

# Slogan

Afghanistan	Afg. 200
Australia	A\$ 20
Bangladesh	Taka 200
Bhutan	NU 150
Canada	CS 20
China	RMB 30
France	FR 100
Hong Kong	HK\$ 75
India	Rs. 200
Japan	¥ 1250
Korea	Won 7500
Malaysia	RM 20
Maldives	Rf 150
Nepal	NeRs. 200
New Zealand	NZ\$ 20
Pakistan	Rs. 200
Philippines	P 188
Saudi Arabia	SR 40
Singapore	SS 20
Sri Lanka	Rs. 300
Thailand	B 250
Turkey	Lira. 10
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## Priyanka Chopra Jonas's

girl era is far from over and her  
Manish Malhotra sari is proof

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September 2024 Vol. 29 No. 9

**President & Editor-In-Chief**

Syed Jawaid Iqbal

**Managing Editor & COO**

Syed Ovais Akhtar

**Layout & Graphics**

Haroon Rasheed  
Kamran Ghulam Nabi  
Riaz Masih

**General Manager - Sales & Marketing**

Syed Naushad Haider

**PRODUCTION & COORDINATION**

Aqam-ud-Din Khan

**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**

Shehryar Zulfiqar

**Editorial**

**& Business Address**

20-C, Lane 12 off Khayaban-e-Ittehad,  
Phase II Extension, DHA,  
Karachi - 75500, Pakistan  
Tel: +9221 35313821-23  
Email: info@slogan.com.pk

**Price: PKR. 200**

Slogan is published every month by  
Syed Jawaid Iqbal for

**JAWZ Communications (Pvt.) Ltd.**

and printed by JAWZ Communications, Karachi.

Read complete issue of Slogan on:

[www.slogan.com.pk](http://www.slogan.com.pk)

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*Available on  
Asianet-Pakistan.*

## Lawlessness in katcha areas

**T**he ambush and martyrdom of 15 policemen near Rahim Yar Khan on August 20 by a gang of dacoits is the latest tragedy to emerge out of the region, highlighting the lawlessness that plagues the area.

Despite numerous operations being initiated in recent years to clear the region of the presence of these gangs, the authorities have consistently failed in this regard, allowing the bandits to continue their reign of terror unchecked.

In the abovementioned incident, two police vehicles were on their way back from a police camp in the katcha area, when one of them broke down. At this point, the police personnel came under a rocket-and-gun attack from the dacoits, resulting in the tragic loss of lives. It should be noted that back in April, Sindh and Punjab police launched a joint operation in the katcha areas following a spree of killings of abducted victims at the hands of dacoits.

The effectiveness of the operation remains questionable, however, as these gangs continue to terrorise civilians and police personnel alike and therefore pose a significant challenge to the maintenance of the rule of law. They are often armed with advanced weaponry that surpasses that at the disposal of police personnel, challenging the state's ability to maintain order in the region.

A brief overview of the history of the katcha regions tells us that these outlaws typically operate in difficult-to-access areas along the Indus River, with the riverine expanses providing them with a natural refuge as the area is dotted with dense forests, marshes and a network of small islands formed by the shifting course of the river. The challenging terrain makes it difficult for the police to apprehend the criminals.

Moreover, dacoity has a long history in these areas, with some groups tracing their roots back several generations, with their presence persisting due to a combination of socioeconomic factors, poor governance, as well as the remoteness of the terrain.

In addition, there is some element of corruption within law enforcement agencies, as well as political interference, allowing these criminals to operate with impunity. This nexus has also led to distrust emerging between the local population and the police.

Despite numerous operations by the police forces of Sindh and Punjab in the past, including in collaboration with Rangers, the dacoits have proven resilient. The combination of a challenging topography, the dacoits' use of modern weaponry, as well as poor socioeconomic indicators and governmental neglect of the region has made the task of taking on these outlaws a complex one. It is clear then that any endeavour that aims to combat them must go beyond the conducting of armed operations. There is a need to enhance community engagement and trust-building by involving local communities in governance and decision-making processes so that their needs are addressed and they develop a sense of ownership in maintaining law and order.

Moreover, investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure development and job creation are of utmost importance as is the initiation of long-term regional development plans focusing on integrating these remote areas into the national economy. Given the destructive influence of the bandits, however, the law enforcement aspect cannot be ignored either. The resources, weaponry and technology at the disposal of law enforcement agencies must be enhanced to ensure they are adequately prepared to address this evolving challenge.

