



Time Out

GULF TIMES FEATURES

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Losing its lead in vital physics branch

THE US is losing its lead in high-energy physics, a field of science it's dominated since the 1930s. Scientists say Europe is now in the vanguard of a worldwide search to discover the deepest secrets that Mother Nature hides in bits and pieces of atoms.

At least 15 years, probably more, will pass before American physicists lead the pack again.

Particle physics, as the field is called, lies at the heart of all modern science. Particle researchers explore the nature of space and time, matter and energy, the basic building blocks of the universe.

The US hosts the world's most powerful atom-smasher, the Tevatron at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, but it's scheduled to shut down in 2010.

Smaller accelerators in Stanford, California, and at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, will turn out the lights in 2008. These older machines are being phased out so that the money can be used on more up-to-date projects.

After that, it will be 2025, perhaps 2030, before a machine that's able to rip apart subatomic particles with sufficient force and precision could be operating on American soil.

"Accelerator facilities are shutting down before new ones are opening," said Burton Richter, a Nobel Prize-winning physics professor at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

"For the richest country in the world to cede leadership in one of the most fundamentally important fields of science has significant negative implications for all of US science," said Neal Lane, a former White House science adviser and an ex-director of the National Science Foundation in Washington.

"A decade or more without a US accelerator will mean an exodus of some of our very best physicists to Europe and the possibility that young US scientists will not go into the field and perhaps not choose science as a career," said Lane, a physics professor at Rice University in Houston.

The centre of gravity in particle physics is moving to Geneva, the site of the Large Hadron Collider, a particle-splitter that's seven times more powerful than Fermi's Tevatron.

The \$3.8bn Large Hadron Collider, which occupies a 17-mile underground ring filled with massive magnets, is in the final stages of construction. When it's finished next year, it will smash protons – the largest particles in the nucleus of an atom – into each other at almost the speed of light.

The collisions will spatter a spray of quarks, protons and other particles into huge detectors that will analyse their patterns.

The centre of gravity in particle physics is moving to Geneva, the site of the Large Hadron Collider, a particle-splitter that's seven times more powerful than Tevatron, hosted by the United States.

Report by ROBERT S BOYD



A 13,000-ton particle detector being installed in the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest atom-smasher, in Geneva, Switzerland (above) and visitors to the CERN (Centre Européen de Recherche Nucléaire) listen to a guide at the 'Atlas' experimental area and assembly hall for the biggest superconducting magnets ever built, during an open day, in this October 2004 file photo (right).



Among other things, scientists hope that the experiments will help them understand "dark matter" and "dark energy" – phenomena discovered in the last 10 years – which make up 95% of the universe, leaving only 5% for the ordinary atoms in stars, trees and people.

Thousands of the world's top scientists, including many Americans, are flocking to Geneva to take part in the Large Hadron Collider project. The US is contributing \$531m to it, but Americans have only the status of observers – not official members – of the consortium.

In a 127-page report on the future of particle physics that was published last year, a committee of the National Academy of Sciences predicted that "the intellectual centre of gravity of the field will move abroad."

Europe is investing twice as much as the US in particle physics, and Japan nearly half as much, according to committee Chairman Harold Shapiro, a former president of Princeton University.

"Within a few years, a majority of US experimental particle physicists will be involved in experiments being conducted in other countries," the Shapiro committee declared.

To meet this challenge, US scientists hope to land the proposed successor to the Large Hadron Collider, an even more efficient particle accelerator known as the International Linear Collider (ILC). Instead of protons, the International Linear Collider will crash electrons into their antimatter twins, positrons, to find new particles.

"For the US to be a leader in high-energy particle physics, the ILC must be located in the US," Lane said. The cost – estimated at \$10bn to \$15bn – would be split among international partners, with the host country picking up the lion's share.

Raymond Orbach, the undersecretary for science at the US Department of Energy, told disappointed high-energy physicists in February that the International Linear Collider won't be ready until at least 2025, and more likely the end of that decade.

"Schedules will almost certainly be

Encyclopaedia of Life to document 1.8mn species

THE world's 1.8mn named species are currently documented in a hodgepodge of books, websites, scientific associations and libraries – accumulated over the 300 years since the scientific system of genus and species identification was invented.

But with last week's launch of the *Encyclopaedia of Life (EOL)*, the information will become available over the next 10 years to the world via the Internet, with a Web page for each species and illustrations and weblinks if available, according to the network of sponsors of www.eol.com.

Molecular information, when available, video, sound, location maps and other multimedia information will also be posted.

The project is expected to provide valuable biodiversity and conservation information "to anyone, anywhere, at anytime," said James Edwards, who was appointed on May 9 as executive director of EOL.

Edwards was previously executive secretary of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

"Nobody really knows" the exact number of species, said Edwards in a telephone interview.

"Nobody's ever kept a count or tried to pull together all the information."

Key organisations are involved in the project, including Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, Harvard University, the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, Washington's Smithsonian Institution, and the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

The Missouri Botanical Garden has become a full partner in the "leap for all life," as the project is referred to, and discussions were underway with leaders of the new *Atlas of Living Australia*, the sponsors said.

Even five years ago, we could not create such a resource, but advances in technology for searching, annotating and visualising information now permit us, indeed mandate us, to build the *Encyclopaedia of Life*," Edwards said.

The project is backed by a \$12.5mn in US private foundation grants.

"Technology is allowing science to grasp the immense complexity of life on this planet," said Jonathan Fenton, president of the John D and Catherine B. MacArthur Foundation that is supplying \$10mn.

Edwards hopes that the website will make the work of scientists easier in identifying the estimated 8mn to 10mn species on Earth that scientists believe remain to be discovered.

Eol.com will also expand the reach of science to "people in developing countries who don't have access to good libraries," he said.

"We expect this to be a big tent to make data from several different biodiversity projects ... really a communications project," he said. – DPA

Fact file

PARTICLE physics is the branch of science that studies the elementary particles and forces inside atoms.

The so-called "Standard Model" includes protons, neutrons, electrons, quarks, hadrons, bosons, neutrinos and a flock of other units that can be detected only at extremely high energies.

Particle physics underlies other disciplines, such as nuclear physics (nuclear energy; atom bombs), astrophysics (stars, galaxies), solid-state physics (magnets, electronics, optics), and materials physics (metals, plastics, crystals).



'Super' mineral ... Serbian children examine the mineral, discovered recently in Serbia that contains the same elements described in the fictional kryptonite used by the enemies of comic-book and film superhero Superman, exposed under green light in a Belgrade museum last week. Mineralogist Chris Stanley of London's Natural History Museum announced last month that the mineral, named jadarite after the Serb region where it had been found, contains the same elements as the famous crystal that weakens the power of Superman.

Work station treadmill to get office staff fitter

By Sarah Boseley

FROM the US – home of the super-size burger drive-through and the cup-holder designed to allow the consumption of gallons of coke in the car – comes an invention intended to undo all that damage: the walk and work desk.

James Levine and Jennifer Miller, at the Mayo clinic in Rochester, have designed what they call a vertical workstation. It's somewhat taller than the norm and comes not with an ordinary chair, but a treadmill.

The walk and work desk allows those who are overweight or obese to get on with their office jobs while getting some exercise.

They can stand at the desk and work at the computer using the keyboard and mouse bolted into an adjustable arm and – when they feel inclined – can also break into a slow stroll on the treadmill.

Every modern convenience is built in. "The steel frame also incorporates a slat system for storing personal items such as a flower vase, cup

holder, pen holder or paper tray," write the doctors in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.

The desk is designed to slide over a standard treadmill, so the user can either walk and work, or, if the treadmill is replaced with a high chair, sit and work.

Prof Levine and colleagues from the endocrine research unit of the clinic say for an obese worker, walking up an extra flight of stairs doesn't take long enough.

In their experiment the doctors found the 15 volunteers – all but one of whom were women – expended considerably more energy when they worked and walked at a speed equivalent to one mile an hour compared to when they sat and worked.

"Were the vertical workstation to be used by an obese office worker to replace two-three hours of sitting, and if other components of energy balance were constant, a weight loss of over 20kg a year could occur," they write. – Guardian News & Media



A Fraunhofer Institute staffer in Berlin holds up some of the ripped scraps that are to be assembled. The computer-projected image in the background shows scraps that have been scanned and must next be matched up. Ultimately 16,250 sacks of scraps must be deciphered.

Computers restore ripped-up German secret files

By Jean-Baptiste Pignin

A PROJECT using computers to reconstruct ripped-up files of former East Germany's Stasi secret police has begun, raising hopes that more communist misdeeds will be brought to light.

The pilot project, backed by 6.3mn euros (\$8.6mn) in federal funds, will demonstrate whether it is feasible for a computer-studies institute in Berlin to use digital brute force to discover the meaning of 16,000 sacks of jumbled papers.

Berlin vowed to put the scraps, which are mostly postdated, back into the correct order to be read. The job has fallen to 15 workers sitting in an office near Nuremberg.

They empty one sack of

fragments on a table, and spend the rest of the week solving the puzzle of which bit belongs where. Since 1995, they have worked through 323 sacks.

With nearly 16,000 more sacks to go, rainpower would take over 400 years to complete the job. Most of the documents deal with surveillance of ordinary people in the former police state.

In 2003, the German government said it could not afford 50mn euros to computerise the task, so legislators have approved a more modest pilot project. Each scrap will be scanned and a computer will try to match images by shape, jigsaw style, to others from the same sack.

Germany has already opened many undamaged Stasi files to historians and to former Stasi victims, helping them to identify informers in a society that was ruled by the fear of denunciation, and there are big gaps in the archives.

Staff working for the custodian of the files, former East German democracy activist Marianne

Birhler, say the funding means 400 more sacks can be processed in the next two years, more than the number reconstituted so far by human intelligence.

The contract has been awarded to the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Machinery and Building Technology in Berlin.

Jan Schneider, 36, the Fraunhofer engineer heading the project, said the scraps will be placed on a conveyor belt leading to digital scanners which would obtain images of both sides of the paper.

The software will identify the paper colour, typefaces, any rubber stamps and the outlines of the tears. Just like a jigsaw solver, as soon as it discovers edges that match, it will link up the images.

Schneider said the job was made easier by the rote way that Stasi officers had torn up the papers after their office shredders had broken down: when they had filled a table with torn pieces, they were all shoved into one bag before the next lot was torn.

