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Time Out

GULF TIMES FEATURES

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Dinosaur truths in the teeth

Palaeontologist Robert Bakker has added a new dimension to dinosaur research by claiming that dentures can provide vital clues, reports DEREK KRAVITZ

ROBERT T Bakker picks out a 275mm-year-old tooth from the red-colored dirt on this massive northwest Texas ranch, examines it with a trained eye and promptly sticks it in his mouth.

"It feels like silt mixed with peanut butter," says Bakker, as he tastes the tooth from a Dimetrodon, a 500lbs, finned reptile that predated dinosaurs. "It has a smooth, creamy texture from the clays."

The visiting curator at the Houston Museum of Natural Science revolutionised the palaeontological world three decades ago with research that suggested dinosaurs were warm-blooded, fast-moving creatures, not sluggish lizards.

Now, Bakker, a Yale-trained palaeontologist, is stirring

controversy again among dinosaur hunters with an approach he created that looks at fossils in the same way forensic scientists comb through crime scenes.

"Traditionally, palaeontologists haven't paid much attention to a shed tooth. It's a little item. However, from a criminal point of view, it's the most important thing you can find," Bakker said. "It's proof of who ate whom and where. These deposits are full of bullets – shed teeth. We know who the perp were and who the vic were."

Colleagues dismiss many of Bakker's ideas as unworthy hype, calling him a heretic, a nut and worse. "That's what any palaeontologist already does, a CSI-type look at

fossils. It's nothing new," said Michael K. Brett-Surman, museum specialist for dinosaurs at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

But Bakker, a 62-year-old Pentecostal-preacher-turned-palaeontologist with a scruffy white beard and a worn cowboy hat, disagrees. He says his method of looking at fossils, previously unheralded, such as teeth, could yield fascinating new insights about the ecological evolution of the Texas red beds – red earth full of fossils.

"This is like an episode of *Law & Order* where, before the first commercial break, you find out who the victim is and how he or she died," Bakker said.

Researchers from the Houston museum are banking

on Bakker's theories. They hope a few choice excavations will produce some new skeletons for display, provide a clearer, three-dimensional picture of what Texas looked like millions of years ago and answer lingering questions about where dinosaurs came from.

Since the early 1900s, palaeontologists and archaeologists have scoured the red beds of northwest Texas in search of the "missing link" between the pre-dinosaur reptiles of the Permian period and the dinosaurs often associated with those in the movie *Jurassic Park*.

The mad dash to northwest Texas picked up a frenzied pace in 1917, when palaeontologist Charles H. Sternberg and his two sons found Dimetrodon skeletons at the Craddock Ranch in Seymour.

But the Sternbergs missed a few things, experts say.

"There are lots of little things the Sternbergs left behind. They said, for example, that they couldn't find the Dimetrodon toes. But they weren't really looking for toes," said David Temple, the Houston museum's associate curator of palaeontology. "They were looking for the big stuff."

So over the past year, Bakker has brought teams of geologists, educators and museum curators to the tiny town about 150 miles northwest of Dallas.

Here, they search for tiny evidence of the world as it was roughly 275 million years ago, before most of the earth's life was wiped out by mass extinction.

Back then, the Texas interior lowlands were near the ocean. Heavy rains created a rich, red-colored earth. But it

was hot, with temperatures upwards of 100° all year round.

Tree ferns, conifers and vegetation-choked ponds and swamps abounded. Dierce-looking, 4ft-tall reptiles roamed the earth looking for food.

They fed on sharks that looked similar to modern-day coelacanths, the oldest living jawed fish that date to about 400 million years ago and swam in the region's meandering rivers.

But it was relatively quiet. There were no birds. Reptiles, like the Dimetrodon, were deaf. The only sounds were the deep croaking of 500lb toads.

Bakker's team so far has collected 1,000 bones from the early Permian period, including two species of Dimetrodon, partial skeletons of a Diplocaulus, a large amphibian also known as a "Boomerback" for its boomerang-shaped skull, and cartilage from a 6-ft, prehistoric, freshwater shark called a Xenacanth.

The fossils are identified, bagged and taken back to Houston to be cleaned and cataloged. Eventually, the bones will be displayed.

Still, some palaeontologists say Bakker's work is behind the times. New discoveries of bigger dinosaurs and feathered birds in Argentina and China are setting the palaeontology world abuzz, not fossils from the pre-dinosaur period in Texas, said Dr Brett-Surman, the Smithsonian's dinosaur guru.

Other palaeontologists defend Bakker's research as fresh, even if on a much smaller scale than some fossil-seeking counterparts.

"This has been already looked at, but to a much lesser degree and about more general issues of abundance and fairly



Dr Robert T Bakker, curator of Palaeontology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, prepares to remove the humerus bone of a Dimetrodon found on the Craddock Ranch in Seymour, Texas.



During a lunch break from digging for fossils Dr Bakker sketches a *Seymouria baylorensis*, an early land dwelling animal found in Baylor County.

typical diversity patterns in the run-up to extinction," said Thomas R. Holtz Jr, a vertebrate palaeontologist and senior lecturer at the University of Maryland at College Park.

"Dr Bakker is trying to answer far more specific

ecological questions about other species and how they relate to one another."

Bakker, generally regarded by colleagues as a lightning rod for criticism and a media hound, said his work is bound to provoke some questions from head-scratching

scientists. But the truth, he says, is in the teeth. "A lot of the questions have all been answered by theories and hypotheses," he said.

"We didn't have the smoking jaw. That's where the answers are." *The Dallas Morning News/MCT*

China's fossil hunter – a rock star of palaeontology

By Guy Newey

XU XING doesn't know how many new species of dinosaurs he has discovered, saying he has lost count. "Three years ago someone said to me: 'You are in the top three in history in terms of how many new species you have named,'" Xu said in an interview.

"I had more than 20. I think, then. Over the past three years I have named a few more. I guess the total may be closer to 30. Maybe I am No. 1 now."

In the unglamorous world of palaeontology, Xu is perhaps the closest thing the science has to a rock star. At a recent unveiling of perhaps his most spectacular discovery – a chicken-like creature as big as a Tyrannosaurus – camera crews clamoured to picture him next to the huge bones he had stumbled upon in the rich

fossil reserves of the northern Inner Mongolia region. In front of the gathered media, four Chinese officials mandered through the tourist implications of such a discovery, with mundane proposals of theme parks. Even the translators stopped paying attention.

But when the first question was directed at Xu his description captured both the significance of the find and the childlike joy of discovery. "If you saw a mouse as big as a dog you would be very surprised. It is the same when we found the Gigantoraptor," he said.

Palaeontology was by no means a lifelong passion for the 38-year-old, and his success is almost a by-product of the rigidity of the Chinese education system.

"In China at that time, most people my age could not choose the major we wanted to

do," he said, speaking in English before the press conference.

Xu explained that in middle school he had wanted to be a physicist, but once at university he was placed in the department of geology, with a major in palaeontology.

"After I finished my bachelor's degree I started my masters, but for the first two years still I did not have any interest in the subject. I spent more time with computers and wanted to be a software designer," he said.

"It was only in my last year that I started to seriously study fossils. I discovered my first species and became more and more interested in dinosaurs. Now it is part of my life."

Xu, now at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, has enjoyed huge success in exploring China's rich legacy of fossils, but his

reputation took a battering when he was embroiled in a scandal when a new discovery he had verified was exposed as an elaborate fake. Forensic

scanning found that the fossil – which had been sold to unwitting US collectors by Chinese traffickers – was simply a thin stone slab coated

with grout and glued to a jigsaw of 88 fragments of rocks and fossilised bones. Xu had authenticated the find in 1999, but was also part of the team that eventually exposed the error.

He put the mistake down to a mixture of naivety and natural human excitement at discovery, but insisted it made him a better scientist: "I am more careful when I draw conclusions now."

He also said the incident highlighted the problems that beset China's fossil heartlands, where a rich archaeological legacy is often abused by smugglers and locals with little interest in the scientific implications of what they have stumbled upon. "It is a very big problem in China. People view them like antiques, and unique to own," he said. Xu's skill has gained him

international prominence, along with a remarkable group of young Chinese scientists in the field, according to Eric Buffetaut, a French academic and author of the *History of Palaeontology*.

"Xu is a brilliant representative of the new generation of Chinese palaeontologists, who combines great ability in the field with an excellent command of the more theoretical aspects of palaeontological research," said Buffetaut.

"He has gained an outstanding international reputation by his discoveries and descriptions of remarkable dinosaur fossils, including some of the most spectacular feathered dinosaurs."

While Xu put his success down to hard work and a little luck, his recent discovery shows his precocious ability to

find fossils. Xu discovered the first femur of the Gigantoraptor in 2005 during the shooting of some background footage for a documentary about one of his previous finds.

The crew asked him to demonstrate how he searches for fossils and during the shot, he chanced upon a section of the femur, or thigh bone.

"We randomly picked up a bone on the surface," Xu said. "We initially thought it was from the same species as we had discovered before, but minutes later we realised it was from a meat-eating dinosaur."

The remains of the animal, thought to have weighed 1,400kg, was named the Gigantoraptor erlianensis, and is the biggest bird-like dinosaur ever found at a height of 5m, Xu said. Just another one to add to his list. —AFP



China's fossil hunter Xu Xing briefing the media on the discovery of fossilised bones of a gigantic theropod dinosaur Gigantoraptor erlianensis in Inner Mongolia last month.

World's largest telescope starts gazing

By Giles Tremlett

THE world's largest telescope has started using its complex structure of mirrors last week to scour the outer reaches of the universe for planets similar to our own and to seek clues to help explain the origins of life.

Set on a mountain on Canary island in the Atlantic, far enough from human habitation to get a clear view of the night sky, the Great Canary Telescope (GCT) carries with it the hopes of scientists who believe clues to understanding our world can be found in as yet unseen parts of the universe.

The telescope will, in effect, peer back in time as it picks up light emitted long ago in other parts of the universe. A powerful array of 36 separate mirrors form a single mirror that is 10.4m wide, 4% larger than the Keck telescopes at Mauna Kea, Hawaii. The GCT's powerful eye will penetrate dense, cold molecular "clouds" to watch

stars being born and will seek out the most distant galaxies and quasars. "The GCT will be able to see the weakest and most distant celestial objects in the universe," said a spokesman for the telescope's owners, who include the Spanish government and the regional government of the Canary Islands.

"It will be able to capture the birth of new stars, study in greater depth the characteristics of black holes and decipher the chemical compounds that appeared after the Big Bang. One of its most emblematic objectives is to find planets similar to our own in other stellar systems."