Ultimately, what we need is a holistic approach that tackles both the underlying socioeconomic concerns of the area while simultaneously strengthening the rule of law to restore the state's writ in these regions.

## Ballay Ballay, Arshad Nadeem!

Born in January 1997 in Mian Channu in Pakistan's Punjab province, Arshad Nadeem has emerged as the world's record-holding javelin thrower, winning his country its first gold medal in the International Olympics in sports other than hockey. A two-time Olympian, and the first Pakistani to qualify for the final of any track and field event at the Olympic Games and the World Athletics Championships, Arshad Nadeem set an Olympic record with a throw of 92.97 metres (305.0 ft) at the 2024 Summer Olympics. Currently reigning both Olympic and Commonwealth Games championships, Arshad Nadeem is also the current silver medalist in the World Athletics Championship. He set a new national and Commonwealth Games record with a throw of 90.18 m (295.9 ft) at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, becoming the first athlete from the South Asian region to breach the 90 m mark. In the 2023 World Athletics Championships, he became the first Pakistani athlete to win a medal at the World Athletics Championships. Arshad Nadeem! You are the nation's pride, and we wish more of the same in the future.

*Raja Riaz Ahmed,  
Gujranwala, Pakistan.*



## India-Nepal Relationship

India and Nepal are two of the South Asian nations that have had a bumpy bilateral relationship. Of late, the recent turmoil in Nepal's politics is not new or an unfamiliar site to India as the



former has been engaged deeply yet proactively with Kathmandu because of their ethnic ties, long shared borders, and formidable economic interests. Therefore, New Delhi has been keen on developments across the India-Nepal border to preserve its vested interests, especially considering the increasing Chinese influence on Nepal. For New Delhi, a spate of political upheavals in Nepal has profound implications for India's stability and security. As Kathmandu is busy forging closer ties with Beijing, New Delhi has seemingly reactivated its efforts to recalibrate its diplomatic relationship with Nepal to maintain much-needed balance given the fast-moving geopolitical dynamics. Therefore, New Delhi's foreign policy toward Kathmandu needs reassessment and recalibration, as China's growing influence in the region will impact India's ensuing diplomatic efforts in the short and long term.

*Chetan Sohrab Varma,  
Varanasi, India.*

## Hasina on the Run

After weeks of mass protests that have resulted in scores of deaths at the hands of Bangladesh police, Bangladesh's former prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, was left with no other option than to flee the crisis-stricken country in the first week of August. In the country's 53-year political history, her hasty departure can be referred to as a landmark moment, leaving the second-largest Muslim nation in South Asia facing an enormous power vacuum into which the country's army has stepped seemingly for the time being. Now, the incumbent government, set up under the leadership of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus as chief adviser, has taken its place with the determination for an all-inclusive, democratic government free of corruption and graft charges. The good thing is that student leaders do not favor an interim government formed without their input, while Jamaat-i-Islami Bangladesh and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leaders are vying for positions in the interim setup. Amid the ongoing crisis, political transitions are coming out to be quite volatile and challenging, and there has been a never-ending spate of incidents of arson, looting, and violent protests around the country, targeting the country's religious minorities, serially the Hindus. This must stop immediately as the formidable damage done to Bangladesh, otherwise booming due to the current political turmoil, will lead the country to further crisis.

*Shahab Uddin,  
Dhaka, Bangladesh.*



# -year Rule of Taliban

Since the return of the Taliban to Afghanistan back in August 2021, Afghanistan is no longer the country it was once before the departure of the allied forces. At this crucial time, there is a need to deeply introspect what has happened since the Taliban returned to power in the war-torn country. The Taliban forces came back to power in Afghanistan as the previous government led by Ashraf Ghani collapsed, and the former president fled Kabul at the cusp of the Taliban's arrival amid the NATO and U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in the dead of night in August 2021. Since the return of the Taliban to Kabul, the global community, including the neighbouring nations, has pursued a selective engagement with the Taliban



regime mainly because of the former's shabby human rights record. Western countries are still frustrated at the ongoing restrictions on the rights of women and girls, and to punish the Taliban regime, the global community has enforced a series of harsh sanctions, including banking restrictions and asset freezes. Simultaneously, the international powers have devoted sizable funds to mitigating food shortages and averting famine-like conditions developing in Afghanistan. Many countries are in direct contact with the Taliban concerning security issues. Afghanistan's neighboring nations have also struck trade agreements with the Taliban leadership, which is a good omen for the region and will likely result in a better socio-economic environment for Afghanistan.