As a result, each sack contains almost a complete set of papers,

with practically no mixing of documents between the bags.

"It's very exciting to decode Stasi papers," said Schneider. "You have the feeling you are making history."

Birhler aide Guenter Bornmann said the bags to be scanned and re-assembled appeared to contain files in active use in 1988 and 1989 as the communist system teetered on the brink of collapse.

None are thought to relate to East German espionage abroad: former department's files were almost completely destroyed. It is not clear yet what will happen after the pilot project is completed.

Undamaged Stasi files have already helped to expose many of the turncoats who tried to bury their past when communism fell. Former Stasi officers are barred as security risks from many German public offices.

A legislator, Klaus-Peter Willsch, said the documents might help undercover more Stasi informers so they can be punished. He believes all 16,000 sacks could be reconstructed for less than 30mn euros (\$40mn). – DPA

Exercise programme safe for baby and mom-to-be

Health and fitness is important before, during and after pregnancy, writes **CECILIA OLECK**

THERE once was a time when pregnant women were expected to take it easy, rest and generally not exert themselves for nine months before taking part in what could possibly be their most grueling physical challenge.

That time is not now. More often, women are choosing – or being advised by their doctors – to stay active throughout their pregnancies. “I tell my patients that pregnancy is a great time to exercise,” says Deborah Berman, an assistant professor and obstetrician-gynaecologist at the University of Michigan. “Health and fitness is important before, during and after a pregnancy. It’s not a time to stop exercising and lose your fitness and lose your conditioning.”

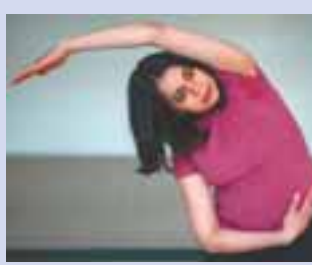
For some women, working out while expecting is a matter of wanting to bounce back quickly after delivery. Others exercise to remedy pregnancy-induced ailments like back and muscle aches. Most feel that by taking care of themselves, they’re also benefiting their soon-to-be-born children.

“I had a great pregnancy experience and I think I owe it to staying active,” says Romina Profeta, a physical therapist from Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, who gave birth to her first son in 2004. Knowing how to stay active while you’re expecting can be tricky. Workouts that are suitable for a non-pregnant person – such as running – can also work during pregnancy, but only up to a point.

Gentle activities specifically geared toward pregnancy are smart choices for moms-to-be, says Carolyne Anthony, founder and director of the Center for Women’s Fitness in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She teaches prenatal fitness classes around the world and also trains instructors in pregnancy fitness techniques.

Yoga, water aerobics and walking are popular options.

“This is not the time to be worried about gaining weight or losing your fitness level,” Anthony writes in an e-mail from southeast Asia, where she recently conducted training workshops. “It is a time to be gentle with your body and to



Seema Erskine attends a prenatal yoga class at Stout Elementary School in Dearborn, Michigan. Erskine is due with her first baby on July 12.



begin exercising the correct way to help with the birthing of the baby.”
Women who are physically active prior to pregnancy can usually keep up a comparable level of activity while pregnant, as long as they are checking in with a doctor and listening to their bodies’ cues that they need to ease up, says Berman.
“Most women’s bodies will speak to them,” says Berman. A rose-coloured T-shirt creeps up to reveal a sliver of skin on Seema Erskine softly rounded belly.
She wraps her right hand

gently around her stomach and stretches her left hand over her head, exhaling as she reaches, releasing tension in her body.
It’s become a weekly ritual for Erskine, 31, of Dearborn, Michigan, who started practicing yoga in January when she was three months pregnant.
She used to take a Pilates class once a week before becoming pregnant.
Erskine leaves each class feeling relaxed and refreshed.
So, she says, does her baby.
“I think the baby takes a nap,” says Erskine, whose first child is due in July. “It’s quiet during class, whereas when

I’m at work and stressed, it moves around a lot.”
For Erskine, pregnancy provided an opportunity to try a new activity, something that doctors say can be good for women – as long as the new workout isn’t too strenuous.
Erskine says she sought out a class specifically for pregnant women because she wanted to know that the workouts were safe for her baby.
Plus, signing up for a weekly class makes her more likely to work out.
The yoga class she took in Dearborn is offered through Fitness Rx, a West Bloomfield,

Michigan, company whose instructors teach fitness classes throughout metro Detroit.
Instructor Bess Costos – who has a six-month-old daughter and participated in prenatal yoga throughout her own pregnancy – makes sure the women in her class take water breaks throughout the class to keep from overheating.
She’s also aware that women’s bodies change week to week during pregnancy, so she teaches those in her class to modify poses to accommodate burgeoning bellies.
Most of the poses are done seated, standing or kneeling, as

pregnant women generally are told not to lie flat on their backs in the second and third trimesters. Seeing other women in the class practice yoga until they were ready to give birth has inspired Erskine to continue exercising as long as possible during her pregnancy.

“It’s been good just being able to take the one hour a week for myself and the baby,” she says.

For most women (and men), running a marathon is its own feat. For the 30-year-old orthodontist from Ferndale, Michigan, didn’t realise she was running for two when she took part in the Walt Disney World Marathon in January.

Since then, Watters, who is due to deliver her first child in September, has toned down her training – but not much.

She continues to run, swim and participate in at least three days a week in a Birmingham, Michigan, boot camp led by her husband, Jeff Watters.

The difference is that now she runs 3 miles or less at a time, stops when she’s tired, carries water with her during boot camp training and monitors her heart rate to make sure it’s not too high.

For Watters and highly active women like her – used to hardcore fitness endeavours – working out in a way that is physically challenging but also safe for the baby’s development can be one of pregnancy’s biggest tests.

Before becoming pregnant, Watters says she would push herself to continue working out even when she felt tired or sick. “Now I go with how I feel,” she says.

She’ll take breaks during training and her running gait is slower, though that rantes the competitor in her.

She’s also prepared to move her training indoors to an elliptical machine or pool once running becomes too taxing.

To keep her mind off what she can’t do, Watters says she focuses on what she can – a tactic that doctors and fitness instructors recommend for all women who want to remain active during pregnancy. – *Detroit Free Press/ MCT*

Before you start...

- Consult with your doctor to put together an exercise plan appropriate for you.
- Don’t exercise if you have risk factors for preterm labour, vaginal bleeding or premature rupture of membranes.
- Don’t start a new, strenuous workout routine while pregnant.
- Dizziness, shortness of breath, headache, chest pain, cramping, contracting and bleeding are signs to slow down, stop or see your doctor.
- Be aware that the extra weight can cause your centre of gravity to shift, making it easier to lose your balance.
- Drink plenty of water before, during and after exercise.
- Avoid exercising in extreme heat. Activities such as water aerobics, yoga, stretching and walking can be gentle on the body.
- Avoid activities that have a high risk of injury or falls.
- Women on bed rest should talk with their doctor about exercise options.
- Women who are inactive prior to pregnancy can start a routine during pregnancy – they just need to start slowly.

Workouts make delivery easier

WHEN Karen Little was pregnant with her two daughters, now 3 years and 18 months, she spent much of the time on bed rest before going into early delivery both times. After the birth of her second daughter, Dori Waters, Michigan, mother and physician decided she was through with sitting around.
Little started exercising and lost about 40lbs, faithfully attending Body Beautiful Boot Camp – run by local fitness guru Jennifer Gray – for a fix of kickboxing, circuit weight training, Pilates and aerobics three times a week.
She got hooked and didn’t stop, even when she became pregnant with her third child, a son born last month at full-term.

She’s convinced that working out made all the difference during her third pregnancy. “It was the best I’ve ever felt,” says Little, 36.

Little, who is an internal medicine doctor at Henry Ford Health System, says her own physicians encouraged her to stay active. “They recommended that I do as much as I can tolerate,” says Little.

Japan’s first ‘baby hatch’ opens to controversy

JAPAN’S first “baby hatch”, where parents can drop off unwanted infants anonymously, opened earlier this month despite opposition from the conservative national government.

The baby hatch, modelled on a project in Germany, went into operation at a Roman Catholic hospital in the city of Kumamoto, some 900km southwest of Tokyo.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has urged Japan to return to “family values,” opposed the idea but found no legal grounds to stop it. “A mother must not leave her child or abandon him or her anonymously,” Abe told reporters.

“I want mothers to seek help first if they have problems,” said Abe, who is childless after unsuccessful attempts with his wife Akie.

Since the hospital announced plans to set up the hatch in November, it has reportedly received about 40 inquiries. Advocates say the plan, if replicated, could help boost the dwindling birth rate in Japan, where abortion is widely accepted. The city of Kumamoto approved the Jikei Hospital’s plan in April after deciding it did not violate any laws.

Called “the cradle of storks,” the hatch is set into the wall of the hospital’s lobby like a mailbox. It has a door, 50cm by 60 cm with a drawing of two storks carrying a baby and a message reading, “Please leave something with the baby.”

When the door is opened, a nurse is alerted by an alarm. There is an intercom next to the door to encourage parents to contact hospital staff.

“When I saw a simulation, in which a baby doll was placed into the hatch, I again felt determined that we must build a society in which this hatch will never be needed,” Kumamoto Mayor Seishi Kouyama said, as quoted by Jiji Press. – *AFP*

Spot the MISS UNIVERSE



Contestants for Miss Universe 2007 pageant, which will be held in Mexico City on May 28, have a day out at Xochimilco Canals in Mexico City for a pre-event photo session. Clockwise from top left: Sharon Kenett, Miss Israel; Kimberley Busted, Miss Australia; Sandra Faro Miss Mauritius, Xiomara Blandino Miss Nicaragua, Wendy Salgado Miss Honduras, Carolina Raven Miss Aruba, Renata Christian Miss US Virgin Islands and Polyvia Achilleos Miss Cyprus pose with a jaguar named Syanja and its keeper Fernando Perez; Ly Jonaitis, Miss Venezuela, Sharon Kenett, Miss Israel; Laural Barrett, Miss New Zealand; Rosemary Chileshe, Miss Zambia and Puja Gupta, Miss India pose for Kimberley Busted, Miss Australia. The 56th annual event this year is hosting 77 contestants from around the world.