The telescope is set on a peak 2,400m above the Canary island of La Palma, sitting on a "sea of clouds", with the skies above it kept clear by the Atlantic Trade Winds. Although battered by winds and, on occasions, snow and ice, the peak, known as the Roque de los Muchachos, is one of the best spots for gazing at the night sky. The quality of the

skies above the Canary Islands is protected, and has drawn 62 astronomy institutes to the islands.

Construction of the 130m euros telescope has taken seven years, hampered by poor weather and the fact that each delicately engineered piece has to be driven up a winding road to the peak. The GCT will stand on its own, bucking a trend for building telescopes in groups to multiply viewing strength.

"The GCT will be the biggest telescope in the world," said the project manager, Pedro Alvarez. "It will observe things that are so small, or so very far off, that only a small amount of light reaches us. It will also see closer objects that either do not emit their own light or emit very little light. You need the biggest possible light-collecting surface to be able to see them."

A steel protective shell and "indestructible" concrete bunker protect the new telescope from the elements. — *Guardian News & Media*



The outer facade of the telescope observatory in Canary Islands.

Mexican volcano is test bed for trees on Mars

By Catherine Bremer

SCIENTISTS are using the pine-forested slopes of a Mexican volcano as a test bed to see if trees could grow on a heated-up Mars, part of a vision of making the chilly and barren planet habitable for humans one day.

Planetary scientists at NASA and Mexican universities believe if they can warm Mars using heat-trapping gases, raise the air pressure and start photosynthesis, they could create an atmosphere that would support oxygen-breathing life forms.

Getting trees growing would be a crucial step. The scientists' quest has taken them to the snow-capped Pico de Orizaba – a dormant volcano and Mexico's tallest mountain – to examine trees growing at a higher altitude than anywhere else on Earth.

"It sounds like science fiction, but we think it's feasible," said research professor Rafael Navarro-Gonzalez, who has spent nine years examining Pico de Orizaba's pine forests.

"We have experienced warming our planet with greenhouse gases, but on Mars we could do it faster with more powerful gases," he said in his lab at Mexico City's UNAM university.

The first human mission to Mars is seen 10 to 15 years away, and the warming-up process could start 50 years later, NASA scientist Chris McKay said. By pumping in highly insulating gases like methane or nitrous oxide, the scientists think they could heat Mars to 5°C (from -55°C) now. That would match temperatures where trees grow at 13,700ft on Pico de Orizaba.

Having trees on Mars, as opposed to only simple plant forms like algae or lichens, would open the possibility of humans one day being able to breathe Martian air. — Reuters

Woman takes on Venice gondola cartel

Alexandra Hai's battle with the gondoliers has become part of the lore of doing business in Italy's north, writes CHRISTINE SPOLAR

IF ALEXANDRA Hai ever had second thoughts – or third, fourth or fifth thoughts, for that matter – about challenging the male hierarchy of Venice's gondolier class, they were swept away three weeks after a simple rowing test.

For more than a decade Hai has manoeuvred Venice's ancient waterways as an apprentice, but time and again has been denied a gondolier's licence.

In her latest test, a four-man panel, entrusted with selecting students for a newly conceived school for gondoliers, graded her as too inept to even be a student of the trade. Forty men were accepted; three women, including Hai, lost out.

"Well, no, she's not dangerous. She was a little stiff but she was good... In my opinion, she knows how to row," gondolier commissioner and judge Aldo Rosso said of Hai.

But Rosso said there is much to understand about being an oarsman. "The tradition is to keep this from father to son. The idea was to keep the tradition... Venice is Venice. A gondolier only makes so much money. If he has a son, to whom their licence can be passed, that furnishes them with a pension."

Hai's battle with the gondoliers has become part of the lore of doing business in Italy's north. A woman and a foreigner – Hai is German – she had failed three times to pass a test to become a gondolier. She called foul in two of the three tests, saying bias against women and outsiders kept her at bay.

"What happened... only confirms what I've always said," Hai said about her most recent failure. "I'm satisfied with my work. Now I'm just interested in that people know how the system here works."

Her unyielding ambition is now aimed at taking on another tradition among the gondoliers, a cartel that essentially runs the watery avenues of this city.

This spring, she went to court to secure her right to work privately. A hotel that hired Hai as a private gondolier – without a licence – asked the courts to review the city transport laws. The court found that Locanda Art Deco had the right to hire whomever it wanted to provide for "essential needs," and surprisingly, the court defined hotel guests as needs.

The ruling meant hotels, or any businesses with such needs, could end runs around all city-licensed gondola stations and find their own boatmen. A cosy and lucrative trade barrier was suddenly breached.

The gondoliers reacted by huddling with city fathers in hopes of filing an appeal. They also scrambled to begin a



A file photo shows German Alexandra Hai while she manoeuvres a gondola in Venice, Italy. This spring, she went to court to secure her right to work privately, and won.

school for gondoliers, the first ever, to prove they have standards that outstrip private concerns.

Most of those included in this inaugural class of "professional gondoliers," as trade representatives have said, just happened to be sons and male relatives of gondoliers. Other observers said that the gondoliers were intent on preserving their own.

"If you look at it from the market place, the gondoliers can lose everything," said attorney Antonia Iannotta,

who is coordinating legal strategy for an appeal to a higher court in Rome. "The court went much further than we thought – and this could go much further than we anticipated. That's the fear."

Hai's encounters with Venice's gondoliers began 10 years earlier. Then a failed filmmaker from Germany, she washed up in Venice. Single, out of work and charmed by the pleasures of the island city, she took a day job working with some older gondoliers.

The men apparently saw no threat in teaching Hai. Attitudes changed when she vied for a gondolier licence, competing with dozens of men, and the media made much of her story.

Hai failed her first on-the-water exam, a defeat she said she didn't dispute because men often fail on their first try. But Hai was on the losing side again in 1999. Hai spoke then about bias and said she believed she was bested by sons of families who controlled the gondolier spots.

When she took the test again in 2003, Hai was a high-profile challenger. She admits she fumbled the test because of nerves.

Her detractors remain adamant that she has no right to wear the distinctive blue-and-white stripes of a canal man.

"Don't even call her a gondolier. She's no gondolier. She failed her test," said Roberto Luppi, head of the trade group.

Luppi turned out for the more recent test to watch Hai, 40, row, as well as his 23-year-old son, Stefano, who made the grade for the school.

Luppi, a longtime critic of Hai, said the German should never have tried, even though he said he supported other women from Hai who did.

"A woman is the best thing in the world, but she shouldn't be a gondolier. What does she want?" Luppi said. "In my opinion, she should stay at home and take care of a family."

The gondola is the symbol of Venice's centuries-old grandeur and, perhaps more importantly to the gondoliers' fortunes, a magnet for tourist dollars. A licensed gondolier can reap \$110 for every 40-minute ride in a 12-hour day – and even more depending on the gullibility of tourists.

Gondoliers were once servants to the then-maritime republic's nobility.

In the last 30 years, their lifestyles changed dramatically as cheap air travel brought mass tourism to Italy. The 40 families who dominated the canal in Venice sought to keep a tight rein over a city that blossomed into something akin to an Italian Disneyland.

The number of operator licences was capped at 425. The gondoliers formed associations to keep the business largely among friends and family, said city officials familiar with their operations. Then they expanded their hold on modern water trade, licensing motorised water taxis. The families of Venice are said to control a web of multimillion-dollar enterprises.

"It's their own world," city spokesman Leopoldo Pietragalli said. "They decide who is going to be a gondolier... It's a medieval organisation that has survived." Hai's legal manoeuvre, Pietragalli has said, forced the city and the gondolier lobby into uncharted waters. – *Chicago Tribune/MCT*

Exercising safely during the monthly cycle

By Roz Lewis

THE makers of tampon ads are seemingly obsessed with making women run, jump, swim – even snorkel – their way through their periods.

But for many women, the problem with exercise doesn't come with menstruation, but in the run-up to it, when even the most dedicated gym-goer skips the odd session. Who really feels like trampling with tender breasts and a bloated tummy?

Research shows that, generally speaking, women's physical performance declines when they are premenstrual. Claire Kowalchik, author of the *Complete Book of Running for Women*, says she can see a dip in her performance. "I ran my fastest and easiest marathon on the first day of my period one year... the week before menstruation my breathing becomes laboured and if I'm doing speed work, my times will be disappointingly slow."

Hormones released during the three stages of the menstrual cycle may create these differences in performance.

Between days one and 13 – the menstrual or follicular stage – levels of oestrogen are low, but as follicles start to grow in the ovaries, oestrogen levels increase. At ovulation, usually on day 14, more hormones are released. If pregnancy doesn't occur, from then on, levels of progesterone increase while oestrogen levels start to drop.

In terms of exercise regimes, some women have reported that, during the first two weeks of their cycle, tempo work, speed runs and interval training feel better, while in the second half, longer, slower runs seem easier.

Different people are affected by hormones to differing degrees, as Dr Karen Birch, a lecturer and researcher into exercise physiology at Leeds University, England, explains. "Some individuals respond worse to hormonal fluctuations, but the consensus is that elite athletes aren't affected."

"Women with hormonal irregularities – loss of periods, irregular cycles, or post-menopausal women – have more problems."

Rosalyn Carbon, team doctor for the Great Britain triathlon team, agrees that elite athletes are affected less by hormonal changes.

"In my experience, professional athletes suffer less from hormonal influences than women in the general population," she says. "Some women find they need to rest more during menstruation; others don't."

"Most women find that prior to their period, they'd much rather not have to compete in a major competition, and for those, we do suggest that they might go on the contraceptive pill, which irons out hormonal fluctuation significantly."

There are also legal drugs such as tranexamic acid that will stop a woman bleeding when she does come on; that might be appropriate for an athlete, but has the mass of bleeding on a major competitive day in a national championship.

Some women do use the Pill to help their performance, although the trend varies across sports. "In my experience," says Carbon, "most women feel better off the Pill" – so it's not a common practice. However, according to Jodi Cotter, science and medicine manager for British Swimming, most elite swimmers do use the Pill.

"It just helps regulate cycles and makes competing easier, especially in a pool environment. Can't be taken to get the right product, but most are happy to use this form of help with their careers."

For those of us exercising on a more mundane level, working your training around your menstrual cycle can still help manage performance highs and lows.

Keep a diary of how you perform and train for a few months – and of premenstrual symptoms such as breast tenderness, bloating and slight weight gain, which affect up to 30% of menstruating women. If the two coincide, tailor your training to fit.