*Razi Nabi Khan,  
Qandahar, Afghanistan.*

## Who Said That!



"I commend Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for her historic initiative, executed under the able leadership of our Quaid, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, to offer a 14-rupee electricity unit relief for consumers using up to 500 units!"

**Shehbaz Sharif,**  
*Prime Minister of Pakistan*



"In the days to come, we will continue to wish well for Bangladesh in its 'Vikas Yatra' because we think about the welfare of humankind."

**Narendra Modi,**  
*Prime Minister of India*



"We have reached a point where the West can no longer dominate global leadership."

**Ranil Wickremesinghe,**  
*President of Sri Lanka*



"We won't tolerate any attempt to disrupt the global clothing supply chain, in which we are a key player."

**Muhammad Yunus,**  
*Head of the Bangladesh Caretaker Government*



"If all political parties can unite for General Bajwa's extension, why can't they come together for public relief?"

**Hafiz Naeemur Rehman,** *Emir, Jamaat-i-Islami, Pakistan*



"I will be laser-focused on creating opportunities for the middle class. Together, we will build what I call an opportunity economy."

**Kamala Harris,** *US Democratic Presidential Candidate*



"The challenge that so many people have is not knowing how to take that first step of reaching out to another person for help."

**– Kate Middleton,** *Duchess of Cambridge and wife of Prince William.*



## Kudos to ‘Punjab Ki Beti’

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who has repeatedly called herself ‘Punjab Ki Beti,’ has indeed risen to the occasion by offering a 14-rupee electricity unit relief for the people using up to 500 units. Prima facie, not only does the proud daughter belong to the Punjab only, but her historic initiative is exclusive to the people of the Punjab as well, leaving the people of the other provinces in a state of deep confusion and mix-up. Let alone relief, the incumbent government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is reluctant to release the complete list of the independent power producers (IPPs), including the names of their front runners, looting the whole nation with no worry of punishment or sense of accountability. Exposing provincialism at its worst, since Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif only belongs to the Punjab province where the PML-N’s vote base is concentrated, where is the much-touted ‘son of the soil’ or ‘the man of the land’ who will salvage all the people of the country from the unbearable burden of crushing electricity bills? ❏

## Where are the Jobs?

In the name of austerity measures, the Pakistan government is busy ending the existing jobs in the public sector. As recently announced by the government, it is going to abolish a total of 28 departments in five ministries as part of its ongoing efforts to reduce administrative expenditures. On the face of it, the move sounds laudatory to the people. However, one needs to remind the incumbent setup of their lofty promises about economic recovery and employment creation. After all, where are the new jobs for the country’s millions of unemployed youth? If not in the public sector, what is the Shehbaz-led regime doing to facilitate the country’s private sector to create more employment opportunities? ❏



## Gandasa Rules the World

Carrying the gandasa of sorts in his muscular hands, gold medallist Arshad Nadeem has not only won his country the first gold medal in Paris Olympics in sports other than hockey, he has also emerged as the world’s record-holding javelin thrower since the launch of the International Olympics in the early 20th century. Earning more accolades for Punjab than late film star Sultan Rahi’s trademark gandasa did for the region, Arshad Nadeem has indeed revived the lost sheen of the gandasa, now taking its unrivalled fame and cultural inspiration from Punjab to the rest of the world. ❏

## Gunvor to Acquire Total Pakistan

**G**unvor is said to have acquired Total Pakistan after the latter decided to quit the country.

According to reports, these two countries are close to sealing a deal. Following Shell Pakistan, Total Parco Pakistan Ltd has also decided to close TPPL's aviation business at Jinnah International Airport Karachi and exit joint ventures (JVs) following the policies of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Pakistan State Oil (PSO) has also threatened the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) that it will not operate at loss-making airports after the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issued a tender to remove state-run companies from the key airports on the pretext of promoting competition.

In a recent communication, Shell Pakistan Ltd. notified the Pakistan Stock Exchange that it had discontinued its

aviation operations nationwide.

