, roughly, "drawing with light." Often what separates a good photograph from a mediocre one is how the photographer has used light to good advantage. Light serves to draw out your subject from the elements around it. So when taking a digital image, be aware of how the light is accentuating your subject.

Specifically, it's generally a good idea to have the sun behind you or slightly to the side when you take a picture - rather than in front of you. Think of the sun as a giant lamp, and use it, when possible, to make your subjects stand out.

Don't let the sun work against you. If you shoot into the sun - with the sun behind your subject, for example - your digital camera will expose for the sun, and your subject will end up too dark. You can also use props to control the light, when possible. Simple reflective surfaces can be used to bounce light toward your subject. Doing so can dramatically enhance the quality of your photography. Any reflective surface will do, or you can buy inexpensive, portable "reflectors" from your local photography store.

Watch the background

If your subject is the most important element of your photographs, the background - what's behind and around your subject - is the second most important element. That's because a busy or distracting background can draw attention away from your subject and lessen the impact of the idea you wanted to represent in the photograph. Strive for simplicity in the background. When possible, move your subject away from distracting backgrounds and consider blurring the background out by setting your camera to Portrait mode or using the camera in aperture priority mode with an f-stop such as 2.8 or 4.0. When taking pictures of people, be aware of how any background elements can alter a viewer's perception of the subject. Posing people directly in front of skinny trees or poles, for instance, can result in the dreaded "tree growing out of the person's head" effect when your photo is viewed.

Go off centre

The instinct of many beginning digital photographers is always to put the subject in the very centre of the frame. Don't do it. Look at the photographs of professionals, and you'll see that they often place their subject to the side of a frame, or slightly off centre, to create a composition that's more dynamic and interesting. There's something called the "rule of thirds" that photographers have used for a long time to describe how to compose a photograph. Essentially, the rule of thirds places an imaginary tic-tac-toe board on your viewfinder, with the centre square right in the middle of the frame. If you avoid putting the central subject of your image in that centre square, you're following the rule of thirds.

Get closer

Try to take in too much with your photography, and you'll end up with pictures that do not draw the viewer's attention to any one specific element. So one trick that seasoned photographers use is to crop the whole picture down to a branch and colourful autumn leaf, for instance, rather than a wide shot with a couple of colourful trees among other elements. Most digital cameras today come with a "macro" mode - a special setting that allows the camera's lens to focus more closely on the subject. This macro mode in a macro mode, and then see how close to a subject you can get while retaining the ability to focus the lens. Combine getting close with other lessons of good composition, and your photographs will almost instantly be more interesting to look at.

Get the colour right

Digital cameras don't see colours the way we do. In the sun, blue will look different to your digital camera than blue in the shade or indoors under artificial light. That's why most digital cameras have what are called "white balance" settings that are pre-tuned to typical lighting situations. By default, digital cameras are set to "auto" white balance, but you can change the setting easily. Doing so will give you better colour out of the camera and allow you to spend less time trying to get your images to look right into the computer. - DPA

HOT TIPS

Hard refresh

MANY people know that pressing F5 in your Web browser is used to "refresh" a page, showing you the latest content. But you don't really get all the information that may be new with F5. Graphics and others elements that may have changed won't be shown. But holding down the Ctrl key and pressing F5 will help. This key combination, known as a "hard refresh".

Backup tool

WHAT would happen if the important file you're working on was destroyed because your computer crashed? Consider setting up a free e-mail account with a special e-mail service provider such as Google and use it solely as a place to send important files in progress. You can send the files as an e-mail "attachment".

Space available

TO SEE how much the space you have available on a Windows PC, right-click the My Computer icon. Select Open from the pop-up menu. In the resulting My Computer dialogue box, right-click a drive letter, and select Properties from the pop-up menu. A pie chart will illustrate how much free space vs use space you have available.

Toolbar control

TOOLBARS can be more annoying than helpful sometimes, as they encroach valuable screen real estate. You can usually get rid of a toolbar by pointing to the bar with your mouse cursor, clicking the right mouse button and deselecting the toolbar in question. Sometimes you'll need to point your mouse cursor at a blank area around the toolbar to see the menu from which you can deactivate the toolbar. -DPA

Flash set for GenNext Internet applications

Once the most hated technology online, Flash has become one of the most loved. CHARLES ARTHUR meets the scientist taking it to the next level

ON MEETING Mark Anders, the temptation to say, "Let's skip the introductions" is almost irresistible - for he's the senior principal scientist at Adobe Systems, where he's in charge of making Flash "a great platform for building the next generation of rich Internet applications." Yes, Flash - that technology that only a few years ago was regularly hated, principally because of corporate websites that would blow half the budget on a fancy animation on the opening page - with an apologetic link saying "Skip Intro" - that would take you to the useful stuff.

It's the product that led usability expert Jakob Nielsen to dub it "99% Bad" in an October 2000 article (tinyurl.com/gyt): "It makes bad design more likely, it breaks with the Web's fundamental interaction style, and it consumes resources that would be better spent enhancing a site's core value." Anders responds: "Developers loved it, though. It was always very effective for advertising, and over time people used it for new and unique experiences."

And everyone has now joined the developers in loving Flash - even if they don't know it. YouTube uses Flash. The photo site Flickr uses Flash. Google's finance pages (finance.google.com) generate stock graphs built in Flash. Newspaper websites use Flash to illustrate complex timelines or subjects. It's everywhere.

So is the difference simply that the spread of broadband made Flash more acceptable, by cutting the delays while files load? Or have people worked out how to do more with it, and so enhance the Web in ways they didn't before? "Flash always had some acceptability," says Anders. "It's incredibly compact for what it does. But if you compare something like Flash with, say, Java - which is a very robust technology - how often do you see Java being used?"

Flash has the advantage for the developer that the file created is self-contained and doesn't rely on the browser it's viewed in. As the software designer Jack Artykmak puts it, Flash "is, in a way, the PDF of interactive multimedia. Both formats are so popular because, for the end user, the efforts that go into achieving the desired results are minimal."

How has Flash thrived? "It's a combination of broadband and in the number of people being comfortable with it," says Anders. Flash is the new publishing tool of the century, he argues. "We have let more people publish - whether it's blogging or having a MySpace page, or uploading to YouTube."

The Flash Player browser plugin may be the single most widely installed piece of software - and it's cross-platform. The reasons are historical: during the browser wars, Netscape hurried to include the plugin; Microsoft caught up, and Flash was included with Internet Explorer 5 and onwards. Now it has become the standard for streaming video in Flash has been rapid - almost from a standing start in 2000 - to dominance.

"Adobe can claim that the Flash Player is on 97.3% of all of the Internet-enabled computers in use to day. Microsoft's Windows Media Player is on 83% of computers, QuickTime is on about 66%, and Real is hovering at 56%."

Part of the reason is ubiquity; but Flash also offers advantages to the end user, and to the content provider. To the first, it offers security: there have been barely any security flaws in the Flash player; the only one outstanding at Secunia is rated "less critical". "Adobe can claim that the Flash Player is on 97.3% of all of the Internet-enabled computers in use to day. Microsoft's Windows Media Player is on 83% of computers, QuickTime is on about 66%, and Real is hovering at 56%."

To content providers, meanwhile, Flash is a one-way medium: you don't find file-sharing networks full of videos or songs ripped from Flash files.

Anders sees his task as making it easier for people to create and integrate Flash into everything, not just Web pages, but also desktop applications or mixtures of the two. To that end, he is trying to improve the quality of the tools available to develop Flash output.



"We have let more people publish - whether it's blogging or having a MySpace page, or uploading to YouTube"

- Mark Anders

clockwise from left: Two Taiwanese men play Nintendo's new Wii console in Taipei.

Around the world...

Clockwise from left: Two Taiwanese men play Nintendo's new Wii console in Taipei.