Not only will you keep to your gym routine, but the right exercise could even help alleviate your period cramps or PMS.



Are there any sports you shouldn't do while menstruating? It's generally thought by most yoga teachers that its not a good idea to do handstand or headstands while having periods, as some say it can cause the blood to flow the wrong way and possibly contribute towards endometriosis," says Pierre Bibby of the British Wheel of Yoga.

According to scientists, this is nonsense. Dr Gerry Conway, consultant endocrinologist at University College London, says: "There's no real reason physiologically how you could affect your blood flow adversely by standing on your head."

If you suffer from severe cramps while menstruating, though, it's probably best to move away from a high-energy workout. "Low-intensity exercise has been shown to help dysmenorrhoea (painful menstruation) as it calms the cramping," says Birch.

"Exercise does help PMT symptoms too, although it appears the effect is more psychological than physical. The science is not fully understood, but women do feel better from being active when suffering from mood changes and PMT symptoms."

If you do feel premenstrual, try switching from long cardio sessions at full pelt to slower, longer workouts, doing low-impact sports – swap running for the cross-trainer, recumbent bike or rowing machine.

And make sure you are well fuelled before your workout – women are less tolerant of sugar crashes when premenstrual, so have a high-carb snack before and after. Make sure you keep hydrated; even if you are bloated, you need to drink water.

In fact, looking after your nutrition throughout your cycle can help reduce premenstrual symptoms and help you work out better. "Concentrate on eating a healthy diet, with plenty of iron-rich foods such as red meat, poultry (leg meat) and fish (if you are vegetarian, green, leafy vegetables, apricots, prunes), to balance iron loss," says Henrietta Bailey, a nutritional therapist at Pure Sport Medicine.

"Keep up your blood sugar levels throughout the day with healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit, nuts and seeds."

"And when premenstrual, eat more carbohydrates and less sugar, dairy produce and caffeine, all of which cause more blood sugar fluctuations and contribute to rattiness and premenstrual disharmony." – *Guardian News & Media*

Most Norwegian companies fulfil gender rule for board members

A MAJORITY of Norwegian companies fulfil requirements that women board members be younger and had a higher level of education.

The survey suggested that women board members were younger and had a higher level of education. While the average female board member was 45.6 years old, and seven in 10 had completed tertiary education, the average male board member was 51.2 years old, and six in 10 had completed tertiary education.

The study said that 116 public limited companies still had no women on the board, and only 4% of boards were chaired by women.

The size of the board deter-

mines how many women must be involved in board decisions. Boards with 10 members or more must have at least 40% women.

In a joint statement, Equality Minister Karita Bekkelund and Trade and Industry Minister Dag Terje Andersen welcomed the trend, noting that a year ago 30% of companies met the demands.

Andersen noted that state-owned firms now fulfilled the demands.

Companies that fail to meet the requirements face possible fines, but the law also allowed fines. – *DPA*



Head-turners ... A composite picture showing fancy hat creations by designer labels Vivienne Westwood, Smellinener and Strenesse at the Fashion Week in Berlin, Germany this week.

By Montakarn Shutt

EM, A 28-year-old Thai woman married to a British man, was deserted by her husband after years of constant arguments and conflict. He took their daughter back to England without either the mother's consent or a goodbye.

"I cannot get a divorce from my husband because I don't know his whereabouts and worst of all, I don't have enough money to go to UK to look for my daughter," said Em, a pseudonym.

Em is now stranded – married, traumatised and unable to get a divorce.

She is unsure of how she can retrieve her 9-year-old daughter from a foreign country.

Cross-culture marriages a mixed blessing in Land of Smiles

Her situation is not unique. "There are a rising number of Thai women entering into cross-cultural marriages each year. This has raised concerns from several women's organisations about the unfairness of Thai family laws and the lack of legal knowledge among Thai women," said assistant professor Mallec Pruekpongswalee, director of Women and Youth Studies programme at Thammasat University.

Following up on its reputation as the Land of Smiles, Thailand is fast becoming the land full of foreign son-in-laws, especially in the north-

eastern region of the country where provinces such as Udorn Thani and Roi Et top the list of domiciles for Thai ladies married to Western men, mostly from Germany, Britain and Scandinavian countries.

A 2006 study on cross-cultural marriages of Thais in the north-east, Thailand's poorest region, funded by The National Culture Commission Office investigated the risks and consequences such marriages pose to cultural and traditional values in Thai rural areas.

"More Isaan (north-eastern Thai) women each year marry Western men to improve the

quality of life for their families. The marriages have brought them more financial independence and, even in some cases, a steady monthly income to their parents," said researcher Assistant Professor Buaphan Promphapking from Khon Kaen University.

Cross-cultural marriages are not limited to Thailand's impoverished north-east.

Statistics from the Bangkok District Office in Bangkok – the most popular administrative centre for marriage registration whose name is translated from Thai as "the district of love" – showed a remarkably high percentage of the cross-

cultural marriages registered last year.

"Of the total 6,124 married couples registered at the Bangkok office in 2006, about 50% of them were Thai women married to Western men. The number of cross-cultural marriages has been rising at around 10% or so every year over the past 25 years," said Patechai Buranaprapa, chief of Bangkok District registration office.

Statistics at the district office also showed that in 2006, out of the 384 registered divorces some 10% were cross-cultural.

With rising cross-cultural marriages, said Mallec, an inevitable byproduct will be

more cross-cultural divorces, drawing Thai women's rights groups to now pay more attention to the issue.

"In cross-cultural marriages, a lot of Thai women are financially dependent on their foreign husbands. Compounded with limited interaction between the spouses because of the language barrier, Thai women choose silence and compliance when domestic disputes occur for fear of losing the relationship," said Mallec.

Thailand's divorce laws are clearly chauvinistic. For instance, a husband's adultery is not grounds for divorce unless he intentionally flaunts the relationship to the public, while any form of adultery a wife engages in, even the most discreet relationship, provides grounds for the husband to file for divorce immediately.

In Em's case, she can seek legal action to file for divorce

on grounds of abandonment but the case would require a time and money consuming investigation in the UK, which she cannot afford.

"Thai women's rights activists have been lobbying hard to change the country's unfair family laws, and they recently succeeded in including marital rape in the law."

"They are now planning to draft proposed legislation that would provide more legal protection for Thai women with foreign husbands. It may take a long time to pass the law, but the network won't stop fighting until gender equality is considered an issue of major importance in Thai society," Mallec said. – *DPA*



Planes take off and land from the beach on An Thràigh Mhòr bay on Barra in the Outer Hebrides. When the tide is in, the plane cannot land.

Lure of lonely beaches in the Outer Hebrides

By Konrad Basler

THE flight to the very edge of Europe begins in the Scottish city of Glasgow. It is like taking a trip back in time to the pioneering days of air travel when a journey by plane had an air of adventure to it.

It is also one of the best ways to get into the mood for tranquil days in the Outer Hebrides, a chain of islands off the west coast of Scotland where people seem to have an entirely different sense of time. No one hurries around these parts, which is hardly surprising on a remote string of islands on the rim of the North Atlantic Ocean the next stop from here is America.

The plane takes its passengers to Barra, the most southern of the Outer Hebridean archipelago, also known as the Western Isles. Only 19 people fit into the Twin Otter turboprop operated by British Airways. Those lucky enough to have a window seat can enjoy some magnificent views on the way.

The aircraft touches down in the bay of Trigh Mhòr, on the northern tip of Barra as long as the waves permit. There are no markings to help pilots find their way onto a windswept beach which uniquely doubles up as a landing strip. Take-off and landing are governed by the tides and if the water is too high when the plane arrives, it has to turn round and fly back to Glasgow.

A glance around the terminal makes it plain that the pace of life on this island is much slower than on the mainland. Facilities are sparser and the only refreshments provided are those at the Cataidh Fosgailte, a family-run enterprise with a modest selection of homemade soups, sandwiches and cakes for travellers.

The arrival or departure of a plane here is the highlight of the day and shortly beforehand the cafe comes alive as tourists cluster around the tables.

Around 1,000 people live on Barra, an island of stunning beaches bordered by boggy farmland and a range of low hills to the east. The island is 6km long and 4km wide and is the ancient home of the MacNeil clan or Eilean Bhraghair clan, to give it the Gaelic name.

Most of the houses hereabouts are not particularly handsome since the islanders place more emphasis on their homes being practical and cheap.

Visitors to Barra are attracted to the elemental and unspoilt beauty of the landscape.

Anyone in a hurry can hire a bicycle and ride around the whole island in about an hour and a half.

The only settlement of any size is the village of Castlebay where three hotels, the Castlebay, the Tigh-na-Mara and the Isle of Barra offer rooms for the night.

The last named is a prime example of hideous 1970s architecture which is offset by the extremely friendly lady sitting at the reception desk. She is happy to give visitors all manner of tips, including which nearby hill to clamber up if they want to use their cellular phones, reception on Barra is generally poor.

Barra is a good place from which to explore the Outer Hebrides chain which extends for more than 200km. It is worth noting too that life on Barra, Uist, Lewis or Harris is even quieter than on the islands of the Inner Hebrides such as Mull, Jura and Skye which are not exactly inundated with tourists either.

Even in the high season it is not difficult to find a room. This may have something to do with the fact that the temperature in high summer rarely exceeds 20°C.

Bathing in the Atlantic is for the hardy only. To make up for it, the Outer Hebrides treat visitors to some of the most spectacular sandy beaches in Europe.

They remain deserted even in July and August and all the tourist needs in order to enjoy them to the full is a roll-neck sweater.

The beach at Trigh Logainn on Harris is regularly cited as the world's most beautiful yet remains far from the madding crowd.

Close by is one of the most pleasant places to stay in the entire Hebrides, Scarista House, run by Tim and Patricia Martin, has only four guest rooms, none of which feature a telephone connection or television. Instead there is a marvelous reading room with a log fire.

After evening meal is served punctually at 8pm, most house guests like to stretch their legs and take a carefree stroll. There is no need to be back at any particular time or even to take a key since none of the doors of the rooms at Scarista House or indeed in any of the other hotels in the Hebrides, are fitted with locks. DPA

Internet: www.visitbritain.com,
www.visitscotland.com, www.visithebrides.com

Reading package for visiting bookworms

With two libraries and a hotel intersecting in New York, reading bliss is close at hand, writes SCOTT NAUGLE

QUESTION: If a bibliophile were to book a vacation and not care to stray but a few feet after arrival, where would he go?