The Civil Aviation Authority had invited tenders from different parties to

Total Parco Pakistan.

Recent developments show that key oil marketing companies in Pakistan



establish a Jet Fuel refueling facility at Skardu Airport. This resulted in protests by key oil marketing companies in Pakistan, such as Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Shell Pakistan Ltd., and now

have decided to wind up oil supply operations to Pakistani airports. These are strategic operations in which major oil marketing companies are involved in joint ventures. ❏

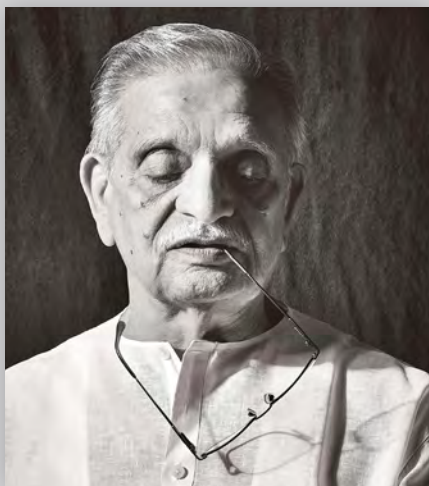
## I met Gulzar ahead of his 90th birthday and realised why I fell in love with words

**F**or the last three years, I have had Gulzar's poem 'Bimaar Yaad' pinned in the notes app on my phone. I came across it in Raat Pashmine Ki (2002), a poetry collection I would read aloud in bed late into the night, armed with a blue pen to underline the parts that stirred



something in me. By the end, most of the book was underlined. I lost my paternal grandparents in the pandemic and began watching YouTube videos

of Gulzar soon after, seeking comfort in his gravelly voice and gentle words.



'Bimaar Yaad' summed up my anguish over their loss as the bard spoke of a memory that "hiccuped one last time and went silent".

Now in the corridor of his Mumbai home, I nearly drop the tulsi plant I have brought for his garden when the door opens to reveal the poet standing

in his study. In his trademark white kurta, he looks exactly like the man in the videos I've been watching for years, the man whose voice gave form to emotions I was too torn up to process, the man I only managed to steal a glimpse of on a huge screen at the Jaipur Literature Festival in 2023 because he was surrounded by a sea of awestruck people. As Gulzar smiles, gesturing to the sofa, I notice the news playing in the background. In my nervousness, I struggle to comprehend the words of the reporter, instead noticing a sign in the room that warns me that photography and recording are not permitted. It's a rule the poet will sternly reiterate later, disabusing me of my fanciful notions of our meeting feeling like a reunion with my late grandfather. When he turns off the television to sit across from me, I admit I'm slightly anxious and hear, for the first time in person, the voice that has comforted me for so long. "I can see that," Gulzar says, offering me a glass of water. "It'll go away in a minute." ❏



# Charity Dinner raises funds for vulnerable segments

On 14th August 2024, in celebration of Pakistan Independence Day, the Pakistan Bedford Society held a charity dinner in Harpur Suite in Bedford, UK. The VIP guests were Mr Mohammad Yasin, MP for Bedford, former Test cricketer Zaheer Abbas, also known as the Asian Bradman, and Senator Javed



Jabbar, Hilal-i-Imtiaz.

After the Tilawat, guests were shown some short documentaries and slides of the remarkable work done in Pakistan by doctors and surgeons from the UK. They had taken the initiative, spent their time and effort, and generated money



for and from charities to build hospitals. Whenever possible, they provided and

installed state-of-the-art medical and surgical equipment. Some of those were charging just a nominal amount. Otherwise, it was all free for the poor patients. The highlight of the evening was Senator Javed Jabbar's speech in his clear, commanding, expressive voice. Speaking both in Urdu and English, he captured the audience's undivided attention with his brief, fleeting history of Pakistan.

Mini cricket bats signed by Zaheer Abbas were auctioned, and all the money was allocated to charitable causes. Abbas also narrated some interesting behind-the-scenes incidents from his illustrious career. **S**

# Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) Room Inaugurated

Nestlé Pakistan inaugurated the Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) room at The Trust School Lahore to foster and promote nutrition awareness. The N4HK program is part of Nestlé’s global nutritional awareness initiative to ensure that children understand the value of nutrition as they grow older. So far, the program has reached out to 360,000 kids, trained more than 2300 teachers, and developed 17 N4HK Rooms with 11 partners from the private and public sectors.