Idea International employee Eri kaibuchi displays specially-designed 'Music mug' at the company's design consug electric shop in Tokyo. The cup priced 3,900 yen (\$34) has a 50mm diameter speaker under its bottom which renders the sound of connected MP3 players.

An employee of Japanese electronics giant Sanyo displays Aqua AWD-AQ2000, the new washing machine which has the world's first function Air Wash to disinfect and deodorise through using air (ozone) instead of water, for leather, silk and temperature-sensitive materials, during a preview in Tokyo. Sanyo has quoted the price for the product at 270,000 yen (\$2,250).



Beyond MP3: Many audio codecs provide better sound

By Dirk Averesch

WHEN most people think of digitised music, they think MP3. Yet once the MP3 music starts playing, it's clear to most listeners that the quality offered by MP3's low data rates is not particularly good. Other formats like AAC can provide better sound. Even better are what is known as loss-free codecs like FLAC. These have a cost too, though: relatively large file sizes. Choosing the right codec is a question of determining how the music will be used.

"MP3 grew up with the Internet and was a very good codec in its day," says Gerhard Stoll, an engineer for audio systems technology at the Institute for Radio Technology in Munich. Yet significantly better standards are available today, including the Advanced Audio Coding (AAC) format, itself an advancement of the MP3 standard.

The improvement can be traced, among other factors, to the fact that quality no longer sinks proportionately to data rates, Stoll explains. AAC achieves CD quality at just 128 kilobits per second (kbit/s). Both MP3 and AAC involve cutting out the portions of the audio range inaudible to the human ear from the music. For this reason the processes are known as lossy.

Another lossy format, AAC Plus or HE-AAC, was developed specifically for low-bandwidth streaming over the Internet, radio or cellular phone systems. An AAC Plus data rate of 48 kbit/s is comparable with 128 kbit/s in an MP3 file. "An MP3 file by contrast is unlistenable at 48 kbit/s," Stoll says.

Most current MP3 players can handle the MP3, AAC and WMA formats. Stoll continues. WMA stands for Windows Media Audio, Microsoft's lossy answer to MP3 and the standard format for many download or streaming music portals on the Internet.

Apple's iTunes shop by contrast works with AAC, and that move is not without consequences.

"AAC became dominant among Apple customers and is already more widely distributed than MP3," says Christine Tantschnezh, test editor at Stereo magazine. MP3 will not completely disappear, she thinks, but playback devices will be able to handle more and more formats in the future. "In terms of sound and efficiency, AAC has the better future prospects, though." To avoid distortions, music should not be transcoded into the MP3 format at rates of less than 192 kbit/s. - DPA

YouTube's success rattles Japan's broadcasters

By Harumi Ozawa

SATOSHI WATANABE smiles wryly as he remembers the day YouTube's young founders showed up in Tokyo dressed awkwardly in suits and ties to try to calm a copyright row. Before getting home, YouTube founders Chad Hurley and Steve Chen agreed to post a Japanese-language notice on the hit US video-sharing website warning against uploading Japanese content. "They did not offer an apology, but they seemed to be sincere about addressing our requests," said Watanabe, who represents the Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers in the February meeting.

"They said they were wearing suits and ties for the first time in their lives," said Watanabe.

At the request of the 23 Japanese rights owners groups, YouTube last year deleted some 30,000 illegal uploads. But Watanabe said he was not optimistic that it would stop the steady stream of unauthorised new clips being added and the rights owners would like YouTube to do even more to stop the uploads.

YouTube, which was cooked up by Hurley and Chen at a dinner party as an easy way to share home videos online, has seen an explosion in popularity in tech-savvy Japan. As its influence grows, Japan's traditional broadcasters are growing increasingly anxious about the mushrooming number of clips from television programmes and other media appearing on the site.

Major broadcasters now trawl through the huge pool of YouTube clips to find illegal uploads on the website, which was originally created to share personal videos such as a friend's wedding or a pet dog's strange habits.

A quick search for "Japan" on YouTube brings up an almost endless list of television clips from comedians and musicians and cartoons. The website's user base is growing more quickly in Japan than any of the other major websites, including Yahoo! Japan, Amazon, Co.jp or Wikipedia, according to the latest report by Internet research firm NetRatings Japan.

Even though it does not have a separate Japanese-language version, last month YouTube notched up its fifth million Japanese visitor after just 14 months - one-fifth of the nation's entire home Internet users.

It took even Google's Japanese site 51 months, while Wikipedia.org needed 60 months to reach the same level, NetRatings said. But despite YouTube's popularity, some Japanese media companies say they are untroubled by the competition.

Yoshinori Takagaki, an executive at Japan's User Corp, one of the country's most successful online broadcasters, said YouTube's lack of credibility was a major hurdle to its business prospects. "We don't try to create interactive media," he said, citing services such as YouTube "private media" and arguing that they violated Japanese copyright law.

"Private media do not grow as a profitable business. YouTube is illegal in Japan, after all," he said.

But Takagaki said that the website's popularity could be a boost for other online broadcasters as it introduces more Japanese to the possibility of watching films online. - AFP