Answer: The bibliophile would travel to the intersection of East 41st Street and Madison Avenue in Manhattan. He would walk on Library Way, reading the author plaques embedded in the sidewalk every few feet, find shade in the shadow of the grandiose New York Public Library on the next block, revel in the rare manuscript collection at the Pierpont Morgan Library a few steps to the left and sleep in the solitude of a book-lined room at The Library Hotel.

Both serendipity and planning intersected to create these few blocks of book bliss. The Pierpont Morgan Library formed in 1902, construction on The New York Public Library was completed in 1911. The Library Hotel opened in August 2000, and in 2004 Library Way was dedicated to connect all points bookish.

At the intersection of East 41st and Madison Avenue, the sidewalks, scalded by the hot, midday June sun, bear the daily pounding of thousands of shoes swept forward by the surge of commerce.

The Library Hotel is a civilising oasis of comfort and care on this corner. Vacant for five years prior to its current reincarnation, the former office building, constructed in the 1920s, was renovated into a boutique hotel of 60 rooms.

The thin, 14-storey building crouches discreetly beside hunched, fat office towers that scratch the clouds and hold hundreds of weary cubicles.

Within the hotel, floor and room numbers are dispensed with and replaced by Dewey Decimal code. Following the traditional library cataloging system, each of the 10 categories originated by Melvil Dewey. Floors are devoted to maths and science, technology, philosophy and literature among others. Upon each floor are sub-classifications.

On the religion floor, room number 1200.005 is devoted to Native American culture and spirituality. The nicks on the bedside floor-to-ceiling shelves include *Crazy Horse* by Larry McMurtry, *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse* by Peter Matthiessen and *Southern Cheyenne Women's Songs* by Virginia Giglio. A colourful print of a Native American topped with a war bonnet adorns the street side wall between two large windows.

The rooms is fresh, as if appointed yesterday, with custom woodwork wrapping the built-in desk and armoire.

Our most requested room is erotic literature on the 8th floor, explained Director of Sales and Marketing and Honorary Librarian Fogini Patel with a demure grin, and the fairy tale room is popular with kids.

As an honorary librarian, Patel's duties include stocking the guest rooms with reading material appropriate to the theme of the room. There are 6,000 books to be looked after.

The books are here to be read. Take one when you leave and mail it back when you are done. The good manners are as ubiquitous as the abundance of reading material.

The Reading Room is located on the second floor of The Library Hotel and overlooks Madison Avenue with views of The New York Public Library. Stocked throughout the day and evening with refreshments, the tables and comfortable chairs evoke the personality of a library, yet contemporary Periodicals Room in a small-town library.

Daily papers are available. On the second floor, the fills and flows with comers and goers. At the table to the right, the conversation may be of Joyce's early history. The cultured civility is contagious.

The light, warm-toned carpet comes from the site of Melvil Dewey. Floors are devoted to maths and science, technology, philosophy and literature among others. Upon each floor are sub-classifications.

A subtle achievement of The Library Hotel is the aura of quietude that lets you know the essential ingredient without



▲ The Reading Room at the Library Hotel overlooks Madison Avenue with views of The New York Public Library.

▶ The New York Public Library Reading Room, a football field-sized area holding hundreds of seats, is home to students, writers and researchers.



which a library is defrocked of its credentials. The New York City racket, including the jazz of annoyed cabbie horns, is muted within these walls.

Along East 41st in front of the hotel is Library Way, an initiative that implanted 96 bronze plaques in the sidewalk to celebrate renowned authors and their words.

The former New York City resident and essayist turned Maine saltwater farmer E. B. White is memorialised with this witicism, I don't know

which is more discouraging, literature or chickens.

Library Way may be followed to Patience and Fortitude, the two lions guarding the entrance of The New York Public Library.

Inside are 88 miles of shelves, an extensive rare book and map collection and a glass case enclosing one of the few extant Gutenberg Bibles.

The iconic Reading Room, a football field-sized area holding hundreds of seats, dozens of tables, and comfortably lit by specially

designed table lamps, is home to students, writers, and researchers.

In the midst of all of this literary grandeur is a reminder of an essential link in the distribution of reading material.

A bookseller with a folding table and a selection of 30 or so new books, including the just released *Reagan Diaries*, plies his trade on the sidewalk of East 41st as Patience and Fortitude stand silent guard. In retail, it is all about location, location, location. *The Sun Herald/MCT*

Syria unearths secrets of Assassins' fort

By Tom Perry

NESTLED at the foot of Syria's coastal mountains, an ancient citadel has been put on the tourist map by restoration and excavation that revealed mysterious of the medieval Assassins sect, once based here.

Saladin, the great Muslim leader, laid siege to the castle in the 12th century. But he thought twice before launching an assault on the Assassins, who had a reputation for mounting daring operations to slay their foes.

Anyone who tried to take the Assassins' castle would be dead the next day, said Haytham Ali Hasan, an archaeologist involved in the restoration project.

Although Saladin had conquered Crusader castles with much stronger defences, historians believe the Assassins' death throes forced the Kurdish warrior to lift the siege at Mas'af.

Perched on a rock and overlooking a boulder-strewn plain, the castle has been restored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

Tonnes of debris have been cleared from the site since 2000, allowing researchers to learn more about the citadel's secretive occupants.

One of the main conclusions, Hasan said, was that the Assassins were not very good at building castles, even if the site has lasted well and looks impressive to visitors today.

The system of defence is very poor, he said, reviewing newly acquired knowledge about Mas'af's construction.

The Assassins had tried to copy the castles of the Crusaders and Saladin, but not very well, he said, suggesting the fort's weaknesses might be evidence of the group's relative poverty.

But what the Assassins

lacked in might, they made up for in stealth. Saladin himself narrowly escaped one assassination attempt by their knife-wielding agents.

The Assassins were led by Rashid al-Din Sinan, also known as the Old Man of the Mountain. He used Mas'af as a base for spreading the beliefs of the Nizari Ismaili sect of Islam to which he and his followers belonged.

Nizari Ismailis, followers of a branch of Shia Islam, today take the Aga Khan as their spiritual guide.

The restoration project, completed during the last year, has revealed much about the history of Ismailis in Syria while also saving parts of the castle from collapse.

Chambers, wells, passages, coins and ceramics from the time have been unearthed. We now know more about the life of Sinan. This is very important for writing the history of the Ismaili community in Syria, Hasan said.

Ismailis were living in the castle as recently as the last century and the fortress is still part of the fabric of Mas'af town.

Locals had built houses right up to the castle's main gate and 12 were bought and demolished as part of the project, making the site easier for tourists to visit.

Getting inside the castle used to be a challenging operation, said Ali Esmaili, head of the Aga Khan Development Network in Syria.

Supposed to have been completed in three years, the project took double that because of the wealth of discoveries, said Baidaa Hussein, an architectural engineer and site coordinator.

Something dined the edge of something and want to know what it was, he said. We'd work for many extra hours. The discoveries included a tun-

nel thought to be a secret escape passage, a traditional bath house and a system of channels designed to carry rain water into cisterns beneath the castle.

Much of the restoration work was done by hand using traditional techniques. Materials were reproduced to match those used by the original builders. Concrete used in preservation efforts in the 1980s was replaced with authentic materials.

Syria already boasts a list of well-preserved castles dating to the period, including the imposing Krak des Chevaliers

at the citadel of Mas'af in western Syria.

Baidaa Hussein reads an inscription above a doorway at the citadel of Mas'af in western Syria.

a Crusader fort just an hour's drive from Mas'af.

Like the Citadel of Saladin near today's coastal city of Latakia and the fortress of the city of Aleppo, Krak des Chevaliers has the status of a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture has also conducted restoration work at the citadels of Saladin and Aleppo.

Hussein, herself an Ismaili, hopes tourists will add the smaller fortress at Mas'af to their list of sites to see.

It deserves to be visited, she said. Reuters

Online help for great vacations

By Jay Dougherty

SEASONED travellers know that the key to a great vacation is great preparation. The means taking care of a lot of details beforehand: where to go, what to pack, when to stay, and how to afford it all.

Thankfully, the Internet makes the chore of vacation planning easier than ever before. Never has there been so much information available so readily. Here are some sites to get you going.

Where to go

Figuring out where to go on your vacation can involve many factors, but it never hurts to have the most information on hand as you can get. The s where generalist travel sites such as LonelyPlanet (<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>) come in. LonelyPlanet lets you start big, with a clickable map of the world but once you drill down to a destination of interest, there's plenty of information that lets you know whether a place is right for you.

No matter where in the world you'd like to visit, you'll find information about culture, money, transportation, accommodation, and leisure activities. A more personal view comes from the site's members themselves.

IgoUgo (<http://www.igougo.com>) bills itself as a site where you can get honest advice to get your gear. To that end, it offers a clean interface that allows you to drill down to a destination of interest.

Once there, you'll find the type of reviews and articles that many Internet users find the most valuable: those written by other users of the site who have visited various places and provide personal impressions, tips, and warnings.

Another great way to find personal impressions of and



There's more holiday information over the Internet than ever before.

tips for places you intend to visit is to use Google's Groups feature, which gives you quick access to the many travel news-groups on Usenet, and many opinions about particular locations.

Go to Google, type a phrase such as where to type in YourDestination, and click Groups to see what others have done and said about places before you.

What to do

As important as where to go is what to do once you arrive. Your itinerary, in fact, can be the most crucial part of your entire vacation, determining the ultimate success of a getaway.

How much time should you allot to the major attractions of a destination? What are must-see highlights and which attractions can you forego?

Those in charge of planning an itinerary will be glad to know that popular guidebook maker Fodor's

(<http://www.fodors.com/>) has taken to the Web in a big way.

The results are impressive and free. Once you know where you're going, the Fodor's can help you know what to do after you've arrived.

Among the most impressive features of the site are the sample itineraries for major travel destinations. For many cities, there's a best in 3 to 5 days itinerary which details the events and sites you should take in on each day to be sure that you get a good overview of the city.

The 3 to 5-day itinerary for Washington, DC, for instance, heading to the zoo on day 4, and sampling cultural hotspots on day 5.

Whether you're spending a little time or a lot of time at a particular place, these itineraries are useful if you want to

know that a glance which attractions are not to be missed.

Yahoo! Travel has an extensive destination guide section where you're going, the Fodor's can help you know what to do after you've arrived.

There you'll find not only a listing of all of the search guides by category, but you can also use the handy search field to drill down to locations quickly.

For the most personal advice, go to Google Groups (<http://groups.google.com>) and conduct a search for discussions that have taken place about your vacation destination.