Inaugurating the room, chief guest Béatrice Guillaume-Grabisch, Global Head of Human Resources Nestlé S.A., said, “It is an honor and privilege

initiative goes beyond simply educating children about nutrition and physical activity; it is about shaping a healthier future for future generations.”



to be here today to celebrate the achievements of the Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) program in Pakistan. This

Speaking on the occasion, Jason Avanceña, CEO of Nestlé Pakistan, said, “We are delighted to strengthen our partnership with The Trust school, which has been one of our oldest partners, having established 3 N4HK rooms and training more than 400 of their teachers and reaching out to more than 10,000 children across different branches.”

## Shahid Afridi’s Adorable Video with His Grandson & Daughters

Shahid Afridi is a famous and talented former Pakistani cricketer. He is also known for his social activism and philanthropy. Afridi began cricket at the age of 17 and grabbed attention by his fasted ODI century record



Shah Afridi and Ansha Afridi. Shahid Afridi, his family and his son in law are happy to have this beautiful addition to their family.

in his debut match. Afridi also played PSL for many years and represented multiple teams. He is currently associated with Samaa TV as a cricket analyst.

The former Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi recently became a grandfather. He welcomed his grandchild Aliyar Shaheen Shah Afridi who was born to Shaheen

Recently, Shahid Afridi has shared an adorable video with Grandson and daughters on his official Facebook account in which he was holding his beloved grandson and was praying for his guidance and prosperity. His youngest daughter was super excited to be around his nephew. Here is the exclusive video shared by Shahid Afridi.

## Trump questions Kamala’s identity

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump falsely suggested to the country’s largest annual gathering of Black journalists that his Democratic rival Kamala Harris had previously downplayed her Black heritage. “She was always of Indian heritage and only promoted Indian heritage. I didn’t know



she was Black until several years ago when she happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black,” Trump said, drawing a smattering of jeers from an audience of about 1,000 people.

“So I don’t know, is she Indian or is she Black?” Trump continued. “But you know what, I respect either one, but she obviously doesn’t because she was Indian all the way, and then all of a sudden, she made a turn, and she went — she became a Black person.”

Harris, who is of Indian and Jamaican heritage, has long self-identified as both Black and Asian. She is the first Black person and Asian American person to serve as vice president.

# Priyanka Chopra Jonas's

girl era is far from over and her  
Manish Malhotra sari is proof

**Y**ou'd expect the caption "Berries and Cream" to be fit for a Wimbledon Instagram post, but Priyanka Chopra Jonas just gave it a desi spin in her signature style. For her brother Siddharth Chopra's pre-wedding ceremony, she opted for a berry-hued sari by Manish Malhotra and a multi-

string pearl choker by Bvlgari.

The sari was embellished with Swarovski stones and intricate cutwork placed delicately on layers of draped chiffon. Paired with a triple strap bustier adorned with 3-D crystal flowers—an irreplaceable point of difference for many Indian designers—MM meets PC continued to reverberate the classic filmy leitmotif reminiscent of the early


and mid-2000s.