	SUPER MOVIES	STAR MOVIES	ESPN SPORTS	FOX SPORTS	HOLLYWOOD CH.	ZEE TV	DISCOVERY CH.	STAR PLUS
	0500 Up At The Villa 2 0700 Pinocchio 1996 0900 Local Boys 2 1000 Shock Wave 3	0505 Fish Don't Blink 0635 I Am David 0810 Black Cloud 0955 First Daughter 1145 Return To Me	0500 Baseball Tonight 0600 Sportscenter Live 0700 Infiniti Pro Series 0800 International Beach Soccer 0900 Sportscenter Live 1000 ESPN's Major League Baseball New York Yankees At Minnesota Twins Repeat	0500 Fox Soccer Report 0700 Everton TV Classic Highlights 1000 Fox Soccer Report 1100 Football Squash Association World Super Series 1200 ICC Cricket World Cup Champions TBC PT Rolex Fei 1230 Equestrian World Series 1230 Portugal	0500 Behind The Movies 0530 Action 0600 The It List 0630 The Punk Show 0700 Mmmprofile 0730 The Newmusic 0800 Video On Trial 0830 Muchmusic Video Flow 0900 Start Daily 0930 Start At The Movies 1000 In Fashion 1030 Fashiontelevision 1100 Everything 1200 Muchvibe	0530 WWS 0555 Exposure Ek Nazar 0600 WWS 0625 Exposure Ek Nazar 0655 Exposure Ek Nazar 0700 Maa 0730 Mazlein Apni Apni 0800 Parivaar... Kartavya Ki Pariksha 0830 Kasam Se 0855 Exposure Jhalak 0900 Jab Love Hua 0930 Mamma 0955 Exposure Ek Nazar 1000 Maayka 1030 Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan 1100 Tees Bahuraniyan 1130 Saath Phere 1200 Ghar Ki Lakshmi Settyaann 1230 Movie: Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha	0515 Massive Machines 0540 How It's Made 0605 Rides 0700 Wheeler Dealers 0730 Wheeler Dealers 0750 Junkyard MegaWars 0850 How It's Made 0915 Speed Machines 1010 Living Famously 1105 Mythbusters 1200 Rides 1255 A Car is Born	0500 Meri Saheli 0530 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 0600 Krishna Arjun 0630 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 0700 Kesar 0730 Saathi 0800 Saathi 0830 Shagun 0900 Shararat 0930 Karam Apna Apna 1000 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 1030 Kunkum Ek Pyara Sa Bandhan 1100 Kahi 1130 Kesar 1200 Saathi 1230 Kora Kagaz 1300 Shagun
	1300 The Prince & Me 3 1500 Walkout 2 1700 The Roundun 2	1345 Air Force Two 1515 Good Boy! 1645 The Assassination Of Richard Nixon 1825 De-Lovely	1300 Argentine Open Polo Championship 1400 Road Racing 1500 International Beach Soccer 1600 Infiniti Pro Series 1700 Arena Football Georgia Force Philadelphia Soul Short	1300 Fox Soccer Report 1400 TBA 1530 ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 1630 ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Super Eight Series, D1 V C1 Guyana 1630 ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Super Eight Series, D2 V A2 1st Session Grenada	1300 Muchmusic Special 1400 The Art Of The Photograph 1430 Muchmusic Video Flow 2100 Start Daily 1530 In Fashion 1600 Raw 1630 So90s 1730 Muchmusic Countdown	1315 Exposure Ek Nazar 1330 Film contd... 1400 Film contd... 1530 Kasam Se 1630 Mamma 1700 Parivaar... Kartavya Ki Pariksha 2100 Parivaar... Kartavya Ki Pariksha 2125 Exposure Ek Nazar 2130 Shidwin 2155 Exposure Jhalak 2200 Global Telemat 2300 Sales Slot Flip Play 0000 Kasam Se 0030 Mamma 0100 Saath Phere 0130 Jab Love Hua 0200 Urja 0230 Narseva Narayan Seva	1350 Junkyard MegaWars 1445 Building The Ultimate 1515 Massive Machines 1540 Extreme Machines 1555 Mythbusters 1730 Deadliest Catch 1830 American Chopper	1330 Shararat 1445 Building The Ultimate 1430 Kunkum Ek Pyara Sa Bandhan 1500 Kunkum Ek Pyara Sa Bandhan 1530 Kaun Banega Crorepati - SRK 1630 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 1700 Kayamath 1730 Karam Apna Apna 1800 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 1830 Viraasat
	1900 The Free Diver 2 2100 Criminal 3 2300 Dust Factory 3 0100 Session 9 RX 0300 The Roundun 2	2030 Shanghai Knights 2225 The Last Drop 0010 Dead Presidents Action 0205 Good Boy! 0335 Hollywood Shootouts 0405 The Ticket 0435 The Assassination Of Richard Nixon	1930 Sports Video Gaming 2000 Outside The Lines 2030 Sportscenter Repeat 2130 Infiniti Pro Series Offshore 2230 Adventures 2300 NFL Draft Special 2330 Arena Football Georgia Force Philadelphia Soul Repeat 0200 ESPN's Major League Soccer 0300 Martes De Grandes Ligas Live	2015 Luncheon ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Highlights Super Eight Series, D1 V C1 From Guyana 2100 ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Super Eight Series, D2 V C1 Grenada 0030 Champ Car World Series From Las Vegas 0100 Dream Team Season 5 0200 Golf Central International 0230 The Golf Channel TBA	1900 Listed 2000 The Spin 2030 Muchmusic Video Flow 2100 Start Daily 2130 Best! Movies! Ever! 2200 D. 2230 Abs Of Rock 2300 The Story Of... 0000 The Wedge 0100 Mmmprofile 0130 The Newmusic 0200 Video On Trial 0230 Muchmusic Video Flow 0300 Start Daily	1900 Saath Phere 1930 Ghar Ki Lakshmi Settyaann 2000 Jab Love Hua 2030 Maayka 2055 Exposure Jhalak 2100 Parivaar... Kartavya Ki Pariksha 2125 Exposure Ek Nazar 2130 Shidwin 2155 Exposure Jhalak 2200 Global Telemat 2300 Sales Slot Flip Play 0000 Kasam Se 0030 Mamma 0100 Saath Phere 0130 Jab Love Hua 0200 Urja 0230 Narseva Narayan Seva	1930 Rides 2030 How It's Made 2100 Kim Possible 2200 Kings of Construction 2300 Mega Machines 0000 A Haunting 0100 Deadliest Catch 0200 American Chopper	1930 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 2000 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2030 Kayamath 2100 Kaun Banega Crorepati - SRK 2200 Karam Apna Apna 2230 Kunkum Ek Pyara Sa Bandhan 2300 Kora Kagaz 0000 Kesar 0100 Shararat 0130 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 0200 Shagun 0230 Bhabhi 0300 Kayamath
	0505 Bachey Mun Kay Sachay 0530 Fun Club 0605 Advance Booking 0630 Songs 0705 Aakha Na Gana 0730 Khwab 0805 Paalaa 0830 Advance Booking 0905 Bachelor Zawarcho 0930 Noor Jehan 1000 Kkusam 1030 Sheeshay Ka Mehal 1100 Ye Meri Life Hai 1130 Aashna 1200 Safaid posh 1230 Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahin	0500 Third Watch 0600 GMA Recorded 0600 Smallville 0900 All My Children 1000 Everwood 1100 Crossing Jordan 1200 All My Children	0500 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 0530 High Flyers 0600 Sleepover Club 0630 The Lites 0700 The Lites 0725 Little Mouse On The Prairie 0750 Journey To The Heart Of The World 0810 Gulliver's Travels 0840 Inspector Gadget 0900 Lady Lovely Locks 0925 Princess Tenko 0945 Little Mermaid 1010 Princess Sissi 1055 The Lites 1120 Little Mouse On The Prairie 1145 Journey To The Heart Of The World 1205 Gulliver's Travels 1230 Inspector Gadget 1255 Jin Jin And The Panda Patrol	0500 BBC News, Weather 0530 World Business Report 0545 Sport Today 0600 BBC News, Weather 0630 Asia Today 0645 Asia Business Report 0655 BBC News, Weather 0700 World Business Report 0730 World Business Report 0800 BBC News, Weather 0830 BBC News, Weather 0900 BBC News, Weather 0945 Sport Today 1000 BBC News, Weather 1030 Click 1100 BBC News, Weather 1130 Hardtalk 1200 BBC News, Weather 1230 Fast Track	0500 MSNBC T. Carlson Morning 0630 ABC Nightline 0700 Newshour With Jim 0800 MSNBC Scarborough Country 0900 MSNBC Hardball 1000 ABC Nightline 1030 NBC Nightly News 1100 ABC World News Now 1130 NBC Early Today 1200 ABC America This Morning 1230 MSNBC Live First Look	0500 Anderson Cooper 0600 World News 0630 World Sport 0700 CNN Today 1000 Business International 1100 World News 1200 World Sport 1230 Larry King	0510 Kim Possible 0535 Recess 0600 House Of Mouse 0625 Lilo And Stitch 0645 Kim Possible 0710 Emperor's New School 0725 Recess 0740 Fillmore 0810 Lilo In Space 0835 Classic Cartoons 0900 Micky's Club House 0925 Lilo Einsteins 0950 Jo Jo's Circus 1025 Recess Animation 1035 Higglytown Heroes 1100 Goo! Troop 1125 Recess Animation 1145 Kim Possible 1210 Lilo And Stitch 1235 House Of Mouse 1255 Quack Pack	0500 Double Shot Pop 0530 The Record Shop 0700 America's Next Top Model #7 0830 Kim Possible 0930 Parental Control #15 0930 Double Shot 1000 Remote Control 1030 Video(Scope) Muse 1200 Poparazzi 1230 The Record Shop
	1300 Pyaree Shammo 1405 Mehndi Walay Haath 1430 Khuda Kee Basti 1505 Tere Pehlo Mein 1605 Kaajal 1630 Advance Booking 1630 Fun Club 1705 Good Food 1730 Razzmatazz 1805 Mehndi Walay Haath 1830 Khuda Kee Basti	1300 The O.C. 1400 GMA Live 1500 Smallville 1700 Crossing Jordan 1800 Stargate Atlantis	1320 Oliver Twist 1345 Eek The Cat 1410 Heartcliff 1430 Bad Dog 1455 The Lites 1520 Little Mouse On The Prairie 1545 Journey To The Heart Of The World 1610 Gulliver's Travels 1635 Inspector Gadget 1635 Camp Candy 1725 The Adventures Of Pinocchio 1750 Peter Pan And The Pirates 1815 Dennis	1300 BBC News, Weather 1330 My Cricket World Cup 1345 Sport Today 1400 World News Today 1430 BBC News, Weather 1455 World Business Report 1545 Sport Today 1600 BBC News, Weather 1630 Asia Today 1700 BBC News, Weather 1730 Hardtalk 1800 BBC News, Weather 1830 Take Off	1300 ABC America This Morning 1330 NBC Early Today News 1400 ABC The Today 1700 PBS Newshour With Jim Lehrer 1800 MSNBC Hardball	1300 Business International 1400 World News Asia 1500 World News 1530 World Sport 1600 World News Asia 1700 Your World Today	1320 Tarzan 1335 Phi Of The Future 1350 Lilo In Space 1410 Kim Possible 1435 Brandy And Mr Whiskers 1450 Recess 1510 Lilo And Stitch 1535 Emperor's New School 1600 Fairly Odd Parents 1625 American Dragon 1650 Kim Possible 1710 Hannah Montana 1735 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cody 1800 Emperor's New School 1825 Fillmore 1845 Recess	1300 [V] Special Kaiser 1320 Cheifs Live In Berlin 1400 Fashion File 1430 Double Shot 1500 One-tastic 1530 This Cover 1600 Cactus Garden #27 1630 Double Shot 1650 The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency #5 1730 Double Shot 1800 The Rock Show 1830 Flava
	1905 Tere Pehlo Mein 1930 Kaajal 2005 Aashna 2030 Noor Jehan 2105 Khwab 2130 Advance Booking 2205 Good Food 2230 Razzmatazz 2305 Mehndi Walay Haath 2330 Khuda Kee Basti 0005 Tere Pehlo Mein 0030 Kaajal 0105 Aashna 0130 Noor Jehan 0205 Pyaree Shammo 0305 Safaid Posh 0330 Sheeshay Ka Mehal	2000 Las Vegas 2100 Third Watch 2300 Stargate SG1 0000 Nip/Tuck 0100 Third Watch 0300 Stargate SG1 0400 CSI	2000 Skate 2030 The Tribe 2100 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 2130 High Flyers 2200 Sleepover Club 2230 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 0000 Skate 0030 The Tribe 0100 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 0130 High Flyers 0200 Sleepover Club 0230 Explorations	1900 BBC News, Weather 1930 Asia Today 1945 My Cricket World Cup 2000 BBC News, Weather 2030 World Business Report 2045 Sport Today 2100 BBC News, Weather 2130 Hardtalk 2200 BBC News, Weather 2230 Talking Movies 2300 World News Today 0000 BBC News 0015 Sport Today 0030 World Business Report 0100 BBC News 0130 Asia Today 0145 Asia Business Report 0200 BBC News, Weather 0230 Asia Today 0245 Asia Business Report 0300 BBC News, Weather 0330 World Business Report 0400 BBC News, Weather 0430 Asia Today	1900 MSNBC Countdown W.K. Obermann 2000 MSNBC Live 2030 MSNBC Live T. 0000 MSNBC Live Hardball 0100 ABC Nightline News 0130 ABC World News Live 0200 NBC Nightly News 0230 ABC World News 0300 MSNBC Live Countdown W.K. Obermann 0400 NBC Nightly News 0430 ABC World News	2130 World Business Today 2200 World News Europe 2230 World Business 2300 World News Europe 2330 World Sport 0000 Business International 0100 World News 0130 World Sport 0200 CNN Today	1900 Brandy And Mr Whiskers 1925 Fairly Odd Parents 1950 Phi Of The Future 2010 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cody 2035 That's So Raven 2125 Boy Meets World 2150 Classic Cartoons 2200 House Of Mouse 2225 Lilo And Stitch 2250 Kim Possible 2310 Emperor's New School 2350 Fillmore 0010 Lilo In Space 0035 Classic Cartoons 0100 Micky's Club House 0125 Little Einsteins 0150 Jo Jo's Circus 0210 Stanley 0235 Higglytown Heroes	1900 Breaking Up With Shannen Doherty #8 1930 Double Shot 2000 Fashion File 2030 Parental Control 2100 One-tastic 2130 This Cover 2200 The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency #5 2230 America's Next Top Model #7 2300 Video(Scope) Muse 0000 Parental Control #15 0100 Double Shot 0130 The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency #5 0200 Double Shot 0230 World News 0300 World Briefing 0330 This Cover 0400 Double Shot 90's