And if you get yourself a free account with Google, you can join in on the conversations you find or ask questions yourself about particular locations.

That way, you can leverage the power of the Internet in helping you to curate out what might become the best planned vacation of your life. DPA

Television Listings

	SUPER MOVIES	STAR MOVIES	ESPN SPORTS	FOX SPORTS	HOLLYWOOD CH.	ZEE TV	DISCOVERY CH.	STAR PLUS
5am to 1pm	0500 Iris (3) 0700 Pinochio 0900 Johnny English 1100 Runaway Jury (2) 1300 The World's Fastest Indian (2)	0610 Hollywood Shootout 0640 The Ticket 0710 Black Cloud 0850 De-Lovely 1055 Warlock 1245 Confessions Of A Teenage	0500 Baseball Tonight 0500 Amateur Softball World Cup 0800 Sportscenter Live 1000 WWE Experience-1P 1100 World Of Outlaws 1200 Major League Lacrosse	0500 Fox Soccer Report 0600 First Grand Prix Rostock, Germany 1000 Fox Soccer Report 1100 Football Asia Moto 4 1200 India Tour Of England Preview Show 1300 India Tour Of England, 1st Test, Day 1, Session 1	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 Star! Inside	0530 Sales Slot 0530 Jai Ganesh 0700 Maa 0730 Meri Doli Tere Angna 0800 Parivaar ... Kartavya Ki Pariksha 0830 Kasamh Se 0900 Jabb Love Hua 0925 Jhalak! Exposure 0930 Marmta 1030 Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan 1100 Teen Bahuraniyan 1130 Meri Doli Tere Angna 1200 Ghar Ki Lakshmi Betyaann 1230 Movie: Andaz	0540 How It's Made 0605 American Hotrod 0700 Biker Build-Off 0755 Extreme Engineering 0850 How It's Made 0915 Extreme Speed 1010 Hot Art 1105 Myhbusters 1200 American Hotrod 1255 5th Gear	0500 Shaadi Number One 0600 Sonpari 0630 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 0700 Virasaat 0730 Saarthi 0800 Shanti 0830 Saarthi 0900 Shararat 0930 Meri Awaz Ko Mil 1000 Kasaauti Zindagi Kay 1030 Kunkum Pyara Sa Bandhan 1100 Bhabhi 1130 Karam Apna Apna 1200 Saarthi 1230 Tanha 1300 Shagun
1pm to 7pm	1500 Scoop (2) 1700 After The Sunset (3) 1900 Being Julia (3)	1415 Swarmed 1545 Blank Check 1720 Twelve Mile Road 1850 Company Business	1400 Racing World 1430 Tour de France Highlights 1500 Golf 2007 British Open First Round Live	1500 Lunchtime Show 1540 India Tour Of England, 1st Test, Day 1, Session 2	1330 Spotlight 1400 The Newmusic 1430 Flow 1500 Start Daily 1530 Look-A-Like 1600 Fashion Television 1630 Raw 1700 Number Ones 1800 Arts & Minds 1830 The Originals 1900 Live At The Rehearsal Hall	1430 Film cont. 1530 Kasamh Se 1600 Saath Phere 1630 Marmta 1700 Parivaar ... Kartavya Ki Pariksha 1730 Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan 1800 Maayka 1830 Kasamh Se 1900 Saath Phere	1350 Brainiac 1445 Extreme Engineering 1540 Kings of Construction 1635 Myhbusters 1730 Stunt Junkies 1800 Massive Speed 1830 American Chopper	1330 Kayamath 1430 Kunkum Pyara Sa Bandhan 1500 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 1530 Karam Apna Apna 1630 Kasturi 1630 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 1700 Virasaat 2030 Kyun Hota Hai Pyar 2200 Karam Apna Apna 2230 Saarthi 2300 Kunkum Pyara Sa Bandhan 2330 Tanha 0000 Kasturi 0030 Shanti 0100 Krishna Arjun 0130 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 0200 Samnevali Khidki 0230 Shabhi 0300 Musafir Hoon Yaaron 0330 Sonpari
7pm to 5am	2100 Dodgeball, A True Underdog Story - New (3) 2300 Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (3) 0100 Factotum (3) 0300 After The Sunset (3)	2030 Sahara 2235 Amos & Andrew 0015 Confessions Of A Teenage 0150 Warlock 0340 Hollywood Shootout 0410 Twelve Mile Road	2100 Cycling Tour de France Stage 2300 2007 Espys Awards 0100 Sportscenter Live 0230 ATP Tennis 0300 World Of Outlaws 0400 Major League Soccer All Stars-Celtic FC Live	2000 Review Show 2030 Golden Gloves Tournament Of Champions 2300 Fox Soccer Report 0000 National Rugby League Teams 0200 Golf Central International Live From The Open Championship 0400 The Golf Channel	2000 Start At The Movies 2030 Muchmusic Video 2100 Star! Daily 2130 Music Is My Life 2200 Behind The Movies 2230 Action 2300 Fashion Television Special 0000 Loud 0030 Napy 0100 Listed 0200 The Spin 0230 Muchmusic Video 0300 Star! Daily 0330 Best Movies! Ever! 0430 ABCs Of Rock	1930 Ghar Ki Lakshmi Betyaann 2000 Teen Bahuraniyan 2030 Jabb Love Hua 2100 Parivaar ... Kartavya Ki Pariksha 2130 Bidwin 2200 Global Telefilm 2300 Sales Slot Flip Play 0030 Kasamh Se 0030 Marmta 0100 Saath Phere 0130 Khana Khazana 0200 Urja 0230 Narseva Narayana Seva 0300 Meditation	1930 American Hotrod 2030 How It's Made 2100 Dirty Jots 2200 Psychic Witness 2300 Dr G Medical 0000 Examiner 0100 Forensic Detectives 0200 I Shouldn't Be Alive 0200 American Chopper 0255 Amazing Medical 0350 5th Gear 0445 Brainiac	1930 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 2030 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2030 Kayamath 2100 Virasaat 2130 Kyun Hota Hai Pyar 2200 Karam Apna Apna 2230 Saarthi 2300 Kunkum Pyara Sa Bandhan 2330 Tanha 0000 Kasturi 0030 Shanti 0100 Krishna Arjun 0130 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 0200 Samnevali Khidki 0230 Shabhi 0300 Musafir Hoon Yaaron 0330 Sonpari
5am to 1pm	0500 Manchester United TV	0500 Law & Order 0600 GMA Recorded 0800 Without A Trace 0900 All My Children 1000 West Wing 1100 One Tree Hill 1200 All My Children 1300 The OC	0500 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 0530 Childhood Dreams 0600 Hang Time 0630 Explorations 0700 The Little's 0725 Little Mouse On The Prairie 0750 Journey To The Heart Of The World 0815 Gulliver's Travels 0840 Lady Lovely Locks 0925 Princess Tenko 0945 Princess Sissi 1035 Little Mermaid 1055 Camp Candy 1120 The Adventures Of Pinochio 1145 Dennis The Menace 1230 Camp Candy 1255 Diplodoss	0500 BBC News, Weather 0530 World Business Report 0600 BBC News, Weather 0630 World Business Report 0700 BBC News, Weather 0730 World Business Report 0745 Sport Today 0800 BBC News, Weather 0830 Sport Today 0900 BBC News, Weather 0930 Hardtalk 1000 BBC News, Weather 1030 Our World: Turkish Journey 1100 BBC News, Weather 1130 World Business Report 1145 Sport Today 1200 World News Today 1230 World Business Report 1300 BBC News, Weather	0600 NBC Nightly News 0700 ABC Nightline Live 0730 Newshour With Jim Lehrer 0800 MSNBC International 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	0600 Anderson Cooper 0700 World News 0730 World Sport 0800 CNN Today 1100 Business 1200 World News 1230 World Sport 1300 Larry King	0520 Recess 0535 Lilo and Stitch 0600 Mickey Mouse Club House 0625 Little Einsteins 0645 Classic Cartoons 0655 House of Mouse 0715 Tarzan 0735 Lilo and Stitch 0800 Emperor's New School 0820 American Dragon 0845 Emperor's New School 0855 Recess 0905 Fairly Odd Parents 0930 Emperor's New School 0950 The Replacements 1015 Emperor's New School 1030 The Rescuers 1140 Recess 1210 Lilo and Stitch 1235 House of Mouse 1255 Quack Pack	0500 Double Shot 0530 Popparazzi 0630 The Record Shop 0700 One-Tastic 0730 This Cover 0800 Double Shot 0900 The Ticket 0930 Soundtracks 1000 The Rock Show 1030 Karam Apna Apna 1100 Backpackers 1200 Popparazzi 1230 The Record Shop 1300 For The Record
1pm to 7pm	1320 FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007: TBC 1530 Gillette World of Sports 1600 Manchester United Asia Tour: Club Urawa vs Manchester United 1800 Real Madrid TV	1400 GMA Live 1600 Without A Trace 1700 One Tree Hill 1800 Cold Case 1900 Veronica Mars	1320 Little Mouse On The Prairie 1345 Ek Stravaganza 1410 Heathcliff 1430 Bad Dog 1450 The Little's 1520 Journey To The Heart Of The World 1610 Gulliver's Travels 1635 Inspector Gadget 1700 Camp Candy 1725 The Adventures Of Pinochio 1750 Dennis The Menace 1840 Inspector Gadget 1900 California Dreams	1330 World Business Report 1345 Sport Today 1400 BBC News, Weather 1430 Asia Today 1445 Sport Today 1500 BBC News, Weather 1530 Hardtalk 1600 BBC News, Weather 1630 Talking Movies 1700 BBC News, Weather 1730 Asia Today 1800 BBC News, Weather 1830 World Business Report 1845 Sport Today 1900 World News Today Including World Business Report	1330 NBC Early Today News 1400 NBC The Today Show 1700 PBS Newshour With Jim Lehrer 1800 MSNBC Hardball 1900 MSNBC Countdown W/K Obermann	1400 Business International 1500 World News Asia 1600 World News 1630 World Sport 1700 World News Asia 1730 CNN Business 1800 Your World Today	1320 Tarzan 1340 Recess 1355 Lilo and Stitch 1415 Kim Possible 1435 Brandy and Mr Whiskers 1500 Recess 1510 Lilo and Stitch 1530 Emperor's New School 1600 Fairly Odd Parents 1625 American Dragon 1650 Kim Possible 1710 Hannah Montana 1735 The Replacements 1800 Emperor's New School 1825 The Suite Life of Zack and Cody 1845 Recess 1900 Brandy and Mr Whiskers	1315 Double Shot 1400 Parental Control 1500 Cactus Garden 1530 Double Shot 1600 America's Next Top Model S8 1700 V Special 1800 Parental Control
7pm to 5am	2000 Trans World Sports 2100 UEFA Repeat 2300 Gillette World of Sports 2330 Barca TV 0245 FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007: TBC	2000 Smallville 2100 The OC 2200 ER 2300 Close To Home 0000 Nip/Tuck 0100 The OC 0200 ER 0300 Close To Home 0400 The OC	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	2000 BBC News, Weather 2030 Click 2100 BBC News, Weather 2130 Hardtalk 2200 BBC News, Weather 2215 World Business Report 2245 Sport Today 2300 BBC News, Weather 2330 Asia Today 2345 World Business Report 0000 BBC News, Weather 0030 Hardtalk 0100 BBC News, Weather 0130 World Business Report 0200 BBC News, Weather 0230 Talking Movies 0300 BBC News, Weather 0330 World Business Report 0345 Sport Today 0400 BBC News, Weather 0430 Hardtalk	2000 MSNBC Live 2100 NBC Dateline 2200 MSNBC Live 2300 MSNBC Live Tucker 0000 MSNBC Live 0100 ABC Nightline News 0130 ABC World News 0200 NBC Nightly News 0230 ABC World News 0300 MSNBC Live 0330 Countdown W/K Obermann 0400 NBC Nightly News 0430 ABC World News	2130 CNN Business Traveller 2200 Your World Today 2230 World Business Today 2300 World News 2330 World Business Today 0000 World News 0030 World Sport 0100 Business International 0200 CNN Today	1925 Fairly Odd Parents 1950 Phil of the Future 2010 The Suite Life of Zack and Cody 2035 That's So Raven 2125 Boy Meets World 2150 Classic Cartoons 2200 Mickey Mouse Club House 2225 Little Einsteins 2235 Classic Cartoons 2255 House of Mouse 2315 Tarzan 2335 Lilo and Stitch 0000 Emperor's New School 0020 American Dragon 0045 Emperor's New School 0055 Recess 0105 Fairly Odd Parents 0130 Emperor's New School 0150 The Replacements 0215 Emperor's New School	1930 Double Shot 2000 Cactus Garden 2030 Double Shot 2200 Popparazzi 2300 For The Record 2315 Double Shot 0000 America's Next Top Model S8 0100 V Special 0200 The Ticket 0230 Soundtracks 0300 Cactus Garden 0330 Double Shot