It doesn't take long in the Exumas to become a local

Largely unexplored, the traditional charm of a Caribbean island can be best experienced in the Exumas, writes JANE WOOLRIDGE

IN THE Exumas, the Bahamas, less than an hour and just about everyone at the pool bar at the Club Peace n' Plenty hotel knows my story.

"Oh, you're that writer that's coming to town," says a local real estate agent, who is lessening the disappointment of a soured deal with a little afternoon cocktail.

The hotel manager settles in for a chat and a beer, then gets edged out by the owner of a local kayaking outfitter and a would-be developer from Denver, all looking to tell their story. Leron Rolfe, the long-time bartender and "doctor of fine arts of libation," keeps everybody happy.

Eventually the light wanes and with it, the afternoon crowd. A new group - mostly expats - gathers in the hotel's 18th century slave kitchen-turned-indoor bar where Glen Munroe - part-time firefighter, bartender and father of 11 - keeps track of the tabs. The aunt of a Miami colleague - who knew she lived here? - tracks me down, with another would-be-developer in tow.

In the Exumas, that's the way of things. Been in town an hour? You're practically a local.

After all, only about 3,600 people live on its 365 cays, with about 32,000 visitors in 2006. The capital has no stop-light and only got an ATM machine in the last couple of years.

But like so many of its neighbouring isles, the Exumas are a place in transition, gingerly steering a future between the economic benefits of new hotels and second-home communities, and the traditional charms of an island where the pristine sea looks, as one transplant puts it, like God's finger painting, and everybody knows your name.

West of the airport, on Emerald Bay, the gracious and breezy Four Seasons Resort, opened in late 2003, marks the benefits of the future. For guests, 30 acres of luxury facilities: comfortable rooms, gourmet dining, cocktails served on the beach, an 18-hole Greg

Norman golf course, casino, 32,000-square-foot spa and fitness centre, tennis courts. For Bahamians: 566 jobs.

Celebs have already found the islands. Last summer, illusionist David Copperfield purchased Musha Cay, the private island where A-listers Faith Hill, Tim McGraw and Robin Williams have vacationed. After shooting in the area for *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Johnny Depp bought his own caye.

No surprise that land prices have skyrocketed, from a few hundred thousand dollars for a beachfront home five years ago to listings in the \$2.5-million range. And though real estate may be softening slightly, high-end options like the hotel-condo villas at Grand Isle and custom lots at Emerald Bay are still selling well, says Joe Scaggs, a partner in both projects. On the hotel side, several existing hotels continue to expand, a new boutique hotel is going in on Crab Cay and others are rumored.

For now at least, the Exumas are still a boaters' haven where you can cosy up to locals at a beach bar and wander through flats for miles without seeing another human soul.

"These are the most beautiful beaches in the world," says Christina Hall of Stockholm, one of the few wandering the beach of Little Exuma this day.

On the far-flung island of Staniel Cay, a boaters' hangout, new homes have sprung up and others are being planned. But for now, the ambience of this and nearby isles remains laid-back, the allure low tech: spectacular snorkeling, untouched beaches home to marine iguanas canned by a beer at the friendly Staniel Cay Yacht Club.

The Chat 'n' Chill beach is the daytime fix of everybody from the megabucks yachters who come in winter to Sunday morning worshippers who pray under the trees.

On a hot afternoon, the shallow water is filled with families, couples, anglers hoisting a brew. And though you've just arrived, everybody knows your name. - MCT



Top: One of the beaches on Little Exuma. Above: Poolside view of the Four Seasons hotel.

Colombian hermit finds paradise on Lebanon trail

By Alistair Lyon

FOR A Colombian hermit thousands of miles from home, Lebanon's Qadisha valley is a heaven on earth where he hopes to end his days.

Yet Father Dario Escobar may lose some of his solitude when hikers learn about a fledgling national trail that passes near his cliffside hermitage as it meanders nearly 400km over Lebanon's mountain spine from the far north to the south.

The creators of the Lebanon Mountain Trail see its limestone crags, waterfalls, rich vegetation and ancient monasteries, as a showcase of what can attract Lebanese and foreigners willing to explore the country on foot.

Fortunately, Escobar does not seem to mind when hikers test-walk a section of the trail intrude on his privacy. "Usually I speak to nobody, but I speak with you because someone knocked on my door," laughed the black-cowled monk as he emerged from his cave cell near a rock-cut chapel.

"This is paradise," the 72-year-old greybeard said, looking out at a verdant, steep-sided valley from the tiny 13th-century monastery of Our Lady of Hawka. "I am here for good."

The calm beauty of the spot where Escobar spends his time in prayer and contemplation is a far cry from Lebanon's image as a tinderbox for Middle Eastern conflict - a image that the trail organisers say tells only part of the story.

"Despite all the trouble Lebanon is going through, this is a different universe," said Karim al-Jisr, the project's deputy manager.

"Hopefully the Lebanon Mountain Trail will bring people together ... and appeal to people in Lebanon from all walks of life, religions, confessions and political affiliations."

The project itself, funded by a \$3.2m grant from the US, suffered a few delays due to last year's July-August war between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas.



Father Dario Escobar outside his cave cell.

But ECODIT, a US-based consultancy which has a two-year contract to set up the trail, hopes to have the route mapped, marked and ready to hand over to a non-governmental association by the end of the year.

A guide book in English, maps and a website (www.lebanontrail.org) are also in the works.

"It's all about connecting dots, linking things up," said Jisr, explaining how the trail will take walkers to nature reserves, archaeological sites, holy places and villages at altitudes from 800 to 2,000m.

The idea is also to promote ecotourism, a relatively new concept in Lebanon, where tourism has long relied on attractions such as the temples of Baalbek, the ancient port of Byblos and the Cedars, along with the shops and nightlife of Beirut.

Unlike wilderness routes popular in North America the Lebanon trail includes many villages, with money spent on guides and accommodation intended to stimulate the rural economy.

It uses centuries-old paths, some signposted by litter - a 63mm grant from the US, suffered a few delays due to last year's July-August war between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas.

Kenya tourism rides crest of booming demand

By Daniel Willis

UNCHTIME at an upmarket Kenyan safari lodge in what should be the slow off-season, and the dining room is packed with tourists from all over the world.

Chattering excitedly in many languages as they watch antelope, buffalo and a giraffe grazing just a short distance away across a stone terrace, they are driving an unprecedented boom in a key sector of east Africa's biggest economy.

Kenya made \$800m from tourism in 2006, making the industry its best hard currency earner ahead of horticulture and tea. This year, the tourist board expects revenues to top \$1bn for the first time.

"This is the busiest we have seen it," says Patrick, a barman at the lodge. Behind him, Lake Nakuru reflects the sky like a mirror, lined with an electric pink fringe of about 10m flamingoes.

Kenyan tourism was hit by US travel warnings after bombings in 1998 and 2002 that were blamed on Al Qaeda.

But it has rebounded strongly in the past three years, and

earlier this month the Kenya Tourist Board (KTB) said March 2007 had been the most profitable month on record.

Perhaps the best news was that - defying the warnings - US arrivals were up by 20.7% in the first quarter to 22,802. The figures reflect a broader financial boom in the country and a success for President Mwai Kibaki, who inherited stagnant economic growth of just 0.6% from his long-serving predecessor Daniel ar Moi in late 2002.

His administration is staking its reputation on economic recovery ahead of elections due in December, and was boosted by a recent central bank forecast of 8% growth by 2008, up from at least 6% this year. Tourism will play a leading role. While growth is constrained by potholed roads, environmental degradation, and fear of crime - particularly in Nairobi - the government still hopes to more than double visitor numbers to 5m by 2012.

From Beijing to Baltimore, US travel warnings, print and radio campaigns are selling the attractions of parks like Nakuru, nestled in the Great Rift Valley, ringed by acacia



A 2006 file photo shows giraffes crossing the road in the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

and euphorbia forests and roamed by wildlife including lions and rhinos. Much of the future growth will be fed by emerging markets in Russia and China, officials say, as well as more tourists from traditional markets like Europe and Japan.

Underlining the booming interest, Virgin Atlantic is launching daily London-Nairobi flights next month, hoping to carry some 100,000 extra passengers to Kenya in the first year. "If it is successful we hope to go up to two

said economic growth meant aggressive Kenyan adverts were reaching more potential visitors. To support its bullish vision, the government is reforming operations at home as well as spreading the word overseas.

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And in the longer term, Kenya faces a threat from the projected impacts of global warming, which is seen dramatically affecting weather patterns and cutting existing animal ranges.

Even the government's upbeat growth predictions will not be enough to pull the majority of its 35m population out of poverty. Donors say Kenya's economy needs to grow by at least 10% a year to halve the number in poverty by 2015.

But Kenyan tourism players are optimistic, and even the Rift's stunning pink flamingoes - once threatened with extinction by erosion and pollution - are making a comeback as locals are encouraged to play a bigger role in conservation. - Reuters

Nazi era bunkers attract tourists in German capital

By Clive Freeman

TOURISTS are flocking this spring to see surviving Nazi era bunkers in the German capital, with underground tours specially laid on for visitors fascinated by the city's bizarre network of underground shelters and tunnels.

This is in marked contrast to earlier post-WWII decades when the German authorities, perhaps understandably, preferred to remain silent about the more than 300 bunkers that had survived the grim, 12-year period of National Socialism.

During the city's cold-war division, communist East Berlin officials particularly turned a blind eye to the existence of buildings, bunkers and tunnels with a Nazi connection. For decades, citizens were kept in ignorance, for example, of the precise whereabouts of Hitler's bunker, where the "Fuhrer" committed suicide in early 1945 when the Russians arrived to seize the city.

A large hump in the "no-man's" land area of the Wall near Potsdamer Platz, caused when Soviet Army troops made a hash of blowing up the bunker in the late 1940s, was the only visible clue to its existence for years. Not until last June did the Berlin Underworlds Association, a Nazi-era group founded 10 years ago, break a long held German taboo by erecting a shield pinpointing the notorious underground bunker site.

The Hitler bunker had been finally revealed in the 1980s, allowing a kindergarten to be built on the site of the Fuhrer hideout.

Nowadays, in addition to maintaining an underground history museum, the underworlds association arranges selected tours remaining WWII bunkers and shelters in and around the city.