RADIO STATIONS	QBS ENGLISH SERVICE	RADIO ASIA	ASIANET RADIO 657AM	BBC WORLD SERVICE	World News	World News
0600 Holy Qur'an and its Translation 0615 The Breakfast Show (News Summary at 0700) 0845 Arabic/Islamic Programmes 0900 Tempo Latino 1000 In All Directions 1105 News Summary 1150 Midday Show 1300 The News 1315 French Transmission 1600 Featuring Album 1700 Evening Show 1800 The News 1815 Evening Show contd... 2000 News Summary 2005 Soft Tunes 2100 Music in Stereo	1330 News; Qatari press review; Number 1 1345 Charqui Khabal 1415 French/English programme; World and Arabic music 1530 News Flash 1535 Exceptional Women 1600 Back to English Service	0500 Manjrum Kum Pular Kalam 0530 Life Magazine 0605 Keralaeyam 0700 Sarassakeralam 0800 Hello Rainbow 0900 GMG 1000 Comedy Serial 1030 Alukas 1100 Daily Diary 1130 Sneha Veedu 1330 Aandrabhavanagal 1357 Nam Engotte 1420 Atlas Daily SI 1500 Viva Dhaparvam 1600 Kerala Link 1605 Suvarna Nakshtram 1702 Snehitare thirle 1800 Hotline 1900 Sneha Sandeshan 2000 Nenchai Ninte Ranganam 2100 Isai Malai 2130 Uraavam Padalum 2215 Ragamrutham	2300 Songs 0600 Opening, Viswasa Deepthi, Islamic Speech 0615 Today's Programmes 0620 Asianet Varthakal 0630 Nika Udayavamangal 0730 Sreekanandan Nair Show 0800 Suprabatham 0855 Chanthirathil Innu 0900 Daily Serial 0930 News Headlines 1002 Navageshtham 1020 Therapadham 1100 News Headlines 1102 Campus 1115 Natakaganangal 1130 K.M Trading Couples 1200 Asianet Varthakal 1210 Alukas Nammal Tham- mil	0500 World News 1302 Alappat Geetanjali 1400 Asianet Varthakal 1405 Ragamalka 1420 Cine-Quiz 1440 Yuvabheri 1500 Asianet Varthakal 1502 Atlas Ganopaharam 1555 Islamic Quiz 1600 Atlas Vritanatham 1615 Tamil Malai 1645 Tomorrow's Programmes 1650 Asianet Varthakal/close	0600 World News 0805 The World Today 0900 World News 0905 Global Business 0930 Digital Planet 1000 World News 1005 The World Today 1030 The World 1055 World News 1100 World Briefing 1105 World Business Report 1120 World Briefing 1200 World Update 1205 Analysis 1305 World Briefing 1330 Outlook 1400 World News 1405 World News 1420 World Business Report 1430 The World 1500 World News 1505 Newshour 1600 World News 1605 Global Business 1630 Digital Planet	1700 World News 1705 Outlook 1800 World News 1805 World Briefing 1840 Business Daily 1900 World News 1905 Europe Today 2000 World News 2005 Have Your Say 2100 World News 2105 World Briefing 2120 World Business Report 2130 World News 2200 World News 2205 Global Business 2230 The World 2300 World News 2305 Newshour 0000 World News 0005 World Briefing 0020 World Business Report 0030 World Briefing 0040 Analysis 0050 Sports Roundup 0100 World News 0105 World Briefing 0120 World Business Report 0130 World Briefing