QBS ENGLISH SERVICE		activities and events; Music; Schedule of the day		2200 National Anthem		2215 Ragamrutham		Thammil		0740 Business Daily		1630 One Planet: Flower Power	
0600 Holy Qur'an and Its Translation	1330 News; Qatari press review; Number 1 French Top 40	0500 Manjukurum Pular Kalam	0530 Life Magazine	0600 News by the hour	2300 Songs	1300 News Headlines	1302 Alappatt Geentanjali	1400 Asianet Varthakal Show	1405 Ragnamika	0800 World News	0805 The World Today	1700 World News	1705 Outlook
0615 The Breakfast Show (News Summary at 0700)	1345 Charqui Kharbi	0605 Keralaeyam	0605 Keralaeyam	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1405 Ragnamika	1420 Cine-Quiz	1440 Yuvabheri	1500 Asianet Varthakal Show	0905 Assignment	0910 One Planet: Flower Power	1800 World News	1805 World Briefing
0845 Arabic/Islamic Programme	1415 French/English programme; World and Arab music	0700 Sarasakeralam	0800 Hello Rainbow	ASIANET RADIO 657AM		1420 Cine-Quiz	1440 Yuvabheri	1500 Asianet Varthakal Show	1555 Islamic Quiz	0930 One Planet: Flower Power	1000 World News	2005 World News	2010 World Briefing
0900 Temporo Latino	1530 News Flash	0900 GMG	0930 Alukas	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1440 Yuvabheri	1500 Asianet Varthakal Show	1555 Islamic Quiz	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1100 World News	1105 World Briefing	2100 World News	2105 World Briefing
1000 In All Directions	1535 Exceptional Women	1000 Comedy Serial	1030 Alukas	ASIANET RADIO 657AM		1500 Asianet Varthakal Show	1502 Atlas Ganopaharam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1615 Tamil Malal	1120 World Business Report	1130 World News	2120 World News	2125 World Briefing
1100 News Summary	1600 Back to English Service	1100 Daily Diary	1305 Sneha Veedu	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1555 Islamic Quiz	1555 Islamic Quiz	1615 Tamil Malal	1645 Tomorrow's Programmes	1140 Analysis	1150 Sports Roundup	2130 One Planet: Flower Power	2135 World Briefing
1155 Midday Show		1100 Comedy Serial	1330 Aardrabhavangal	ASIANET RADIO 657AM		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1645 Tomorrow's Programmes	1650 Asianet Varthakal/close	1200 World News	1205 World News	2200 World News	2205 Assignment
1300 The News		1130 Daily Diary	1357 Nam Engottu	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1650 Asianet Varthakal/close	0700 World News	1200 World News	1205 World News	2230 The Beat	2300 World News
1315 French Transmission		1135 Sneha Veedu	1420 Atlas Daily Sl	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1300 World News	1305 World Briefing	2305 Newshour	0000 World News
1600 Featuring Album		1330 Aardrabhavangal	1500 Viva Dhaparavam	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0005 World News	0010 World News
1700 Evening Show		1357 Nam Engottu	1530 Quiz Time	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0015 World News	0020 World News
1800 The News		1420 Atlas Daily Sl	1600 Kerala Link	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0020 World News	0025 World News
1815 Evening Show contd...		1500 Viva Dhaparavam	1605 Suvarna Nakshthram	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0025 World News	0030 World News
2000 News Summary		1530 Quiz Time	1702 Snehitare Ithile	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0030 World News	0035 World News
2005 Soft Tunes		1600 Kerala Link	1800 Hotline	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0035 World News	0040 Analysis
2100 Music in Stereo		1605 Suvarna Nakshthram	1800 Hotline	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0040 Analysis	0050 Sports Roundup
		1702 Snehitare Ithile	1900 Sneha Sandesham	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0050 Sports Roundup	0100 World News
		1800 Hotline	2000 Nenchnil Ninte Rangam	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0100 World News	0105 World News
		1900 Sneha Sandesham	2100 Isai Malai	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0105 World News	0110 World News
		2000 Nenchnil Ninte Rangam	2100 Uravum Padalum	MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0110 World News	0115 World News
		2100 Sab Rang		MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0115 World News	0120 World News
		Mahmood Ahmed		MALAYALAM SERVICE		1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	1605 Atlas Vrinthanam	0730 Sports Roundup	0500 World News	1330 World News	1335 Outlook	0120 World News	0125 World News