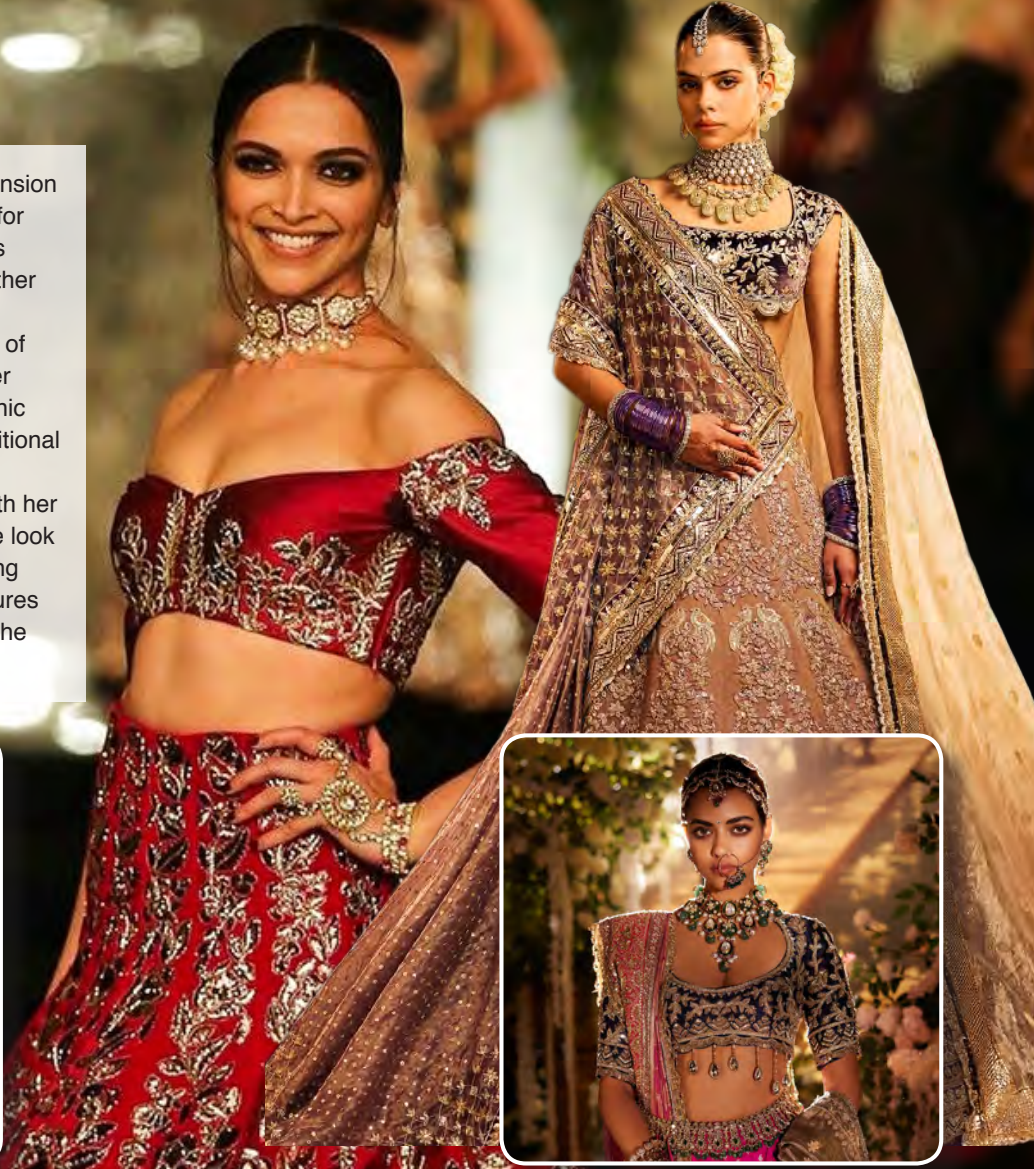
As for the jewellery, darker tones of red meet the pristine undertone of pearls and rubies set in layers of long strings placed around a choker by Bvlgari and a diamond Serpenti bracelet completed the look. The silver from the Aparajita Toor block heels resound a quality of comfort while PCJ's majestic updo swept with mauve glam states

## Cover Story

how the actor is far from shy. As an extension of her sartorial choices, the actor opted for a ruby lip shade and face-family tendrils flowing from her updo tied the look together literally.

It isn't the first time that the iconic duo of MM and PCJ have come together, earlier sanctifying their association with the iconic and most alluded to rendition of the traditional sari; the desi girl look from Dostana.

As she resurrects a bolder desi girl with her sair, it would be of no surprise to see the look replicated across Indian towns with young girls and women showing the exact pictures to their darzis and Masterjis to emulate the look. president. 



JACKPOT!

# HIGH-OCTANE COMEDY

By Tariq Ahmed Khan

In the crowded genre of heist comedies, the newly released film “Jackpot!” attempts to carve out its niche with an energetic ensemble cast and a zany plot that frequently reaches for the absurd. Directed by Michael Thompson and featuring a star-studded lineup including Awkwafina, John Cena, Seann William Scott, Marian Green, David Conk, and Josh Diogo, the film emerges as a frenetic rollercoaster ride that manages to entertain despite its flaws.