	BBC PRIME	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	STAR WORLD	GRANADA UK	SHOW MOVIES 1	MGM	SHOW MOVIES 2	SUN TV
5am to 1pm	0730 Tikkabilla 0800 Razzledazzle 0815 Tweenies 0855 Balmory 0855 Teletubbies 0920 Roly Mo Show 0935 Andy Pandey 0940 Big Cook Little Cook 1000 Room Rivals 1030 What Not To Wear Special: What Not To Wear On Holiday 1130 Garden Invaders 1200 To Buy Or Not To Buy 1230 Escape The Elephants	0500 Tsunami One Place, Many Stories 0600 Amazon Claws 0700 Serengeti 0800 Hidden Worlds 0900 From The Heart 0930 Indonesia Beyond The Reefs 1000 Is It Real? S3 1100 Naked Science S2 1200 Taboo	0600 King Of Queens The Simpsons 0700 Seinfeld Hollywood Squares 0800 Friends 0830 Cheers 0900 Oprah Winfrey Show 1000 Miami Vice 1100 Still Standing 1130 Frasier 1200 Life With Bonnie 1230 Rodney	0630 Only When I Laugh (Series 2) 0700 The Persuaders 0800 At Home With The Braithwaites (Series 1) 0900 Through The Keyhole 0930 Night And Day 1000 London's Burning (Series 6) 1100 Crossroads 1130 Emmerdale 1200 Coronation Street 1230 Monday TV Movie <i>Cause Cible</i>	0600 Connie And Carla 0800 The Karate Kid II 1000 Just Friends 1200 The Cave	0535 Solomon And Sheba 0755 Trapeze 0940 What Did You Do In The War Daddy? 1135 Lambada	0600 Mayday 0730 Love Potion No. 9 0930 National Treasure 1200 NTSB The Crash Of Flight 323	0630 Super 10 0700 Raja Rajeswari 0730 Malaram Mottum 0830 Ninavugal 0830 Surya 0900 Bandhan 0930 Nimmachi 1000 Chellamadi Nee Enakku 1030 Passam 1100 Afternoon Bulletin 1130 Movie
1pm to 7pm	1300 Animal Hospital The Good Life 1400 As Time Goes By 1430 2 Point 4 Children 1500 Down To Earth 1600 Popcom 1700 Passport To The Sun 1730 Room Rivals 1800 Cash In The Attic 1830 Bargain Hunt	1300 I Didn't Know That 1330 Mad Labs 1400 Inside The Tornado 1500 National Geographic Special 1600 Is It Real? S3 1700 Naked Science S2 1800 Taboo	1300 Oprah Winfrey Show 1400 Fashion House 1500 General Hospital 1600 Kevin Hill 1700 Baywatch 1800 The Simpsons 1830 Cheers	1430 Only When I Laugh (Series 2) 1500 The Persuaders 1600 At Home With The Braithwaites (Series 1) 1700 Through The Keyhole 1730 Night And Day 1800 London's Burning (Series 6)	1345 Steamboy 1600 Herbie Fully Loaded 1745 The Karate Kid III	1320 Ten Seconds To Hell 1455 Solarbabies 1630 Kings Of The Sun 1815 They Call Me Mister Tibbs!	1330 Domestic Disturbance 1515 Homeland Security 1700 District 13 1845 NTSB The Crash Of Flight 323	1400 Santhipoma 1430 Kutties Choice 1500 My Dear Booham 1530 Murtheram 1600 Evening News Headlines 1603 Kasturi 1630 Anandham 1700 Malargal 1730 Evening News 1800 Anjali 1830 Kolangal
7pm to 9pm	1900 As Time Goes By 1930 2 Point 4 Children 2000 A Place In France 2030 A Place In France 2100 Cambridge Spies 2200 The Robinsons 2300 The Smoking Room 2300 The Office 2330 Nighty Night 0000 Cambridge Spies 0100 The Good Life 0130 The Robinsons 0200 The Smoking Room	1900 Outbreak Investigation 2000 Is It Real? S3 2100 Naked Science S2 2200 Taboo 2300 Outbreak Investigation 0000 I Didn't Know That 0030 Mad Labs 0100 Inside The Tornado 0200 National Geographic Special 0300 Triumph Of Life	1900 Friends 1930 Seinfeld 2000 Falcon Beach 2100 Fashion House 2200 NCIS 2300 Seinfeld 2330 Friends 0000 Falcon Beach 0100 Fashion House 0200 NG Special 0300 NCIS	1900 Crossroads 1930 Emmerdale 2000 Coronation Street 2030 Bone (Series 1) 2130 Faith In The Future (Series 1) 2200 A Fine Romance (Series 3) 2230 Watching (Series 1) 2300 The Persuaders 0000 At Home With The Braithwaites (Series 1)	1945 The Cave 2130 Quiz Show 0000 Grand Theft Parsons 0130 Herbie Fully Loaded 0330 The Way Of The Gun	2000 Without You I'm Nothing 2130 Blood Oath 2315 Body And Soul 0050 Two Moon Junction 0235 Timebomb 0410 Twice Under	2030 Domestic Disturbance 2200 Insonnia 0000 Break Of Dawn 0200 Devil's Rejects 0400 Adaptation	1900 Arasi 1930 Lakshmi 2000 Surya 2030 Putham Pudhusu 2100 News In Tamil 2200 Thirai Masala 0300 News In Tamil 0330 Putham Pudhusu 0400 Mangayar Choice
9pm to 1pm	0700 Today's Business 0800 Squawk Box Europe 1100 Worldwide Exchange	0600 Sky News On The Hour 0630 CBS News 0730 Sky World News 0730 Review & Business 0800 Sky World News 0830 Review & Business 0900 Sunrise 1200 Sky News Today	QATAR TV-2 NO TRANSMISSION	ASIANET TV 0605 Suprabhatham Continues... 0630 Kannadi 0730 Cinema Diary 0730 Filmi Thamas 0800 Puthiyageethangal 0830 WWS 0900 Samayam 0930 Swarnamayooram 1000 Stree Oru Santhanam 1030 Asiatan Varthakal 1100 Movie	STAR GOLD 0610 WWS Sky Shop 0625 V Trailers 0630 Tere Mere Sapne 1000 101 All Time Greatest Comedy 1025 V Trailers 1030 Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya	NICKELODEON 0730 Bottle Top Bill 0745 Lunar Jim 0800 Barney 0830 Blues Clues 0900 Connie The Cow 0915 Pingu 0930 Dora The Explorer 1000 Thomas & Friends 1015 Postman Pat 1030 Bottle Top Bill 1045 Lunar Jim 1100 A House That's Just Like Yours 1130 Hi 5 1200 Tracey Mcbean 1230 Danny Phantom	K TV 0700 Song Sequence 0730 Movie: Ninaivellam Nithya 1000 Song Sequence 1030 Movie: Ane Karyure	SURYA TV 0630 Movie: Chandamama 0900 Anandam 0930 Chechi 1000 Kolangal 1030 News 1045 Movie: Sharjah To Sharjah
1pm to 7pm	1300 Power Lunch Europe 1400 US CNBC Squawk Box 1600 Squawk On The Street 1700 US Morning Call 1800 European Closing Bell	1500 Lunchtime Live With Kay Burley 1700 Sky News Today	1500 Holy Qur'an 1530 Garfield 1600 Marspilami 1630 Play With Me 1700 In A Heart 1845 Genesis	1455 Cookery show 1500 Valkannadi 1600 Sayahnnam 1625 Swantham 1730 Suyauputri 1655 Munshi 1700 News Time 1730 Malayogam 1800 Nombarrappoovu 1830 Amma Manasu	1425 V Trailers 1430 Chor Machaaya Shor 1800 Aunt No 1	1300 Yakkity Yak 1330 Hey Arnold 1400 Spongebob 1430 Squarepants 1500 All Grown Up 1530 Danny Phantom 1600 Blues Clues 1630 Dora The Explorer 1700 Barney 1730 Hi 5 1800 Fraggie Rock 1830 Jungle Run	1300 Song Sequence 1330 Movie: Komberi Moakkan 1600 Karuppu Vellai 1630 Thirai Minnalgal 1700 Andrum Indrum 1730 Movie: Inyellam Sugame	1330 Tharikita 1400 Film Express 1430 Hai Kids 1500 Kutties Choice 1530 News 1600 Manassaryadhe 1630 Puanjennam 1700 Kanakkinaavu 1730 Prayanam 1800 Kalyanee 1830 Minnu Kettu
7pm to 9pm	2000 US Power Lunch 2100 Europe Tonight 2130 Street Signs 2200 US Closing Bell 0000 The Tonight Show With Jay Leno 0045 Late Night With Conan O'Brien 0130 NBC Nightly News 0200 Pokerheaven.Com Online Series Of Poker	2000 Live At Five 2130 Sportsline 2200 The Sky Report 2300 World News Tonight 0000 Nine O'clock News 0030 Sky News 0100 Sky News At Ten 0130 Sportsline 0200 Sky News Tonight	1945 Maybe 2000 This Time 2015 World Game 2130 Law and Order 2200 English News 2215 Feature Film 0000 Transmission of Al- Jazeera Channel	1900 Samadoram 1930 Pavitra Jayilanu 2000 Swami Ayyappa 2030 Swami Ayyappa- varukku Samadhanam ICC World Cup Update 2100 Asiantan Vanthakal 2130 Munshirepeat 2135 Gulf Roundup 2205 5 Star Thattukada 2235 Cinema 2300 Gulf News 2330 Minnum Tharam	2130 101 All Time Greatest Comedy 2200 Telemart English Guru 2215 Himmat 2145 101 All Time Greatest Comedy	1900 Darcy's Wild Life 1930 Unfabulous 2000 My Parents Are Aliens 2030 Tracey Mcbean 2100 Danny Phantom 2130 Yakkity Yak 2200 Hey Arnold 2230 Squarepants 2300 All Grown Up 2330 Blues Clues 0000 Dora The Explorer 0030 Thomas & Friends 0045 Postman Pat	2000 Sripuru Vedigal 2030 Movie: Manadlie Oru Paattu 2300 Song Sequence 0200 News 0230 Song Sequence 0430 Movie	1900 Amme Devi 1930 Kayamkulam Kochunni 2000 Comedy Time 2030 News 2100 Music Moments 2130 Campus Choice 2200 Film Express 2230 Tharikita 2300 Cookery 2330 Surya Music