Television Listings	Listings							
	BBC PRIME	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	STAR WORLD	GRANADA UK	SHOW MOVIES1	MGM	SHOW MOVIES2	ANIMAL PLANET
5am to 7am	0730 Tikkabilla 0800 Boogie Beebies 0815 Tweenies 0835 Balamory 0855 Big Cook Little Cook 0915 Come Outside 0930 Andy Pandey 0935 Teletubbies 1000 Passport To The Sun 1030 The Week The Women Went 1100 Small Town Gardens 1130 Passport To The Sun 1200 Garden Challenge 1230 Big Cat Diary	0600 Dangerous Encounters S2 0700 Inside 0800 Mosquito Hell 0900 The Living Eden 1000 Huge Moves 0930 Megastuctures 1200 Frontlines Of Construction	0600 Scrubs 0630 The Simpsons 0700 Seinfeld 0730 Hollywood Squares 0800 Friends 0830 Malcolm In The Middle 0900 Desperate Housewives 1000 Monk 1100 Law & Order 1130 S.V.U. 1200 On The Lot 1230 Arrested Development	0530 The Brief (Series 2) 0700 The Big Easy (Series 1) 0800 The Darling Buds Of May (Series 2) 0900 Through The Keyhole 0930 Antiques Fair 1000 William And Mary (Series 3) 1100 Crossroads 1130 Emmerdale 1200 Coronation Street 1230 The Knock (Series 2)	0600 Day Of Wrath 0830 Little Treasure Hunters 1000 The Shaggy Dog 1200 The Castle	0640 Caveman 0810 Vigilante Force 0840 Sayonara 1205 One Special Victory	0600 The Man Who Wouldn't Die 0800 Final Fantasy VII Advent Children 1000 The Story Lady 1200 Eat A Bowl Of Tea	0610 Pet Rescue 0640 Big Cat Diary 0705 Animals A-Z 0730 The Wild Wood 0820 Monkey Business 0845 Aussie Animal Rescue 0910 Animal Cops Phoenix 1000 Crocodile Hunter 1055 Corwin's Quest 1150 Monkey Business 1220 Aussie Animal Rescue 1245 Animal Cops Houston
7am to 9am	1300 Big Cat Diary 1330 Keeping Up Appearances 1400 As Time Goes By 1430 My Family 1500 Hetty Wainthrop Investigates 1600 Waking The Dead 1700 Passport To The Sun 1730 Superhomes 1830 Bargain Hunt 1900 As Time Goes By	1400 Showreal Asia S3 1400 Samurai Sword 1500 Dangerous Encounters S2 1600 Huge Moves 1700 Megastuctures 1800 Frontlines Of Construction	1300 My Name Is Earl 1330 That70s Show 1400 Grey's Anatomy 1500 General Hospital 1600 Law & Order 1700 S.V.U. 1800 Baywatch 1830 Malcolm In The Middle	1330 The Brief (Series 2) 1500 The Big Easy (Series 1) 1600 The Darling Buds Of May (Series 2) 1700 Through The Keyhole 1730 Antiques Fair 1800 William And Mary (Series 3)	1330 War Of The Worlds 1545 Diary Of A Mad Black Woman 1800 The Brothers Grimm	1340 Fuzz 1510 The Winter People 1650 April Morning 1830 Once Bitten	1400 Dead Man's Revenge 1600 National Treasure 1830 Ring Of The Nibelungs	1340 Animal Cops Houston 1435 Wildlife SOS 1500 Pet Rescue 1530 Crocodile Hunter 1625 Corwin's Quest 1720 Monkey Business 1750 Aussie Animal Rescue 1815 Pet Rescue 1845 Wildlife SOS
9am to 11am	1930 My Family 2000 Staying Put 2030 Staying Put 2100 Waking The Dead 2200 The Inspector Lynley Mysteries 2300 Absolute Power 2330 French And Saunders 0000 Waking The Dead 0100 Keeping Up Appearances 0130 The Inspector Lynley Mysteries	1900 Egypt King Tut Uncovered 2000 Huge Moves 2100 Megastuctures 2200 Frontlines Of Construction 2300 Egypt King Tut Uncovered 2300 Showreal Asia S3 0100 Samurai Sword 0200 Dangerous Encounters S2 0300 The Living Edens	1900 Friends 1930 Seinfeld 2000 That70s Show 2030 My Name Is Earl 2100 How I Met Your Mother 2130 Criss Angel Mindfreak 2200 Prison Break 2300 Seinfeld 2330 Friends 0000 That70s Show 0030 My Name Is Earl 0100 How I Met Your Mother	1900 Crossroads 1930 Emmerdale 2000 Coronation Street 2030 The Return Of Sherlock Holmes 2130 Kiss Me Kate (Series 1) 2200 Duty Free 2300 Doctor In The House (Series 2) 2300 The Big Easy 0000 The Darling Buds Of May (Series 2) 0100 Through The Keyhole	2000 The Castle 2130 Sueno 2330 Inside Hollywood 0000 Lord Of War 0230 Casanova 0430 3 Burials	2000 A Great Wall Mandala 2140 Sketch Artist 2340 That's Just Like Yours 0245 Cool Blue 0415 Golden Gate	2100 Downfall 0000 Con Air 0200 Lord Of War 0430 16 Blocks	1910 Serpent 2005 Crocodile Hunter 2100 Corwin's Quest 2200 Wildlife SOS 2230 Pet Rescue 2300 Monkey Business 2330 Aussie Animal Rescue 0000 Animal Cops Houston 0200 Animal Cops Phoenix 0300 Serpent
11am to 1pm	CNBC CHANNEL 0500 Asia Market Watch 0700 Today's Business 0800 Squawk Box Europe 1100 Worldwide Exchange	0600 Sunrise With Eamonn Holmes 0900 Sky News Today 1200 Lunchtime Live With Kay Burley	0500 Cricket Classic 0700 World Of Athletics 0730 Cricket Talk: Mark Boucher 0800 Legends: Jaysurya 0900 Hockey Classics 0930 Master Blaster 1000 The Unforgettables 1100 Cricket Classics	0600 Asianet Pradhana Varthaka 0605 Suprabhatham Continues... 0630 Sarama Padhania 0700 Vegaland Flash 0730 Filmi Thamasa 0800 Tharakodathi 0830 WWS 0900 Samayam 0930 Swarnamayooram 1000 Stree Oru Santhanam 1030 Asianet Varthakal 1100 Movie	0640 Matinee Gold 0655 Dosti Dushmani 1015 Dopahar Gold 1025 Dil Hai Tumhaara	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	0730 Sarabhai vs Sarabhai 0800 Naya Office Office 0830 Kadvee Khattee Meethi 0855 First Day First Show 0900 Trailers 0935 Ssshhhh... Phir Koi Hai Aryamaan 1030 Saathi Re 1055 First Day First Show 1100 Trailers 1130 Pyar Mein Kabhi Kabhi	0700 Ningsalude Choice 0730 Snehitha 0800 Thankita 0830 Music Moments 0900 Anandam 0930 Chechi 1000 Kolangal 1030 News 1045 Movie: Pancha Paandavar
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	1400 Sky News Today 1700 Live At Five 1830 Sportsline	1300 World Of Athletics 1400 Indian In West Indies 1400 Legends: Jaysurya 1500 Hockey Classics 1530 Master Blaster 1600 Cricket Classics 1700 Sri Lanka v Bangladesh Test 1800 Cricket H/L's 1800 Hockey Classics 1830 World Of Athletics	1355 Cookery show 1400 Vaikannadi 1500 Sayannam 1525 Swantham Surya-puthri 1530 Samadooram 1555 Munshi 1600 News Time 1630 Pavithra Jayililanu 1700 Nombarrappoovu 1730 Unniyarcha 1800 Idea Star Singer II	1500 Dil Kya Kare 1570 JB15 Episode #3 1830 Thursday Gold 1840 Diljale	1300 Tracey Mcbean 1730 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	1430 Bedardi 1730 Instant Khichdi 1800 Viraasat 1830 Saathi Re	1330 Comedy Time 1400 Swantham 1430 Kai Kids 1500 Kuthies Choice 1530 News 1600 Swantham 1630 Sivankutty 1630 Kalyanee 1700 Kanakkinaru 1730 Mithunam 1800 Manapurtham 1830 Minnu Ketu
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 Pokeseries.Com Online Series Of Poker	1900 Sky News On The Hour 2000 News, Sport & Weather 2100 News, Sport & Weather & Technology 2200 Sky News At Ten 2300 Sportsline 2330 Sky News Tonight 0000 Sky News On The Hour 0030 CBS News 0100 Sky News On The Hour	1900 Cricket Talk: Mark Boucher 1930 Top Ten Batsmen: G R Viswanath 2000 Legends: Jaysurya 2100 World Of Athletics 2130 Master Blaster 2200 The Unforgettables 2300 Cricket Classics 0100 The Unforgettables	1900 Swami Ayyappa 1930 Sarmanas 2000 Ahararkku Samadhanam 2000 Asianet Varthakal 2030 MunshiRepeat 2035 Movie 2230 Gul News 2300 Unniyarcha 0000 Swami Ayyappa	2200 V Trailers 2205 Telemart English 2230 Sajna Ke Angana 0215 Jhooth Bole 0550 Jhankar Beats Ep#05	1900 Little Red Tractor 1930 Barney 2000 A House That's Just Like Yours 2030 Pocoyo 2100 Tracey Mcbean 2130 Bounty Hamster 2200 Spongebob Squarepants 2230 My Parents Are Aliens 2300 Darcy's Wild Life 2330 Jungle Run 0000 Black Hole High 0030 Hey Arnold	1900 Screen One 2200 First Day First Show 2205 Asian Sky Shop 2230 India Calling 2300 Exotica 2330 Viraasat 0000 Sarabhai vs Sarabhai 0030 Men Mange More	1900 Arme Devi 1930 Kayamkulam Kochummi 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

<p>PRAYER TIME Fajr 3.27am, Shoroq (sunrise) 4.54am, Zuhr (noon) 11.40am, Asr (afternoon) 3.05pm, Maghreb (sunset) 6.27pm, Isha (night) 7.57pm.</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: <i>The Pursuit of Happiness</i> (Will Smith); <i>Flags Of Our Fathers</i> (Ryan Phillippe); <i>Happily Never After</i> (cartoons); <i>Dreamgirls</i> (Beyonce Knowles); <i>Charlotte's Web</i> (Dakota Fanning); <i>Slow Burn</i> (Ray Liotta); <i>Children of Men</i> (Julianne Moore, Clive Owen); <i>Franklin and The Turtle Lake</i> (cartoons); <i>Facing Extinction</i> (Scott Bairstown, Ian Black); <i>The Queen</i> (Helen Mirren); <i>Apocalypse</i> (Rudy Youngblood); <i>Pulse</i> (Kristen Bell); <i>Flyboys</i> (James Franco); <i>Slow Burn</i> (Ray Liotta); <i>Messenger</i> (Kristen Stewart); <i>Protector</i> (Tony Jaa); <i>Fearless</i> (Jet Li); <i>Code Name: The Cleaner</i> (Cedric). HINDI: <i>Bheja Fry: Life Main Kabhi Kabhie</i>; <i>Delhi Heights</i> (Jimmy Shergill); <i>Ta Ra Rum Pum</i> (Saif Ali Khan); <i>Big Brother</i> (Sunny Deol); <i>Panga Naa Lo Om Puri</i>, <i>Shahish Shah</i>; <i>Namaste London</i> (Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kail); <i>Traffic Signal</i> (Kunal Khemu); <i>Hattrick</i> (Kunal Kapoor, Rimi Sen); <i>Nishabdi</i> (Jiah Khan, Amitabh Bachchan); <i>Just Married</i> (Fardeen Khan); <i>Haseena</i> (Tara Sharma, Raj Babbar); <i>Honeymoon Travels Pvt Limited</i> (Kay Kay Menon, Raima Sena); <i>Nehle Pe Dhele</i> (Sanjay Dutt) <i>Sarhad Paar</i> (Sanjay Dutt). FRENCH: <i>Prete-Moi Ta Main</i> (Alain Chabat, Charlotte Gainsbourg). ARABIC: <i>Emarat Yacoubian</i>; <i>Alemmieh Hobbi</i>; <i>Oreid Kholan</i>; <i>Dars Khosroy</i>. (Information courtesy: Q-Mart Audio Video at The Mall).</p>	<p>USEFUL NUMBERS Police, Fire, Ambulance 999 HMC 4392222 Women's (Rumailah) 4393333 HMC (Emergency) 4393507 Veterinary 6530083 Water & Electricity 991 Flight Inquiries 4622999 Doha Seaport 4454757 Museum 4442191 Cinema 4671811 Mumtaz Post (24-hr Service) 4415566 4432211 4483555 Ship Phone Service 4864444 Ministry of Interior main switchboard 4330000 Public Department for passports, nationality and residence 4822882 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>
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YOUR STARS

<p>ARIES (Mar 21- April 20): Tell them to get out of the mess they are in and then you'll consider getting together with them. Jealous colleagues may try to undermine you. Don't reveal any personal details.</p> <p>TAURUS (April 21-May 21): If you've been really busy, try to schedule some time to spend with loved ones. Moneymaking opportunities will surface. You need an energetic outlet that will help you dissipate your anxiety.</p> <p>GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Catch up on your correspondence and reading. You can write beautiful love letters today. Disputes may start because of a lack of honesty.</p> <p>CANCER (June 22-July 22): You are better off visiting friends or relatives than entertaining at home. Put your plans into motion by presenting your intentions to those who should be able to give you financial support. Don't be friends or relatives rule your life.</p>	<p>LEO (July 23-August 22): Your passionate mood will be well received by your mate. Conflicts over joint finances are likely. You'll be able to break bad habits if you put your mind to it.</p> <p>VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You can make a serious attempt at quitting those bad habits that you've picked up over the years. Do something special for them. Refrain from overspending on entertainment or luxury items.</p> <p>LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Turn your present relationship over! You've picked up over the years. Do something special for them. Refrain from overspending on entertainment or luxury items.</p> <p>SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Educational pursuits should help you develop your hobbies. Kick your shoes off and relax. It might be time to pick up the slack and do your share.</p>	<p>SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Secret affairs will come back to haunt you. Don't overlook that fact that someone you care about may be hitting something.</p> <p>CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You need to take some time out to decide what you want to do. Your family may be feeling neglected and unloved. You can do well on stage or behind the scenes, the choice is yours.</p> <p>AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Stay away from social unpleasantness. Catch up on your correspondence and reading. New emotional connections can be made through business contacts.</p> <p>PISCES (February 20-March 20): You will have a childlike approach today, big hearted and full of spunk. Don't let your jealous imagination play games with you. You could lose money or precious belongings if you aren't careful.</p>
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Seoul films face uphill battle against Hollywood

Faced with financial woes and onslaught from foreign movies, the industry is struggling to keep afloat, writes **PARK CHAN-KYONG**

SOUTH Korea's film industry is winning plaudits abroad, notably the best actress award at Cannes for Jeon Do-yeon, but faces financial woes and onslaughts from Hollywood movies at home, producers say.