Close on 1,000 underground bunkers were built during the Nazi era to protect citizens. Many lay in ruins at war's end after being targeted by allied bombers and Soviet artillery fire.

But almost a third survived, some virtually unscathed. Dietmar Arnold, the underworlds association co-founder, says for a long time the German authorities were nervous of the "Fuhrerbunker."

It was similar thinking that led to Spandau Prison being torn down after the suicide of Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess in 1987. Now a supermarket exists on the site.

But city attitudes have changed in recent years. Ingeborg Junge-Reyer, the city's senator for urban development today finds praise for the work of the underworlds organisation.

"Not many people know how Berlin looks underground. It is not accessible for the most part. But they do have an interest in the history of their city and like to take a look at the city's tunnels and vaults," she says.

One prime example of Nazi era bunker architecture is that found at the corner of Albrecht and Reinhardtstrasse, not far from the city's Deutsches Theatre in Berlin. Built by the Nazis in 1942, mainly as a refuge for 2,500 Reichsbahn (German railway) workers during bombing raids, its floors were divided into eight chambers.

By late 1944 more than 5,000 terrified Berliners sat huddled inside the metre-thick-walled premises, with its narrow window slits, as allied raids intensified.

Three years ago Christian Boros, a Wuppertal entrepreneur and art collector bought the listed bunker building for his family. Now it sports a luxury penthouse suite and garden, a swimming pool, and numerous art exhibition rooms.

Tempelhof Airport, one of the world's biggest building terminals, whose arc-shaped hangars were designed in the 1930s to resemble an eagle in flight, also possesses a huge web of underground bunkers, in addition to a Nazi-designed aircraft assembly line running four miles beneath the surface. In the year 2000, a Nazi archive with files on 4,000 people forced into slave labour during the Third Reich was found in one of its bunkers. In 2008, the Berlin city government intends to close down the terminal which also is a state-protected building. - DPA



A lioness rests on a tree at the Nakuru National Park, about 120km west of Kenya's capital Nairobi. Right: Flamingoes wade in the waters of Lake Nakuru.



It doesn't take long in the Exumas to become a local

Largely unexplored, the traditional charm of a Caribbean island can be best experienced in the Exumas, writes JANE WOOLRIDGE

IN THE Exumas, the Bahamas, less than an hour and just about everyone at the pool bar at the Club Peace n' Plenty hotel knows my story.

"Oh, you're that writer that's coming to town," says a local real estate agent, who is lessening the disappointment of a soured deal with a little afternoon cocktail.

The hotel manager settles in for a chat and a beer, then gets edged out by the owner of a local kayaking outfitter and a would-be developer from Denver, all looking to tell their story. Leron Rolfe, the long-time bartender and "doctor of fine arts of libation," keeps everybody happy.

Eventually the light wanes and with it, the afternoon crowd. A new group - mostly expats - gathers in the hotel's 18th century slave kitchen-turned-indoor bar where Glen Munroe - part-time firefighter, bartender and father of 11 - keeps track of the tabs. The aunt of a Miami colleague - who knew she lived here? - tracks me down, with another would-be-developer in tow.

In the Exumas, that's the way of things. Been in town an hour? You're practically a local.

After all, only about 3,600 people live on its 365 cays, with about 32,000 visitors in 2006. The capital has no stop-light and only got an ATM machine in the last couple of years.

But like so many of its neighbouring isles, the Exumas are a place in transition, gingerly steering a future between the economic benefits of new hotels and second-home communities, and the traditional charms of an island where the pristine sea looks, as one transplant puts it, like God's finger painting, and everybody knows your name.

West of the airport, on Emerald Bay, the gracious and breezy Four Seasons Resort, opened in late 2003, marks the benefits of the future. For guests, 30 acres of luxury facilities: comfortable rooms, gourmet dining, cocktails served on the beach, an 18-hole Greg

Norman golf course, casino, 32,000-square-foot spa and fitness centre, tennis courts. For Bahamians: 566 jobs.

Celebs have already found the islands. Last summer, illusionist David Copperfield purchased Musha Cay, the private island where A-listers Faith Hill, Tim McGraw and Robin Williams have vacationed. After shooting in the area for *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Johnny Depp bought his own caye.

No surprise that land prices have skyrocketed, from a few hundred thousand dollars for a beachfront home five years ago to listings in the \$2.5-million range. And though real estate may be softening slightly, high-end options like the hotel-condo villas at Grand Isle and custom lots at Emerald Bay are still selling well, says Joe Scaggs, a partner in both projects. On the hotel side, several existing hotels continue to expand, a new boutique hotel is going in on Crab Cay and others are rumored.

For now at least, the Exumas are still a boaters' haven where you can cosy up to locals at a beach bar and wander through flats for miles without seeing another human soul.

"These are the most beautiful beaches in the world," says Christina Hall of Stockholm, one of the few wandering the beach of Little Exuma this day.

On the far-flung island of Staniel Cay, a boaters' hangout, new homes have sprung up and others are being planned. But for now, the ambience of this and nearby isles remains laid-back, the allure low tech: spectacular snorkeling, untouched beaches home to marine iguanas canned by a beer at the friendly Staniel Cay Yacht Club.

The Chat 'n' Chill beach is the daytime fix of everybody from the megabucks yachters who come in winter to Sunday morning worshippers who pray under the trees.

On a hot afternoon, the shallow water is filled with families, couples, anglers hoisting a brew. And though you've just arrived, everybody knows your name. - MCT



Top: One of the beaches on Little Exuma. Above: Poolside view of the Four Seasons hotel.

Colombian hermit finds paradise on Lebanon trail

By Alistair Lyon

FOR A Colombian hermit thousands of miles from home, Lebanon's Qadisha valley is a heaven on earth where he hopes to end his days.

Yet Father Dario Escobar may lose some of his solitude when hikers learn about a fledgling national trail that passes near his cliffside hermitage as it meanders nearly 400km over Lebanon's mountain spine from the far north to the south.

The creators of the Lebanon Mountain Trail see its limestone crags, waterfalls, rich vegetation and ancient monasteries, as a showcase of what can attract Lebanese and foreigners willing to explore the country on foot.

Fortunately, Escobar does not seem to mind when hikers test-walk a section of the trail intrude on his privacy. "Usually I speak to nobody, but I speak with you because someone knocked on my door," laughed the black-cowled monk as he emerged from his cave cell near a rock-cut chapel.

"This is paradise," the 72-year-old greybeard said, looking out at a verdant, steep-sided valley from the tiny 13th-century monastery of Our Lady of Hawka. "I am here for good."

The calm beauty of the spot where Escobar spends his time in prayer and contemplation is a far cry from Lebanon's image as a tinderbox for Middle Eastern conflict - a image that the trail organisers say tells only part of the story.

"Despite all the trouble Lebanon is going through, this is a different universe," said Karim al-Jisr, the project's deputy manager.

"Hopefully the Lebanon Mountain Trail will bring people together ... and appeal to people in Lebanon from all walks of life, religions, confessions and political affiliations."

The project itself, funded by a \$3.2m grant from the US, suffered a few delays due to last year's July-August war between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas.



Father Dario Escobar outside his cave cell.

But ECODIT, a US-based consultancy which has a two-year contract to set up the trail, hopes to have the route mapped, marked and ready to hand over to a non-governmental association by the end of the year.

A guide book in English, maps and a website (www.lebanontrail.org) are also in the works.

"It's all about connecting dots, linking things up," said Jisr, explaining how the trail will take walkers to nature reserves, archaeological sites, holy places and villages at altitudes from 800 to 2,000m.

The idea is also to promote ecotourism, a relatively new concept in Lebanon, where tourism has long relied on attractions such as the temples of Baalbek, the ancient port of Byblos and the Cedars, along with the shops and nightlife of Beirut.

Unlike wilderness routes popular in North America the Lebanon trail includes many villages, with money spent on guides and accommodation intended to stimulate the rural economy.

It uses centuries-old paths, some signposted by litter - a 63mm grant from the US, suffered a few delays due to last year's July-August war between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas.

Kenya tourism rides crest of booming demand

By Daniel Willis

UNCHTIME at an upmarket Kenyan safari lodge in what should be the slow off-season, and the dining room is packed with tourists from all over the world.

Chattering excitedly in many languages as they watch antelope, buffalo and a giraffe grazing just a short distance away across a stone terrace, they are driving an unprecedented boom in a key sector of east Africa's biggest economy.

Kenya made \$800m from tourism in 2006, making the industry its best hard currency earner ahead of horticulture and tea. This year, the tourist board expects revenues to top \$1bn for the first time.

"This is the busiest we have seen it," says Patrick, a barman at the lodge. Behind him, Lake Nakuru reflects the sky like a mirror, lined with an electric pink fringe of about 10m flamingoes.

Kenyan tourism was hit by US travel warnings after bombings in 1998 and 2002 that were blamed on Al Qaeda.

But it has rebounded strongly in the past three years, and

earlier this month the Kenya Tourist Board (KTB) said March 2007 had been the most profitable month on record.

Perhaps the best news was that - defying the warnings - US arrivals were up by 20.7% in the first quarter to 22,802. The figures reflect a broader financial boom in the country and a success for President Mwai Kibaki, who inherited stagnant economic growth of just 0.6% from his long-serving predecessor Daniel ar Moi in late 2002.

His administration is staking its reputation on economic recovery ahead of elections due in December, and was boosted by a recent central bank forecast of 8% growth by 2008, up from at least 6% this year. Tourism will play a leading role. While growth is constrained by potholed roads, environmental degradation, and fear of crime - particularly in Nairobi - the government still hopes to more than double visitor numbers to 5m by 2012.

From Beijing to Baltimore, US travel warnings, print and radio campaigns are selling the attractions of parks like Nakuru, nestled in the Great Rift Valley, ringed by acacia



A 2006 file photo shows giraffes crossing the road in the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

and euphorbia forests and roamed by wildlife including lions and rhinos. Much of the future growth will be fed by emerging markets in Russia and China, officials say, as well as more tourists from traditional markets like Europe and Japan.

Underlining the booming interest, Virgin Atlantic is launching daily London-Nairobi flights next month, hoping to carry some 100,000 extra passengers to Kenya in the first year. "If it is successful we hope to go up to two

planes a day," Virgin Chairman Richard Branson said during a visit in March. Rising before dawn with strong coffee, donuts and fresh fruit in Nakuru, one group of Americans prepared for an early game drive, hoping to spot the park's more reclusive big game.