All programmes are subject to change.

INFORMATION		USEFUL NUMBERS	
<p>PRAYER TIME Fajr 3.59am, Shoroq (sunrise) 5.17am, Zuhr (noon) 11.35am, Asr (afternoon) 3.05pm, Maghreb (sunset) 5.55pm, Isha (night) 7.25pm.</p> <p>DONA ZOO Open from 8am to 12 noon and 2.30pm to 7pm daily. Tuesdays are reserved for women. Friday for general public in the afternoon only.</p> <p>CONSUMER COMPLAINTS Tel: 4408555</p> <p>HOSPITALS Visiting Hours: Hamad General Hospital, Women's Hospital and Rumailah Hospital 6am to 7.30am, 4pm to 8pm.</p> <p>HELP LINE Is drinking a problem for you or someone you love? Call Alcoholics Anonymous: 5605901</p> <p>LATEST DVD, VIDEO RELEASES ENGLISH: Casino Royale (Daniel Craig); The Devil Wears Prada (Meryl Streep); End Game (Cuba Gooding Jr); Feast</p>	<p>(Duane Whitaker, Hannah Schick); Asterix and the Vikings (cartoon); Stick It (Jeff Bridges); Unknown (Jim Caviezel, Greg Kinnear); Saw (Shawnee Smith, Bahar Soomekh); Pokeman: Destiny Deoxy's Open Season (Animation); Nothing (David Hewlett, Andrew Miller); Wicker Man (Nicholas Cage); King Maker (Gary Stretch, John Rhys-Davies); Wicker Man (Nicholas Cage); Find Me Guilty (Vin Diesel); Akeelah & The Bee (Keke Palmer, Laurence Fishburne); Black Hole (Judd Nelson, Kristy Swanson); Slither (Nathan Filion, Michael Rooker) HINDI: Salaam-E-Ishq (Salman Khan, Priyanka Chopra); Mr Hot Mr Kool (Zulfy Syed, Yash Pandit); Kabul Express (John Abraham, Arshad Warsi); Mr Hot Mr Kool (Zulfy Syed, Yash Pandit); Guru (Abhishek Bachchan); Bhagam Bhag (Govinda); Dhoom 2 (Hrithik Roshan); Jaane (Rajesh Khanna, Zeenat Aman); Kabhie Alvida Na Kehna (Shahrukh Khan); Kuchyon Ka Zamana (Rekha); I See You (Anun Rampaal); Aryan (Sohail Khan, Sneha Ullal); Baadul (Rani Mukherji); Dil Dhadak Hai (Emraan Hashmi, Geeta Basra); Vivah (Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao).</p> <p>ARABIC: Emraan Yaacobian; Alernnki Hob; Oored Kholan; Dare Khasouy. (Information courtesy: Q-Mart Audio Video at The Mall).</p>	<p>Police, Fire, Ambulance 999 HMC 4392222 Women's (Rumailah) 4393333 HMC (Emergency) 4393507 Veterinary 653063 Water & Electricity 991 Flight Inquiries 4622999 Doha Seaport 4457457 Museum 4442191 Cinema 4671811 Mumtaz Post (24-hr Service) 4415566 4432211 (Car) 4483555 Ship Phone Service 4864444 Ministry of Interior main switchboard 4330000 Public Department for passports, nationality and residence 4882882 Capital Security Department 4444420 Criminal Information Department 4477477 Boundaries and Coasts Security 4414488 Civil Defence Department 4413666 Public Relations Department 4448720 Rescue Service 4682888</p>	<p>YOUR STARS</p> <p>ARIES (Mar 21- April 20): Don't let your personal partner hold you back. Relatives may not be telling you the whole truth about a family situation. Get together with friends who like to participate in indoor sports.</p> <p>TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Don't be afraid to talk to close friends or relatives about pressing personal problems. Put your emotional energy into passion not anxiety. Don't push your luck with your boss.</p> <p>GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You can receive recognition for the work you've done. Refrain from arguing with your mate. Opportunities for romance will develop through activities with large groups.</p> <p>CANCER (June 22-July 22): Time spent with family, children, or good friends will be regenerating and positive. Be very careful while in transit or while travelling in foreign countries. Mingle with those who can help you get ahead.</p> <p>LEO (July 23-August 22): Someone you care about may let you down or criticise your methods. Your emotions are soaring and if you don't get your way, look out world. Romance is quite possible if you are willing to approach someone who interests you.</p> <p>LIBRA (September 24-October 23): You may be somewhat emotional concerning a rather private matter. Your mate may not have been honest with you. You won't be able to keep a secret.</p> <p>SCORPIO (October 24-November 23): Secret soafers will only lead to deception. You could have a change of heart if an old flame waltzes back into your life. Real estate ventures will be to your advantage.</p> <p>SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You will have the stamina and the know-how to raise your earning power. Sudden romantic connections may be short-lived. If you can work at home, do so.</p> <p>CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): If you keep busy you won't feel the personal pressures you are going through. Someone envious of your popularity may challenge you to a debate. Your outgoing nature might work against you today.</p> <p>AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): If you can work at home, do so. You will learn a great deal from people with different cultural backgrounds. Get down to business and do the work yourself.</p> <p>PISCES (February 20-Mar 20): You may have the day off but your thoughts will be on your work and your cash situation. You might have some problems balancing your books. A need to express yourself may come out in creative ways.</p>



Franz Ferdinand cash in with magazine idea

IT SEEMS unlikely that Franz Ferdinand fans would ever have expected to see an *Official Franz Ferdinand Annual*. This kind of publication is usually associated with teen appeal acts, certainly not fashionably cool indie bands.