"We are in a crisis," Chung In-Youp, president of the Korea Film Directors' Society, said recently. "I'm afraid the movie industry here will be wiped out within the next three years."

But others are less pessimistic. "We hear almost every year that the country's film industry is in a crisis. I think the current slump is again a transitory phenomenon," said Park Jin-Wii, a spokesman for Showbox, a leading local filmmaker.

Over the past few years the country's film industry has seen dramatic growth, with the number of new movies growing from 65 in 2003 to 74 in 2004, 83 in 2005 and 108 last year.

A total of 167mm viewers visited cinemas last year, bringing in \$1.1bn in ticket sales. But behind the numbers is a harsh reality. Of the 108 movies last year, more than 90 made a loss. Combined investment losses are estimated to have topped \$100mm last year, the *Chosun* daily said.

Experts say new investors unfamiliar with the industry rushed in to ride the boom in 2004 and 2005, pouring in money and resources. Consequently, many low-quality films were produced and some 30 films from last year are still uneleased.

"Many investors who got their fingers burnt turned more cautious this year," said Park of Showbox.

"There were many investors waiting for their shares but the pie turned out to be too small," he said.

A supply glut, which coin-



South Korean women walk in front of movie posters at a theatre in Seoul.

cided with a rise in production costs, seriously undercut the major film makers' bottom lines last year - even though the monster-themed film *The Host* drew a record 13mm viewers here.

Dyne Film's CEO Jonathan Kim said the number of new South Korean releases for this year would be a mere 60, including the 30 left over from last year. "Money has dried up. I am afraid this country's film industry might slip back to where it was in the late 1990s," he said.

He said the rush for quick returns by new investors took its toll on quality. "Consequently, low-quality products were produced mas-

sively, which were more tuned to new media such as DMB (mobile TV) than to theatres," Kim said.

Exports also fell 68% year-on-year to \$24.5mm last year, especially to Japan.

"The Korean Wave in Japan has become weak as it relied almost entirely on the popularity of individual stars," Claudia Kim, researcher with the Korea Film Council, said in reference to Korean pop culture in Asia.

The weakness of local films made distributors turn increasingly towards Hollywood movies.

But Claudia Kim said that compared with the situation in other countries, South Korean-made films were performing

Third overwhelmed domestic films in competition for screens throughout the country. "The onslaught from Hollywood films is expected to become increasingly prominent as local theatres widely ignore the screen quota," said Chung of the Korea Film Directors' Society.

To encourage the industry South Korea sets quotas for the number of days on which cinemas must show local films. To pave the way for a free trade deal with the United States, it halved the quota this year to 73 days from 146.

But Claudia Kim said that compared with the situation in other countries, South Korean-made films were performing

relatively well in their domestic market. "South Korea is one of a few countries in the world where local films draw about 50% of domestic viewers or more," she said.

She noted that South Korean movies led by *Hwang Jin Yi*, featuring a famous 16th century entertainer during the Chosun dynasty, attracted 49% of viewers in June.

"Following the United States and India, South Korea comes third in terms of the rate of viewers attracted by domestic films," she said.

South Korean moviemakers say they are pinning hopes on a strong line-up to be released over the next few months. - AFP

Film on Kwangju massacre set for release

By **Park Chan-Kyong**

A FILM focusing on one of South Korea's most traumatic events - the Kwangju massacre of pro-democracy protesters - is set for release this summer, 20 years after military-backed rule finally ended.

The makers of *May 18* hope it will remind a new generation of the bloody events of 1980, and help the local movie industry to better compete with Hollywood blockbusters.

May 18, which will go nationwide release on July 26, is an action drama depicting how the lives of ordinary people were pummeled by the bloodbath that lasted for 10 days from May 18, 1980.

Under an operational code-name "Splendid Holiday", some 25,000 special troops were sent to the southwestern city to quell a popular uprising which followed a military coup led by Major General Chun Doo-hwan.

The revolt was crushed, leaving more than 200 dead and some 2,400 injured by official count. Activists in Kwangju, now known as Gwangju, say they believe the death toll was much higher.

"This is the first feature film that directly focuses on the Kwangju uprising itself," said Scott Jo, a spokesman for CJ Entertainment, the firm that produced the movie. - AFP

IN BRIEF

De Niro plans Mao Zedong movie



Robert De Niro ... code red.

ROBERT De Niro is to produce a movie about the rise of Mao Zedong and communism in China, based on the memoirs of one of the only Western journalists to watch the events unfold, reported *Variety*. De Niro's movie will work off the memoir by Roy Rowan *Chasing the Dragon: A Veteran Journalist's Firsthand Account of the 1949 Chinese Revolution*. The book relates how Rowan traded in a job as a worker for United Nations Relief for a posting as a correspondent for the Shanghai bureau of *Time* and observed close up the rise of Mao and his army. Along with the war, Rowan fell for a Chinese interpreter who may have been a spy. It is unclear whether De Niro himself will star in the movie.

Snoop Dogg getting own TV series

RAPPER Snoop Dogg is to get his own reality TV show featuring his incongruous life as a family man and king of hip-hop. The controversial rapper - real name Calvin Broadus Jr. - will be filmed both at home and at work for a series of half hour shows on E! Entertainment Television, scheduled to be shown towards the end of this year. "It will be hilarious and heart-warming," said Ted Harbert, whose Comcast Entertainment Group operates the E! Channel. "The juggling act that Snoop faces day-in, day-out between career and family is certain to resonate with our viewers. Snoop is, without a doubt, one of the most charismatic and intriguing personalities in pop culture today."

New X-Files film planned

A NEW film based on the alien thriller TV series *The X-Files* is being planned, star David Duchovny has revealed. The film has been the subject of speculation for the past few years, but Duchovny told a meeting of the TV Critics Association that it is now moving closer to becoming a reality. "I'm supposed to see a script next week," Duchovny said, adding that creator Chris Carter and Frank Spotnitz wrote the screenplay and that Carter is set to direct. Duchovny reiterated that he and *X-Files* co-star Gillian Anderson "are on board" the follow-up to the 1998 film and the series that ran on Fox from 1993 to 2002.

Lindsay Lohan leaves rehab centre

YOUNG actress and socialite Lindsay Lohan has left the swanky rehab centre Promises after six weeks of treatment wearing an ankle bracelet that monitors her for alcohol use. One of Lohan's first stops was at Las Vegas nightclub Pure, in which she was spotted quaffing energy drinks rather than the copious amounts of alcohol that got her sent to Promises in the first place.

According to a statement from a Lohan representative, the star of *Herbie Fully Loaded* and *Mean Girls* left the posh Malibu retreat last week and has "transitioned to an intensive outpatient programme, which includes attendance at daily Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, outpatient therapy and daily testing." The statement said that Lohan volunteered to wear an alcohol monitoring bracelet "so there are no questions about her sobriety if she chooses to go dancing or dining in a place where alcohol is served." - DPA



Lindsay Lohan ... quits.

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.daily-sudoku.com for a daily graded puzzle, online Sudoku resources and links.

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

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Area covered by a race? (4)
 - Cattle truck used for racing (5,3)
 - The soil can be unfriendly (7)
 - Films of dances (5)
 - Mighty beefy (6,2,2,2)
 - They're entitled to cross (6)
 - It's not just a topless place of entertainment (6)
 - Give information of what Ken's beer consists of (5,3,4)
 - Doctor giving writing fluid to take internally (5)
 - In which one has to get one's fare ready? (7)
 - Vessels to upset the girls (8)
 - Cupid's sore back (4)
- DOWN**
- Had sieve fixed with glue (8)
 - One getting up part of a start (5)
 - The prohibition of an old Greek city (6)
 - Hat created in error with undoubtedly fatal consequences (7,5)
 - Broken romance in an Italian city (7)
 - Flower wine (4)
 - This provides formal cover for the consumer (6,6)
 - Gives gifts (8)
 - Ring nut made on a lathe (7)
 - Fireman who wrote *Dracula*? (6)
 - Anaesthetic found in there? (6)
 - Worshipped image of David O'Leary? (4)

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Wise (4)
 - Victory (8)
 - Tea (7)
 - Young eel (5)
 - Infusion (12)
 - Sample (8)
 - Freedom (12)
- DOWN**
- Lotto (5)
 - Cultivation (7)
 - Tedious (8)
 - Stables (4)
 - Beaker (5)
 - Frankly (6)
 - Doubtful (12)
 - Jealous (7)
 - Rotate (4)
 - Ironies (12)
 - Paltriness (8)
 - Discussion (7)
 - Pronouncement (6)
 - Silly (5)
 - Aid (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

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**
- Across: 6 Infield; 7 Maxim; 9 Break; 10 Disable; 12 Restriction; 14 Maintenance; 18 Be quick; 19 Put on; 21 Bath; 22 Concede.
- DOWN**
- 1 Snare; 2 Visage; 3 Pet; 4 Vacant; 5 Killjoy; 8 Similar; 11 Stretch; 13 Gateway; 15 Nought; 16 Clutch; 17 Wordy; 20 Coy.
- CRYPTIC**
- Across: 6 Satanic; 7 Genos; 9 Viola; 10 Parties; 12 Street cries; 14 Danger money; 18 Violent; 19 Model; 21 Bound; 22 Sign.
- DOWN**
- 1 Habit; 2 Ballet; 3 Bit; 4 Debtor; 5 Rose bed; 8 Artson; 11 Hearing; 13 Haricot; 15 Galea; 16 Enough; 17 Sewer; 20 Ale.