Numerous forays into Africa by US celebrities in recent months have raised the country's profile there. But this year's biggest growth came from Eastern Europe, and particularly Russia, where KTB

said economic growth meant aggressive Kenyan adverts were reaching more potential visitors. To support its bullish vision, the government is reforming operations at home as well as spreading the word overseas.

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But almost a third survived, some virtually unscathed. Dietmar Arnold, the underworlds association co-founder, says for a long time the German authorities were nervous of the "Fuehrerbunker" off the Wilhelmstrasse, might become a shrine for neo-Nazis.

It was similar thinking that led to Spandau Prison being torn down after the suicide of Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess in 1987. Now a supermarket exists on the site.

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A lioness rests on a tree at the Nakuru National Park, about 120km west of Kenya's capital Nairobi. Right: Flamingoes wade in the waters of Lake Nakuru.



Television Listings

	SUPER MOVIES	STAR MOVIES	ESPN SPORTS	FOX SPORTS	HOLLYWOOD CH.	ZEE TV	DISCOVERY CH.	STAR PLUS
5am to 1pm	0500 A Little Trip To Heaven (2) 0700 Heidi (2) 0900 Johnny English (2) 1100 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory (2) 1300 Anger Management (2)	0540 The Ticket 0740 Proof Of Lies 0940 Day Of Wrath 1155 King Kong 1155 Playing House	0600 Sportscenter Live 0700 Racing Preakness Draw 0800 Sportscenter Live 1000 WWE Experience- RP 1100 ICC Cricket 1130 Squash Association World Super Series 1200 ESPN's Major League Baseball Teams	0500 Fox Soccer Report 0700 Fox Supercenter 0800 Championship Europe 0900 Professional Squash Association 1000 World Super Series Kuwait Open P 2 1100 Fox Soccer Report 1258 United Soccer League Portland At Seattle 1258 West Indies Tour Of England, 1st Test, Day 1, Session 1, Lord's	0530 Muchmusic Countdown 0700 Listed 0800 The Spin 0830 Muchmusic Video 0900 Start Daily 0930 Best Movies! Ever! 1030 ABCs Of Rock 1100 The Story Of... 1200 The Wedge 1300 Start Inside	0500 Sales Slot 0530 Exposure Ek Nazar 0555 Exposure Ek Nazar 0600 WWS 0630 Exposure Ek Nazar 0655 Jai Ganesh 0655 Exposure Jhalak 0700 Maa 0730 Jab Love Hua 0800 Sarhadain 0830 Parivaar ... Kartavya Ki Pariksha 0855 Exposure Jhalak 0900 Jab Love Hua 0930 Marmta 0925 Exposure Ek Nazar 1000 Masayih 1030 Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan 1100 Teen Bahuraniyan 1130 Saath Phere 1200 Ghar Ki Laxmi Betyaan 1230 Movie: Main Khiladi Tu Anari	0515 Massive Speed 0540 How It's Made 0605 Rides 0700 Biker Build-Off 0755 Junkyard Mega-Wars 0850 How It's Made 0915 Mega Builders 1100 Versailles 1095 Uncovered 1105 Mythbusters 1200 Rides 1255 5th Gear	0500 Men Saheli 0530 Tanparazzi 0600 Sonpari 0630 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 0700 Kesar 0730 Saarthi 0800 Shanti 0830 Shaugh 0900 Shararat 0930 Karam Apna Apna 1000 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 1030 Kunkum Pyara Sa Bandhan 1100 Shanti 1130 Kesar 1200 Saarthi 1230 Tanha 1300 Shaugh
MOVIE RATINGS								
1 All Viewers, 2 Caution 3 Parental Discretion, V Violence S Adult Content, L Strong Language								
1pm to 7pm	1500 White Oleander (2) 1700 Tideland (3) 1900 Hulk (2)	1325 Inventing The Abbotts 1515 The Ringer 1655 Johnson Family Vacation 1835 Day Of Wrath	1500 Spring Horse Racing Preakness Draw 1600 Metric Revolutions 1630 Egyptian League: Olympic vs Ahly	1500 Asian Tour Weekly 1530 West Indies Tour Of England, 1st Test, Day 1, Session 2, Lord's	1330 Spotlight 1400 The Newmusic 1430 Muchmusic Video 1700 Behind The Movies 1500 Start Daily 1530 Look-A-Like 1600 Fashion Television 1530 Raw 1700 Number Ones 1800 Arts & Minds 1830 The Originals 1900 Live At The Rehearsal Hall	1315 Exposure Ek Nazar 1330 Movie contd... 1425 Exposure Jhalak 1455 Exposure Jhalak 1530 Kasam Se 1600 Saath Phere 1630 Marmta 1700 Parivaar ... Kartavya Ki Pariksha 1730 Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan 1800 Masayih 1830 Kasam Se	1350 Junkyard Mega-Wars 1445 Industrial Revelations The European Story 1515 Massive Speed 1540 Mega Machines 1635 Mythbusters 1730 Deadliest Catch 1830 American Chopper	1330 Shararat 1400 Kunkum Pyara Sa Bandhan 1500 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 1530 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni 1600 Kasturi 1630 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 1700 Kayamath 1730 Karam Apna Apna 1800 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 1830 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni 1900 Kasturi
7pm to 5am	2100 Five Fingers - New (3) 2300 An American Haunting (3) 0100 Romance & Cigarettes 0300 Tideland (3)	2030 Inspector Gadget 2155 GMA Recorded 2305 Kids In America 0100 Her Minor Thing 0240 The Ringer 0415 Johnson Family Vacation	1930 Triathlon World Cup 2030 ESPN's Major League Baseball Teams 2330 Import Racers 0000 Racing World 0030 Metric Revolutions 0100 Sportscenter Live 0230 Grand Prix Sailing Tour 0300 Major League Soccer FC Dallas/Chicago Fire Live	2000 National Rugby League Teams 2200 PGA Tour 2200 BellSouth Classic Rd 1 0100 Inside The PGA Tour 0130 Golf Club 0200 Rolex Fed 0230 Equestrian World 0230 The Golf Channel	2000 Start At The Movies 2030 Muchmusic Video 2100 Start Daily 2130 Music Is My Life 2200 Behind The Movies 2230 Action 2300 Fashion Television 0000 Specialty 0030 Rapcity 0100 Listed 0200 The Spin 0230 Muchmusic Video 0300 Start Daily 0330 Best Movies! Ever!	1900 Saath Phere 1930 Ghar Ki Laxmi Betyaan 2000 Teen Bahuraniyan 2030 Jab Love Hua 2055 Exposure Jhalak 2100 Parivaar ... Kartavya Ki Pariksha 2125 Exposure Ek Nazar 2130 Exposure Jhalak 2155 Exposure Jhalak 2200 Global Telemat 2200 Sales Slot Flip Play 0000 Kasam Se 0030 Marmta 0100 Saath Phere 0130 Khana Khazana 0200 Urja 0230 Narseva Narayan Seva	1930 Rides 2030 How It's Made 2100 Dirty Docs 2200 Psychic Witness 2300 Crimes That Shook The World 0000 Forensic Detectives 0100 Deadliest Catch 0200 American Chopper 0255 Italian Fascists in Colour 0350 5th Gear 0445 Industrial Revelations The European Story	1930 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 2000 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2030 Kayamath 2100 Virasat 2130 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 2200 Karam Apna Apna 2230 Saarthi 2300 Kunkum Pyara Sa Bandhan 2330 Tanparazzi 0000 Kesar 0030 Shanti 0100 Samne Wali Khidki 0130 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 0200 Krishna Arjun 0230 Shabhi 0300 Musafir Hoon Yaaron
5am to 1pm	0505 Saas Bahu Ki Handi 0605 Advance Booking 0630 Songs 0705 Mai Khayal Ho 0830 Kisey Aur Ka 0930 Advance Booking 0955 Saas Bahu Ki Handi 1030 Noor Jehan 1100 Kusum 1130 Sheeshay Ka Mehal 1130 Ye Meri Life Hai 1130 Aashna 1200 Safaid Posh 1230 Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahin	0500 Veronica Mars 0600 GMA Recorded 0800 Las Vegas 0900 All My Children 1000 Veronica Mars 1100 Relic Hunter 1200 All My Children 1300 Everwood	0500 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 0530 California Dreams 0600 Hang Time 0630 Explorations 0700 The Littles 0725 Little Mouse On The Prairie 0750 Journey To The Heart Of The World 0815 Gulliver's Travels 0840 Inspector Gadget 0900 Lady Lovely Locks 0925 Princess Tenko 0945 Little Mermaid 1010 Princess Sissi 1055 The Littles 1120 Little Mouse On The Prairie 1145 Journey To The Heart Of The World 1205 Culliver'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 0700 BBC News, Weather 0730 World Business Report 0800 BBC News, Weather 0830 World Business Report 0900 BBC News, Weather 0930 World Business Report 0945 Sport Today 1000 BBC News, Weather 1030 Fast Track 1100 BBC News, Weather 1130 Hardtalk 1200 BBC News, Weather 1230 Our World: Lebanon 1300 BBC News, Weather - Keeping the Peace	0500 MSNBC T Carlson 0530 NBC Nightly News 0630 ABC Nightline Live 0700 Newshour With Jim Lehrer 0800 MSNBC Scarborough Country 0900 MSNBC Hardball 1000 ABC Nightline News 1030 NBC Nightly News 1100 ABC World News 1130 NBC Early Today 1200 MSNBC Live First Look 1230 ABC America This Morning Live	0500 Anderson Cooper 0600 World News 0630 World Sport 0700 CNN Today 1000 Business International 1100 World News 1130 World Sport 1200 Larry King 1300 Business International	0520 Tarzan 0540 Lloyd In Space 0600 House of Mouse 0625 Lilo and Stitch 0650 Kim Possible 0710 Emporer's New School Spits 0725 Recess 0750 Lloyd In Space 0810 Lilo and Stitch 0835 Classic Cartoons 0860 Mickey Mouse Club House 0925 Little Einsteins 0945 Jo Jo's Circus 1000 Stanley 1035 Higglytown Heroes 1100 Good Troop 1125 Recess 1145 Kim Possible 1210 Lilo and Stitch 1235 House of Mouse 1255 Quack Pack	0500 Double Shot: Rock 0600 Poparazzi 0630 The Record Shop 0700 One-Tastic 0730 This Cover 0800 The Record Shop 0900 The Ticket 0930 Soundtracks 1000 Double Shot 1100 Flava 1100 Dick Vanance 1100 Dickinson Modeling Agency 1130 Double Shot 1200 Poparazzi 1230 The Record Shop 1300 For The Record: Good Charlotte
1pm to 7pm	1300 Pyare Shammo 1405 Mehndi Walay Haath 1430 Khuda Kee Basti 1505 Tere Pehlo Mein 1530 Kaajal 1605 Kisan Lazzat Ki Jaan 1705 Siyasi Khichri 1730 Kuch Cup Hai Kuch Sach Hai 1805 Mehndi Walay Haath 1830 Khuda Kee Basti	1400 GMA Live 1600 Las Vegas 1700 Invasion 1800 Cold Case 1900 Veronica Mars	1320 Oliver Twist 1345 Eek The Cat 1410 Headhuff 1430 Bad Dog 1455 The Littles 1520 Little Mouse On The Prairie 1545 Journey To The Heart Of The World 1610 Gulliver's Travels 1635 Inspector Gadget 1700 Camp Candy 1725 The Adventures Of Pinocchio 1750 Peter Pan And The Pirates 1840 Dennis 1900 California Dreams	1330 World Business Report 1345 Sport Today 1400 World News Today Including World Business Report 1500 BBC News, Weather 1530 World Business Report 1545 Sport Today 1600 BBC News, Weather 1630 Asia Today 1645 Sport Today 1700 BBC News, Weather 1730 Hardtalk 1800 BBC News, Weather 1830 Talking Movies 1900 BBC News, Weather	1330 NBC Early Today News 1400 NBC T Today 1700 PBS Newshour With Jim Lehrer 1800 MSNBC Hardball 1900 Countdown W/K Oibermann	1400 World News Asia 1500 World News 1530 World Sport 1600 World News Asia 1630 CNN Business Traveller 1700 Your World Today	1320 Tarzan 1340 Recess 1350 Lloyd In Space 1415 Kim Possible 1435 Brandy and Mr Whiskers 1455 Recess 1510 Lilo and Stitch 1535 Emporer'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 Emporer's New School 1825 Fillmore 1845 Recess 1900 Brandy and Mr Whiskers 1925 Fairly Odd Parents	1315 Double Shot 1400 Parental Control #17 1430 Cactus Garden #33 1500 Cactus Garden #33 1530 Double Shot 1600 America's Next Top Model S7 #12 1700 Video(Scope): Christina 1800 [V] Special: Good Charlotte 1830 Good Charlotte 1900 Parental Control #17
7pm to 5am	1905 Tere Pehlo Mein 1930 Kaajal 2005 Aashna 2030 Noor Jehan 2105 Tharparker 2215 Advance Booking 2235 Siyasi Khichri 2300 Kuch Cup Hai Kuch Sach Hai 2305 Mehndi Walay Haath 2330 Khuda Kee Basti 0005 Tere Pehlo Mein 0030 Kaajal 0105 Aashna 0130 Noor Jehan 0235 Advance Booking 0230 Sheeshay Ka Mehal	2000 Smallville 2100 The OC 2200 ER 2300 Close To Home 0000 Six Feet Under 0100 The OC 0200 ER 0300 Close To Home 0400 Everwood	1930 Hang Time 2000 The Tribe 2100 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 2130 High Flyers 2200 Sleepover Club 2230 Explorations 2300 California Dreams 2330 Hang Time 0000 The Tribe 0100 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 0130 High Flyers 0200 Sleepover Club 0230 Explorations 0300 The Tribe 0400 High Flyers 0430 Sleepover Club	1930 Asia Today 2000 BBC News, Weather 2030 World Business Report 2045 Sport Today 2100 BBC News, Weather 2130 Hardtalk 2200 BBC News, Weather 2230 Click 2300 BBC News, Weather 2330 World Business Report 0000 BBC News, Weather 0015 Sport Today 0030 World Business Report 0100 BBC News 0115 Sport Today Sports 0130 Asia Today 0145 Asia Business Report 0200 BBC News, Weather 0230 Asia Today 0245 Asia Business Report 0300 BBC News, Weather	2000 MSNBC Live 2100 NBC Dateline 2200 MSNBC Live T 2300 Carlson 0000 MSNBC Live Hardball 0100 ABC Nightline News 0130 ABC World News 0200 NBC Nightly News 0230 ABC World News 0300 MSNBC Live Countdown W/K Oibermann 0400 NBC Nightly News 0430 ABC World News	2030 CNN Business Traveller 2100 Your World Today 2130 World Business Today 2200 World News Europe 2230 World Business Today 2300 World News International 0000 World News 0100 World Sport 0000 Business International 0100 World News 0130 World News 0200 CNN Today	2010 Phil of The Future 2010 The Suite Life of Zack and Cody 2035 That's So Raven 2125 Boy Meets World 2200 House of Mouse 2225 Lilo and Stitch 2250 Kim Possible 2310 Emporer's New School Spits 2325 Recess 2350 Fillmore 0010 Lloyd In Space 0035 Classic Cartoons 0100 Mickey Mouse Club House 0125 Little Einsteins 0145 Jo Jo's Circus 0210 Stanley 0235 Higglytown Heroes 0300 Good Troop	1930 Double Shot 2000 Cactus Garden #33 2030 Double Shot 2100 Remote Control 2200 Poparazzi 2230 The Record Shop 2300 For The Record: Good Charlotte 2315 Double Shot 0000 America's Next Top Model S7 #12 0100 [V] Special: Good Charlotte 0130 Double Shot 0200 The Ticket 0230 Soundtracks 0300 Cactus Garden #33 0330 Double Shot 0400 Double Shot 80's 0430 Double Shot Rock