Indeed, had the news broken on April 1, most observers would probably have dismissed it as an April Fool joke.

But the 50-page annual was designed by guitarist/keyboard player Nick McCarthy's sister Anna. It features problem pages, puzzles, stories, fact files and cut-out dolls.

As the band say, their annual contains "all the retro-tinged fun you'd expect to find in a book echoing the heady days of *The Beano*."

But *The Beano Annual* does not cost £10.99 plus postage and packing. Their rather expensive publication is only available on the Internet from the shop section at www.franzferdinand.co.uk.

ALTERNATIVE rockers Placebo have followed Simple Kid by giving fans the opportunity to appear in the video for their forthcoming single, *Running Up That Hill*.

Entrants are asked to have themselves videored singing the song using just one camera



Franz Ferdinand ... group magazine.

shot, a full-face close-up. The technical people will fix any flaws.

Four of their songs, including *Running Up That Hill*, are posted in the media player at www.myspace.com/placebo.

Competition details and instructions on where to upload your video are also at this website.

« « «

US rockers Linkin Park are showing new short video programmes every Monday and Thursday on their Official Linkin Park YouTube Channel. The videos offer behind-the-scenes views of the band on tour. LP Underground members also have access to additional footage. Membership packages range from \$12 to \$30 and are available from www.lipunderground.com.

Double thumbs up

By Geoffrey Rowlands

SCOTTISH duo The Proclaimers continue to enjoy the view from the top of Britain's singles chart with the Comic Relief charity version of their classic 1988 hit, *I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)*.

Identical twins Charlie and Craig Reid even have the bonus of their re-released original version also becoming a top 30 hit.

But it is the reworked song recorded with comedians Peter Kay and Matt Lucas which has really captured the public imagination.

Charlie explained how the collaboration came about. "It was all Peter's idea. We first met him when we did the Live 8 charity concert at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh. He had all that success with Tony Christie on *(Is This The Way To) Amarillo* and intended to do another song for this year's Comic Relief appeal.

"He contacted us a while back saying he had a great idea for our song and everything took off from there.

The Comic Relief version of *I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)* sees Peter appear as Brian Potter, the character he plays on television in *Phoenix Nights*, while Matt is Andy Pipkin, one of his creations from the *Little Britain* TV show. Both are wheelchair users, though Andy is not actually disabled.



The Proclaimers ... re-release bonus.

The joke aspect is that two wheelchair-bound characters should perform a song about walking long distances to be with their loved ones.

Indeed, when Brian and Andy sing their parts of the

song, the lyric "walk" is changed to "roll." "We knew we couldn't go wrong with Peter Kay and Matt Lucas," said Craig Reid.

"Everything they do is quality so we were sure the results would be great."

Matt was particularly pleased to be involved. He describes The Proclaimers as his "absolute favourite band."

"We'd met Matt many times before we got together for Comic Relief," Charlie remarked.

"It was a joy to work with him. He was such good fun and made everything very easy."

It has been suggested that the enormous success of *I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)* represents a comeback for The Proclaimers. In fact, they have never been away.

"Some people seem to think you've disappeared if you don't get top 10 singles," Craig laughed.

"We've only ever had two previous top 10 UK hits in our entire career."

"Even the original release of *I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)* only reached number 11, though it did make the top three in America."

"We always wanted to just play our songs, put out some records and hoped to have a little success," Charlie stated. "We've long since far exceeded any success we thought we might have. Everything now is a wonderful bonus."



Two's company for Grindhouse makers

By Steven Rea

THE National Association of Theatre Owners would beg to differ, but it's still possible in a few multiplexes across the United States to "enjoy" the grindhouse experience. You know, a theatre with floors glazed in Coke and rotten Raisinets, upholstered seats you don't want to see with the lights up, a couple of drunks down in front providing running commentary, and maybe a guy in military camouflage with a bulging duffel bag, grunting to himself one aisle over.

"Admittedly, that was never the best part of it," says director Quentin Tarantino, waxing nostalgic about the days decades back when he'd venture into some grungy one-screen in downtown L.A. to see a cheapo vigilante flick or a babes-behind-bars thriller. "There were definitely times I knew I was taking my life in my hands by going into that theater," he says, chucking. "It just showed my intense commitment to cinema."

Still, for most folks going to *Grindhouse* — the double-feature package of Tarantino's *Death Proof* and his buddy Robert Rodriguez's *Planet Terror*, opening last week — the venues will be tidy and tiered, with state-of-the-art cupholders for those \$6 cappuccinos. It's the stuff up on the screen — Tarantino's and Rodriguez's lesbian car-chase carnage and zombie-lust bloodfests — that will pay homage to the 1960s and 1970s exploitation indies. Not the theatres themselves.

"I think of it almost like a grindhouse ride," says Tarantino (*Pulp Fiction*, *Reservoir Dogs*), on the phone last week from Los Angeles. "I like the fact that we're turning the multiplex into the grindhouse. It's just a little safer. But if any gang violence breaks out during the course of the movie, or anything gets screwed up in the projection booth, a reel goes missing, that's all good. It just adds to the experience ... it makes it all the more organic."

It was *Sin City* and *Spy Kids* director Rodriguez — looking at a poster he owned for a 1950s hot-rod double bill (*Drag Strip* and *Rock All Night*) — who came up with the idea of releasing two pics together. "Then, when I went to Quentin's house after making *Sin City*, he had the same poster," the director says, in a separate call last week. "I thought, 'Hey, you do one, and I do the other.'"

So off they went, psyched to re-create the look and feel of the vintage low-budget, no-star B-movies — produced outside the Hollywood mainstream — that got away with murder, so to speak, as far as blood, gore, gratuitous nudity and general outrageousness were concerned. The films, a staple of low-rent urban theatres — grindhouses — and outlying drive-ins, had "sexuality and brutality that was amped-up and crazed," Rodriguez says.



Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez ... recreating a cult genre.



(From left) Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Rosario Dawson, Zoe Bell and Tracie Thomas star in *Grindhouse* — in Quentin Tarantino's *Death Proof* — from Dimension Films.

His entry, *Planet Terror*, which Rodriguez shot last spring around his hometown of Austin, Texas, is a mash-up of zombie horror and renegade-horror action — think George Romero's *Dawn of the Dead* crossed with John Carpenter's *Escape From New York*. (That's what Rodriguez was thinking.)

Freddy Rodriguez (no relation) plays the loner hero, Josh Brodin (a demented doc and Rose McGowan is Cherry Darling, a go-go dancer who loses a leg in a roadside zombie attack and has it prosthetically replaced — with a machine gun. Bruce Willis, Marley Shelton, lad-mag cover-girl chanteuse Fergie and a hammy Tarantino also appear.

McGowan and other cast members show up in Tarantino's *Death Proof*, too. Says Rodriguez: "We thought, wouldn't it be great, like when you see a Pam Grier double feature, if it's two women-in-prison movies, she's a prisoner in one and the warden in the other? So we've got crossovers."