Radio Listings

QBS ENGLISH SERVICE	activities and events; Music; Schedule of the day	2200 National Anthem	2215 Raganmrutham 2300 Songs News by the hour	1300 News Headlines 1302 Alappatt Geentanjali 1405 Asianet Varthakal Show 1405 Raganmrutham 1420 Cine-Quiz 1440 Yuvabheri 1500 Asianet Varthakal 1502 Atlas Ganapatharam 1555 Islamic Quiz 1600 Atlas Vritanham 1615 Tamil Malai 1645 Tomorrow's Programmes 1650 Asianet Varthakal/close	0740 Business Daily 0800 World News 0805 The World Today 0900 Assignment 0930 One Planet: Japan And The Whale 1000 World News 1005 The World Today 1030 The Beat 1100 World News 1105 World Briefing 1120 World Business Report 1130 World Briefing 1140 Analysis 1150 Sports Roundup 1200 World News 1205 World Update 1300 World News 1305 World Briefing 1330 World News 1400 World News 1405 World Briefing 1420 World Business Report 1430 World News 1500 World News 1505 Newshour 1600 World News	1605 Assignment 1630 One Planet: Japan And The Whale 1700 World News 1705 Outlook 1800 World News 1805 World Briefing 1840 Business Daily 1900 World News 1905 Europe Today 2000 World News 2005 World News, Have Your Say 2100 World News 2105 World Briefing 2120 World Business Report 2130 One Planet: Japan And The Whale 2200 World News 2205 Assignment 2230 The Beat 2300 World News 2305 Newshour 2000 World News 0005 World Briefing 0020 World Business Report 0030 World News 0035 Sports Roundup
QBS FRENCH SERVICE	1315 Opening; Welcome; Weather; Doha's	1330 News; Qatari press review; Number 1 French Top 40 1345 Charqui Kharbi 1415 French/English programme; World and Arabic music 1530 News Flash 1535 Exceptional Women 1600 Back to English Service	RADIO ASIA MALAYALAM SERVICE 0500 Manjukurum Pular Kalam 0530 Life Magazine 0605 Keralaeyam 0700 Sarasakeralam 0800 Hello Rainbow 0900 GMG 0930 Comedy Serial 1000 Alukas 1100 Daily Diary 1305 Sneha Veedu 1330 Aardrabhavanagal 1357 Nam Engottu 1420 Atlas Daily Sl 1500 Viva Dhaparavam 1530 Quiz Time 1600 Kerala Link 1605 Suvama Nakshtiram 1702 Snehitahare Itihasi 1800 Hotline 1900 Sneha Sandesham 2000 Nenchni Ninte Rangam 2100 Isai Malai 2130 Uravum Padalam	ASIANET RADIO 657AM MALAYALAM SERVICE 0600 Opening, Viswasa Deepthi, Islamic Speech 0615 Today's Programmes 0620 Asianet Varthakal 0630 Nikai Udayavamangal 0730 Sreekandan Nair Show 0800 Suprabhatnam 0855 Charanithrill Innu 0900 Tele Quiz 0930 Daily Service 1000 News Headlines 1020 Navageetham 1020 Tharapadham 1050 World Headlines 1102 Campus 1115 Natakaganangal 1130 K M Trading Couples 1200 Asianet Varthakal 1210 Alukas Nammal	BBC World Service 0500 World News 0505 The World Today 0600 World News 0605 The World Today 0700 World News 0705 World Briefing 0720 Sports Roundup 0730 World Briefing	1605 Assignment 1630 One Planet: Japan And The Whale 1700 World News 1705 Outlook 1800 World News 1805 World Briefing 1840 Business Daily 1900 World News 1905 Europe Today 2000 World News 2005 World News, Have Your Say 2100 World News 2105 World Briefing 2120 World Business Report 2130 One Planet: Japan And The Whale 2200 World News 2205 Assignment 2230 The Beat 2300 World News 2305 Newshour 2000 World News 0005 World Briefing 0020 World Business Report 0030 World News 0035 Sports Roundup

Television Listings	BBC PRIME	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	STAR WORLD	GRANADA UK	SHOW MOVIES1	M G M	SHOW MOVIES2	SUN TV
	0730 Bits & Bobs 0745 Smarteenies 0800 Boogie Biebies 0815 Tweenies 0835 Balamoy 0855 Big Cook Little Cook 0915 Roly Mo Show 0930 Binka 0935 Teletubbies 1000 Design Rules 1030 Location, Location, Location 1130 Trading Up 1200 Masterchef Goes Large 1230 Wildlife Special: Killer Whale	0600 Into The Lost World 0700 Marine Machines 0800 Zambezi Force Of Life 0900 Marine Machines 1000 Mega Factories 1100 Warplanes 1200 Innovation	0600 Scrubs 0630 The Simpsons 0700 Seinfeld 0730 Hollywood Squares 0800 Friends 0830 Cheers 0900 Oprah Winfrey Show 1000 Miami Vice 1100 Law & Order: S.V.U. 1200 The Apprentice	0630 Outside Edge 0700 The Persuaders 0800 Peak Practice (Series 2) 0900 Through The Keyhole 0930 Night And Day 1000 London's Burning (Series 8) 1100 Crossroads 1130 Emmerdale 1200 Corporation Street 1230 The Knock (Series 2)	0500 Being Julia 0645 Honey 0700 The Castle 1000 Howl's Moving Castle 1200 Anthony Zimmer	0520 Three Paths Of Glory 0705 Paths Of Glory 0835 Guns Of The Magnificent Seven 1020 Thunder Road 1150 Charlie Chan And The Curse Of The Dragon	0700 Geronimo 0700 American Legend 0930 City Of Joy 1200 When Angels Come To Town	0620 Indira Naal Niya Naal 0630 Thirai Vimsanam 0700 Neengal Kaetta 0730 Ilamai Puthumai 0800 Netru Indru Naalai 0830 Surya 0900 Bandham 0930 Nimmadhi 1000 Chellamadi Nee Enakku 1030 Paasam 1100 Afternoon Bulletin 1130 Movie: <i>Chinna Thambi</i>
	1330 2 Point 4 Children 1400 Kiss Me Kate 1430 My Family 1500 The Buccaneers 1600 Silent Witness 1700 Passport To The Sun 1730 Design Rules 1800 Cash In The Attic 1830 Bargain Hunt	1300 No Borders 1400 National Geographic Special 1600 Mega Factories 1700 Warplanes 1800 Innovation	1300 American Idol 1400 Grey's Anatomy 1500 General Hospital 1600 Wild Card 1700 Baywatch 1800 The Simpsons 1830 Cheers	1330 Murder In Suburbia (Series 2) 1430 Outside Edge 1500 The Persuaders 1600 Peak Practice (Series 2) 1700 Through The Keyhole 1730 Night And Day 1800 London's Burning (Series 8)	1400 The Aviator 1700 Star Trek: First Contact	1325 From Noon Till Three 1505 By Duty Bound 1635 Winners Take All 1815 Kiss Me Deadly	1400 Housesitter 1600 The Dream Team 1800 Shadow Conspiracy	1400 Super Scenes 1430 Kutty's Choice 1500 My Dear Bootham 1530 Muhurtham 1600 Evening News Headlines 1603 Kasuri 1630 Anandham 1700 Malargal 1730 Evening News 1800 Anjali 1830 Kolangal
	1900 Kiss Me Kate 1930 My Family 2000 Staying Put 2030 Staying Put 2100 The Inspector 2100 Lynley Mysteries 2200 Murder In Mind 2300 The League Of Gentlemen 2330 French And Saunders 0000 The Inspector 0000 Lynley Mysteries 0100 2 Point 4 Children 0130 Murder In Mind	1900 Pantanal Cowboy 2000 Mega Factories 2100 Warplanes 2200 Innovation 2300 Pantanal Cowboy 0000 No Borders 0100 National Geographic Special	1900 Friends 1930 Seinfeld 2000 American Idol 2100 Fashion House 2200 Prison Break 2300 Seinfeld 2330 Friends 0000 American Idol 0100 Fashion House 0200 NGC 0300 Prison Break	1900 Crossroads 1930 Emmerdale 2000 Coronation Street 2030 The Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes 2130 In Loving Memory (Series 4) 2200 Damp (Series 3) 2230 Doctor In The House (Series 1) 2300 The Persuaders 0000 Peak Practice (Series 2)	1900 Anthony Zimmer 2100 Coach Carter 2330 Inside Hollywood 0000 Bewitched 0200 Sin City 0430 Big Plans	2000 Enemy Territory 2130 The Night They Raided Minsky's 2310 Gaily, Gaily 0055 Body And Soul 0230 Open House 0405 Driven To Kill	2000 Summer School 2200 Bubble 2330 The Brothers Grimm 0200 Bewitched 0400 Disappearance Of Garcia Lorca	1900 Arasi 1930 Lakshmi 2000 Surya 2030 Putham Pudhusu 2100 News In Tamil 2200 Thirai Masalam 0300 News In Tamil 0330 Putham Pudhusu 0400 Mangayar Choice
	0500 Asia Market Watch 0700 Today's Business 0800 Squawk Box 0900 Europe 1100 Worldwide Exchange	0600 Sky News On The Hour 0630 CBS News 0700 Sky World News 0730 Review & Business 0800 Sky World News 0830 Review & Business 0900 Sunrise 1200 Sky News Today	NO TRANSMISSION	0600 Asianet Pradhana Varthakal 0605 Suprabhatham 0630 Continues... 0630 Movie 0900 AM WWS 0930 Swannamayoaram 1000 Stree Oru Santhwanam 1030 Asianet Varthakal 1100 Movie	0830 Sunday 1000 Tupa Tupa Tupa 1025 V Trailers 1030 Chameli Ki Shaadi	0645 Lunar Jim 0700 Dora The Explorer 0730 Little Red Tractor 0800 A House That's Just Like Yours 0830 Barney 0900 Rubbadubbers 0915 Postman Pat 0930 POCOYO 1000 Wild Thornberrys 1030 Hey Arnold 1100 Spongebob Squarepants 1130 Bounty Hamster 1200 Rugrats 1230 Wild Thornberrys	0700 Song Sequence 0730 Movie: <i>Peasada Kannum Peasume</i> 1000 Song Sequence 1030 Movie: <i>Naalum Therinjavan</i>	0630 Movie: <i>Aparanar Nagarathil</i> 0900 Anandam 0930 Chechi 1000 Kolangal 1030 News 1145 Movie: <i>Mazha Megha Pravukal</i>
	1300 Power Lunch 1400 Europe 1400 US CNBC Squawk Box 1600 Squawk On The Street 1700 US Morning Call 1800 European Closing Bell	1500 Lunchtime Live 1700 Sky News Today	1500 Holy Qur'an 1530 Garfield 1600 Marsipilami 1630 Play With Me Sesame 1700 Famous Jet 1730 African Solution 1845 Power Privilege Justice	1355 Cookery show 1400 Vaikannadi 1500 Sayannham 1525 Swantham Surya-puthri 1555 Munshi 1600 News Time 1630 Maalayogam 1700 Nombarrappoovu 1730 Unniyarcha 1800 Samadooram 1830 Pavithra Jayillanu	1500 Special on Madhuri Dixit 1430 Masoom 1800 Muqabla	1300 Tracy Mcbean 1330 Hey Arnold 1400 Bounty Hamster 1430 Rugrats 1500 Wild Thornberrys 1530 Spongebob Squarepants 1600 My Parents Are Aliens 1630 Darcy's Wild Life 1700 Jungle Run 1730 Black Hole High 1800 Dora The Explorer 1830 Rubbadubbers 1845 Postman Pat	1300 Song Sequence 1330 Movie: <i>Indhira</i> 1600 Kalluri Galatta 1630 Vanna Thirai 1700 Nootrukku Nooru 1730 Movie: <i>Pear Solum Pillai</i>	1330 Nungalude Choice 1400 Swantham 1430 Hai Kittis 1430 Kutty's Choice 1530 News 1600 Mizhiyaram 1630 Punarjnamam 1700 Kanakkinaavu 1730 Prayanam 1800 Kalyanee 1830 Minnu Kettu
	2000 US Power Lunch 2100 Europe 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 Pokenheaven.Com Online Series Of Poker	2000 Live At Five 2100 Sky News On The Hour 2300 Sky News With Martin Stanford 0100 Sky News At Ten 0130 Sportsline 0200 Sky News Tonight 0300 Sky News On The Hour 0330 CBS News	1945 The Good 2030 Wrestling 2115 Murder 2200 English News 2230 Feature Film 0000 Transmission of Al-Jazeera Channel	1900 Swami Ayyappan 1930 Wrestling sullavarkku Samadhanam 2000 Asianet Varthakal 2030 MunshiRepeat 2035 Gulf Roundup 2105 Cine Quest	2130 Telemart English 2145 Chalal Musafir Moh Lyo Re 0115 Asoka - Director's Cut	1900 Little Red Tractor 1930 A House That's Just Like Yours 2000 POCOYO 2100 Tracey Mcbean 2130 Bounty Hamster 2200 Spongebob Squarepants 2300 My Parents Are Aliens 2330 Darcy's Wild Life 2330 Jungle Run 0000 Black Hole High 0030 Hey Arnold	2000 Sippu Vedigal 2030 Movie: <i>Kirinjigal</i> 2300 Song Sequence 0200 News 0230 Song Sequence 0430 Movie	1900 Amme Devi 1930 Kanyakulam Kochunni 2000 Comedy Time 2030 News 2100 Music Moments 2230 Movie 2330 Surya Music 0330 Life in the World

All programmes are subject to change.

INFORMATION

PRAYER TIME

Fajr 3.23am, Shoroq (sunrise) 4.48am, Zuhr (noon) 11.30am, Asr (afternoon) 2.57pm, Maghreb (sunset) 6.13pm, Isha (night) 7.43pm.

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.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

Tel: 4408555

HOSPITALS

Visiting Hours:
Hamad General Hospital, Women's Hospital and Rumailah Hospital: 6am to 7.30am, 4pm to 8pm.