Tarantino, in his first directing foray since the 2002-04 *Kill Bill*s, drew from high-octane car-chase pics (notably the 1971 cult classic *Vanishing Point*) and slasher pics in which a maniac stalker preys on a bevy ofubileesque (Tarantino cites Bob Clark's 1972 Yuletide terror, *Black Christmas*).

Death Proof was shot last year over 10 weeks, more than half of it devoted to 100-mph car chases. His cast: Kurt Russell (yes, the Snake Plissken of Carpenter's

Escape From New York) as Stuntman Mike, a scarred and lecherous stunt driver stalking a trio of fetching femmes, played by Sydney Tamiia Poitier (daughter of Sidney), Jordan Ladd and Vanessa Ferlito. Rosario Dawson, Zoe Bell (Uma Thurman's stunt double in *Kill Bill*), and Omar Doom also star.

To complete the whole grindhouse experience, Rodriguez, 38, and Tarantino, 44, added "damage effects," post-production tweaks to make the prints look scratched, burned, jumpy and frayed, just like the exploitation fare that inspired them. "Because they made so few prints, they would be scratched-up and worn-out," Rodriguez explains. "Projectionists would cut frames out of them for souvenirs. They were definitely chopped up and ragged by the time they ran their course."

So *Grindhouse* looks as though "by the time it's got to your city, it's all torn up, because that's how it was in the grindhouse era," he says.

"But it's used to dramatic effect, too. It's not really just aging for the sake of aging. What's cool is I got to use those as tools ... Usually your film grammar includes the fade, or the cross-fade, or the jump-cut, and that's about it. Now, you've got the splice-cut, you've got the film-burn, you've got the missing reel, you've got a lot of things to help accent the film dramatically."

"It's really sweet. I think people will get it," Rodriguez also had the idea to run a fake trailer before the films. His is for *Machete*, an action flick starring *From Dusk Till Dawn*'s Danny Trejo as a chop-her-riding tattooed Mexican dude with an arsenal of deadly cutlery.

Tarantino recruited Eli Roth (*Cabin Fever*) and Edgar Wright (*Shawn of the*

Dead Hot Fuzz) to do more mock trailers. Roth's is for *Thanksgiving*, a holiday-pegged slasher flick that gave *Grindhouse* some problems when it was submitted to the MPAA ratings board. (The scene, now trimmed: a naked trampolinist doing splits coming down on a giant knife.) Wright did a 1970s-style British horror thing called *DON'T*.

Metal-rocker-turned-movie-auteur Rob Zombie got in on the action as well. "He came up to me at the Scream Awards back in October," Rodriguez says. "He had heard about the project, and he said he had a trailer idea ... 'Werewolf Women of the S.S.' I said, 'Say no more, go shoot it! You got me at Werewolf Women.'"

Whether *Grindhouse* prompts Rodriguez and Tarantino to follow-ups remains to be seen. After Rodriguez appeared at the recent South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas, reports hit the blogosphere that he was ready to really make *Machete*. He says he might. Or might not. In all probability, *Sin City 2* will be his next project, and he could start on it as early as June. Tarantino's goal to promote *Grindhouse* around the globe over the next six months, and work on the screenplay to his long-announced World War II combat movie, *Inglorious Bastards*, back in his hotel room.

And then? "The thing is," says the dimple-chinned movie-geek god, "we have this whole label of 'grindhouse' on this, and that works. But basically, I'm just doing genres I like, and subgenres, in particular. In this one, I'm dealing with slasher films, and I'm dealing with car-chase movies. And I'm doing it in the B-movie kind of way, but there are other kinds of genres I would love to explore." — *The Philadelphia Inquirer*/MCT

GARFIELD



POOCH CAFE



BOUND & GAGGED



ADAM



SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Yesterday's solution

4	3	8	2	9	7	5	1	6
1	9	6	7	3	4	2	8	5
2	7	5	4	1	8	6	3	9
3	2	1	9	6	5	7	4	8
6	8	7	1	5	2	9	3	4
8	4	9	6	3	7	1	5	2
5	1	2	3	4	6	8	7	9
7	6	3	5	2	1	4	8	9
9	5	4	8	7	3	6	2	1

This puzzle is taken from *The Sudoku Book: An Introduction to Sudoku with 101 puzzles*, by Sam Griffiths-Jones (RRP: £5.99, Harriman House). Visit www.dailysudoku.com for a daily graded puzzle, online Sudoku resources and links.

3		5		7	4			
	4			7				3
					8	5		
		9	2					1
6		9	8	5	7			
	6	4						7
4				2				
	2	1			7			4

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Game bird is all ruffled (9)
 - Given employment? (4)
 - A sign that the island bears when (9)
 - Where you'll find screws on the doors (6)
 - Swore to reform but hasn't got any better (5)
 - Lure many to injury (5)
 - Thrice-married orderly (4)
 - Accumulate a great amount (5)
 - Nothing we'd failed to settle (4)
 - Trait used by a tank (5)
 - Shoes repaired and disposed of, we hear (5)
 - One who cares is easily hurt (6)
 - Bad enough to cause alarm (9)
 - Chestnuts in the granary (4)
 - Lady killer (9)
- DOWN**
- Not much reason for dates (9)
 - Thinks time and dust are wrong (9)
 - Scottish boy about five who had a terrible reputation (4)
 - It's noted for its slowness (5)
 - Confront with a small account charge (6)
 - Number on an old ship lacking lights (4)
 - Brief stop for many in a trance (5)
 - Number on a ridge in open forest land (5)
 - He has a short-service commission (6,3)
 - Cigar-band? (5,4)
 - Might be cold, yet good tempered (5)
 - Followed in a persistent way (6)
 - Put your name down to go in (5)
 - Father to the French wife of a German husband? (4)
 - Containers of cracked nuts (4)

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
3. Incline (9)
 8. Sluggish (4)
 9. Disconcert (9)
 10. Take in (6)
 11. Coffin (5)
 14. Ghastly (5)
 15. Present (4)
 16. Mistake (5)
 18. Commonsense (4)
- DOWN**
20. Premature (5)
 21. Tarnish (5)
 24. Beat (6)
 25. Fabricated (9)
 26. Worry (4)
 27. Injured (9)
 1. Attacker (9)
 2. Outrage (9)
 4. Deceased (4)
 5. School (5)
 6. Gaudy (6)
 7. Bore (4)
 9. Eat away (5)
 11. Ringleted (5)
 12. Region (9)
 13. Make dry (9)
 17. Royal (5)
 19. Woeful (6)
 22. Lax (5)
 23. Circle (4)
 24. Naked (4)

Yesterday's solutions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Yesterday's solutions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

QUICK CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1 Hood; 3 Harmless; 8 Soft; 9 Conclude; 11 Nick; 9 Sing-sing; 11 Serve at Incomparable; 13 Abroad; 14 Pickle; 17 Pile; 17 Dissociation; 20 Apartment; 21 Grandeur; 21 Bung; 22 Aria; 22 Departed; 23 Edge; 23 Deterred; 23 Dear.

DOWN: 1 Hospital; 2 Officer; 4 Awaful; 5 Mechanical; 6 Equal; 7 Seem; 10 Ambassador; 12 Teenager; 15 Failure; 16 Accuse; 18 Inapt; 19 Aged.

ACROSS: 1 Most; 3 Threaded; 8 table; 13 Russet; 14 Pickle; 17 Pile; 17 Dissociation; 20 Apartment; 21 Grandeur; 21 Bung; 22 Aria; 22 Departed; 23 Edge; 23 Deterred; 23 Dear.

DOWN: 1 Ministry; 2 Secure; 4 Digs; 5 Engravings; 6 Drill; 7 Seem; 10 Ambassador; 12 Teenager; 15 Failure; 16 Accuse; 18 Inapt; 19 Aged.