HELP LINE

Is drinking a problem for you or someone you love?
Call Alcoholics Anonymous: 5605901

LATEST DVD, VIDEO RELEASES

ENGLISH: *Undisputed 2* (Michael Jai White, Scott Adkins); *Isolation*; *Trust The Man* (Julianne, Moore, Eva Mendes); *Man*

USEFUL NUMBERS

Police, Fire, Ambulance... 999
HMC... 4392222
Women's (Rumailah)... 4303333
HMC (Emergency)... 4393507
Veterinary... 653003
Water & Electricity... 991
Flight Inquiries... 4622999
Doha Seaport... 4457457
Museum... 4442191
Cinema... 4671811
Mumtaz Post (24-hr Service)... 4415566
Ship Phone Service... 4483555
(Car)... 4864444
Ministry of Interior main switchboard... 4330000
Public Department for passports, nationality and residence... 4892882
Capital Security Department... 4444420
Criminal Information Department... 4477777
Boundaries and Coasts Security... 4414488
Civil Defence Department... 4413666
Public Relations Department... 4448220
Rescue Service... 4682888

YOUR STARS

ARIES (Mar 21 - April 20): Try to keep your cool; you may be a tad frazzled by all the rushing around. Develop some of your good ideas. Travel and creative hobbies will be your best outlet.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation. Difficulties relating to children will be stressful. Don't reveal anything about your personal life that could be used adversely.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You will impress others with your initiative and ability to accomplish while on short business trips. Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. Take care of any pressing health problems.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): You may have a problem keeping secrets. Your energy will be high; however, if not channeled suitably, temper tantrums may erupt. You'll only hurt your lover if you don't.

LEO (July 23-August 22): Escapist

tendencies will result in a poor reputation and a lack of confidence. Overindulgence could lead to problems with digestion. You can easily wrap up overdue personal legal matters that have caused problems for you.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation. Difficulties relating to children will be stressful. Don't reveal anything about your personal life that could be used adversely.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You will impress others with your initiative and ability to accomplish while on short business trips. Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. Take care of any pressing health problems.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): You may have a problem keeping secrets. Your energy will be high; however, if not channeled suitably, temper tantrums may erupt. You'll only hurt your lover if you don't.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves. A second chance will result in good work. Deception is apparent.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You can work in conjunction with those in the know in order to get to the bottom of any pending issue. Entertain those who can provide you with valuable information and knowledge. Don't make financial contributions in order to impress others.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You can invest in profitable ventures. You'll be tempted to spend extravagantly today. Put your efforts into money-making ventures.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): If you are not already, think about going into business for yourself. You will gain knowledge through your adventure. Put your money into a safe place that will ensure a profit if you let it sit long enough.

Katharine Hepburn, the American queen

KATHARINE Hepburn, playing Susan, has lost her pet leopard, Baby, in the woods of suburban Connecticut. She investigates Cary Grant, playing a hapless paleontologist named David, who is in search of his bone, into helping her hunt for it.

Temporarily stymied, Susan says: It's think. Exasperated, David retorts: Oh, you think, you can think faster than I can. Susan responds, with simple pleasure: Thank you, David.

Near the end of *Bringing Up Baby*, it's the first compliment he's paid her and Katharine Hepburn, who was born a century ago, on May 12, 1907, knew a compliment when she heard one.

Try to imagine a romantic comedy today allowing that the woman thinks faster than the man or that her quick-wittedness will help him find his bone, rather than taking it away (the smutty joke is the film's, not mine).

The heroines in our rom-coms are not bright, spiky, acerbic; they are neurotic, desperate, usually inarticulate and sometimes comatose.

It's tempting to ask whatever happened to women like Katharine Hepburn, but of course there were never many women like Katharine Hepburn. She was what the 18th century would have called an incomparable. In the course of her long and renowned career, she played women from Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine (*The Lion in Winter*) to a transvestite (*Sylvia Scarlett*), but she never played a woman who was stupid, whingeing or needy.

Hepburn's beauty was staggering, but her brains were pretty impressive, too. Hepburn's classic films offer not only escapism, but also aspiration: an idea of what a woman might be.

She and the other stars of Hollywood's golden age were not saints or world leaders, but they were as sharp and scintillating as they were soignée.

They were not ahead of their time; we are lagging behind. It was Cary Grant, after all, who invented the metrosexual.

And Hepburn along with Carole Lombard and Bette Davis proved that a sovereign, proud and fiercely intelligent woman could dazzle the world. And outwit it.

The daughter and niece of feminist pioneers, raised in flinty New England, Hepburn was taught self-reliance from a young age.

Hepburn's Hollywood was, of course,

In the centenary of her birth, Katharine Hepburn still puts the fey stars of today in the shade, writes SARAH CHURCHWELL

deeply hostile to giving women creative control, and her headstrong unconventionalism was so uncompromising that she risked her career.

When she was declared box-office poison after a string of commercial failures, Hepburn returned to Broadway, where her friend Philip Barry wrote a play for her, *The Philadelphia Story*.

According to one biography, Hepburn collaborated with Barry on the development of her character, making show-did decisions in the interest of damage control: Make her like me, she reportedly told Barry, but make her go all soft in the end.

That's exactly what he did, and the play was a huge hit. The film has become a classic, and still sets a peerless standard for romantic comedy. If women have achieved equality, even in our fantasies (let alone in reality), then why does Hepburn have no worthy successor?

Compare Hepburn with Jane Fonda and Meryl Streep, who are playing roles in which they are the butt of sexist and regressive jokes about evil mothers-in-law and female bosses.

When Hepburn plays a female boss, in *Desk Set*, she outsmarts a computer. She's still showing us how it's done.

Today's female stars can teach us how to be cute; Katharine Hepburn taught us how to be magnificent. Guardian News & Media

Sarah Churchwell is senior lecturer in American literature and culture at the University of East Anglia.

Katharine Hepburn and Jimmy Stewart in a scene from *The Philadelphia Story* (top right) and Hepburn in *Alice Adams* (right) ... power-packed performances.



Acclaimed filmmaker new target of Thai censors

By Sam Reeves

ACRITICALLY acclaimed film by Thailand's darling of the international festival circuit has become the latest lightning rod in a growing debate over censorship by the country's military government.

Syndromes and a Century by director Apichatpong Weerasethakul recounts memories of his childhood and his parents, who were doctors at a rural Thai hospital.

It was among the films commissioned for Vienna's New Crowned Hope Festival to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth last year. The film went on to win praise at festivals in France, Hong Kong, Switzerland and Australia, among others.

But at home in Thailand, censors objected to four seemingly benign scenes including shots of Buddhist monks playing a guitar and flying a remote-control airplane.

I feel ashamed to be a Thai citizen, Apichatpong said at a recent press conference in Bangkok. The way I have been treated is very disrespectful.

Censors also demanded that Apichatpong cut a scene in which a doctor mischievously

reveals to her colleagues she has hidden whisky inside a prosthetic leg, and they decide to have a quick tippie in the hospital basement.

A fourth scene in which a doctor kisses his girlfriend in a hospital locker room also landed on the censor's editing floor. Apichatpong refused to alter the film, and instead cancelled its planned release in Thailand last month.

The censors then refused to return the original print, for fear he would screen it without their permission, infuriating Apichatpong. As a filmmaker, I treat my work as my own children, Apichatpong said.

When I conceive them, they have their own lives to live. If these offspring of mine cannot live in their own country, for whatever reason, let them be free elsewhere.

Two of Thailand's leading film bodies have launched an online petition drive, winning more than 4,500 signatures to call for the abolition of the 77-year-old Thai Film Act, which governs censorship of movies.

That filmmakers often feel that the censors' decisions are arbitrary, handed down by a panel of people with little interest in or knowledge of the industry, said Kong Rithdee, film critic for the *Bangkok Post* newspaper.

(*Syndromes and a Century*) is small it does not have the backing of a big studio, added Kong, who has been writing about Apichatpong's films since the director's early days.

This makes a big difference. If you have some connection, someone you can talk to, it may be negotiable.

The scandal over film censorship comes amid growing concerns about the military-backed government's attempts to clamp down on media more generally.

After ousting elected prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra in a coup last September, the military imposed strict controls on the media.

Apichatpong himself made no link between the current regime and this latest episode, however, noting censorship has long been an issue in Thailand.

But some fear the new rules could make things even worse.

It seems they may have the rules on censorship, and introduce a rating system as well, said Banchoong Kosalwat, a professor at Thammasat University's school of mass communications who has campaigned to liberalise the law.

They would censor a film first and then give it a rating. This would be a double lock on the industry. AFP

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

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

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

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- Technical difficulty in making a sailor's knot (5)
- Dan Shaw adjusted the cutter (7)
- Majestic one with a display of decorations (7)
- About to be destroyed, it sinks beneath the surface (1-4)
- Prefers to be back in the first position (4)
- See 18 Down.
- See 14 Across.
- 14 and 13Ac. Come back again to harvest the fruit (8)
- See 7 Down.
- Almost disdain an incentive (4)
- Short part of an intersection (5)
- Leave the platform to go elsewhere (7)
- Quick answer about one job inside (7)
- Contemplates a great many customs (5)

DOWN

- He supervises those in the dock (7-6)
- See 3 Down.
- 3 and 2Dn. Clutch at the conductor's words of warning (4,5)
- Has got mixed up with the moorland plants (6)
- Our sense is badly affected by anxieties (8)
- A locum to do dental work? (4-3)
- 7 and 16Ac. Unrestricted description of orchestra consisting of wind and percussion (4,2,7,8)
- The class mixed up the book containers (8)
- A supporter of mine (3-4)
- Go back to do a second sowing, one hears (6)
- 18 and 11Ac. Produces a noted manual performance (5,3,5)
- Check the base of the word (4)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Gift (5)
- Lunacy (7)
- Wealthy (7)
- Reason (5)
- Dregs (4)
- Heath (8)
- Nourish (4)
- Formerly (4)
- Wages (8)
- Raise (4)
- Plank (5)
- Recount (7)
- Odish (7)
- Squeeze (5)

DOWN

- Well-informed (13)
- Sharp (5)
- Retain (4)
- Movement (6)
- Teaching (8)
- Rival (7)
- Constancy (13)
- Confuse (8)
- Advanced (7)
- Means (6)
- Stupid (5)
- Fall (4)

Yesterday's solutions

QUICK CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 3 Flaccid; 8 Noun; 9 Principle; 10 Embark; 11 Feted; 14 Thorn; 15 Down; 16 Gauss; 18 Kind; 20 Tinge; 21 Decay; 24 Wealth; 25 Treachery; 26 Shun; 27 Indecency.

DOWN: 1 Undertake; 2 Dumbfound; 4 Lark; 5 Canoe; 6 United; 7 Tall; 9 Prong; 11 Froy; 12 Downright; 13 Underland; 17 Story; 19 Deface; 22 Ashen; 23 Grim; 24 Win.

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