Jackpot! centers on an unlikely group of misfits who come together with the improbable goal of pulling off the heist of the century. Awkwafina stars as Lila, a down-on-her-luck single mother with a knack for quick thinking and an unfortunate streak of bad luck. John Cena plays the role of Max, a bumbling security guard with more muscle than brains, while Seann William Scott takes on the character of Rick, a washed-up magician with a penchant for illusion and deceit.

Marian Green plays Tanya, an enigmatic figure who knows more about the criminal underworld than she lets on. David Conk and Josh Diogo round out the cast as rival crooks whose ambitions only add to the chaos. The plot starts when Lila stumbles upon a mysterious briefcase containing what is rumored to be a fortune. Seeing an opportunity to turn her life around, she assembles an unlikely crew, each with unique skills and quirks, to carry out the heist.

Awkwafina brings her trademark charisma and sharp comedic timing to the role of Lila. Her portrayal of the resourceful yet beleaguered mother provides the film’s

emotional core. Awkwafina’s ability to seamlessly transition between humor and vulnerability anchors the story, making Lila a relatable and sympathetic protagonist.

John Cena, known for his action-hero persona, takes a delightful departure from his usual roles with



his portrayal of Max. Cena’s comedic chops are on full display as he navigates the film’s slapstick humor and physical gags. His chemistry with Awkwafina adds a layer of comedic tension, especially when his character’s overconfidence clashes with his evident ineptitude.

Director Michael Thompson, known for his work on previous comedy hits, applies a high-energy approach to Jackpot! The film’s pacing is relentless, with rapid-fire jokes and a plot that never slows down. While this can be exhilarating, it also means that the film occasionally sacrifices depth to maintain its furious momentum.

The screenplay, penned by Sarah Johnson, is a mixed bag.

The dialogue is sharp and witty, with several standout lines that will undoubtedly have audiences chuckling. However, the plot can be overly convoluted, with twists and turns that sometimes feel more confusing than clever. The film’s attempt to juggle multiple storylines and character arcs can be overwhelming, leaving viewers struggling to keep track of the various threads.

Visually, Jackpot! is a feast for the eyes. Cinematographer Mark Nelson employs a vibrant color palette and dynamic camera work that complements the film’s high-energy vibe. Bold, contrasting colors and quick cuts enhance the comedic effect, while the detailed set designs contribute to the film’s immersive atmosphere.

The production design is noteworthy, with meticulous attention to detail in depicting the various locations involved in the heist. From seedy warehouses to opulent casinos, the settings are well-crafted and visually engaging, adding to the film’s overall appeal.

Jackpot! is a high-octane comedy that delivers on its promise of entertainment. With a talented ensemble cast and a visually engaging presentation, the film is a fun and often hilarious ride. However, its ambition sometimes leads to a disjointed narrative and a reliance on familiar comedic tropes. For audiences seeking a lighthearted, action-packed romp with plenty of laughs, Jackpot! is a worthwhile watch. It may not redefine the heist genre but provides a good time. Whether you’re a fan of heist comedies or just looking for an enjoyable escape, this film will surely entertain you. **✂**

FILM

## BARZAKH

## LESS IS MORE

By Maleeha Siddiqui

**B**arzakh, a six-episode mini-series directed by Asim Abbasi, stands out as a bold departure from conventional Pakistani television. Airing on Zee and featuring an ensemble cast, including Fawad Khan, Sanam Saeed, Salman Shahid, and Khushal Khan, the series ventures into the relatively unexplored genre of mystery and fantasy, set against the mesmerizing backdrop of the mountains.

One of the most striking aspects of Barzakh is its setting. Unlike most Pakistani TV serials deeply rooted in urban landscapes, Barzakh draws the audience into the mystical and ethereal world of the mountains. This change in scenery provides a refreshing visual experience and enhances the narrative's otherworldly theme. The cinematography is stunning, with every frame meticulously crafted to draw the viewer deeper into the story's mystical ambiance. Much care and attention have been paid to the visual elements, making the series a feast for the eyes.

The narrative of Barzakh is as intriguing as its setting. The story revolves around Jafar, also known as Aaqā, who is determined to marry his deceased lover. What seems like a delusion gradually unravels into a complex tale of the connection between the real world and the unknown. Jafar invites

his two sons back home for his third wedding, and it is through their eyes that the audience is introduced to this mysterious plot. Each episode focuses on one character's story, slowly peeling back the layers of the narrative and building the suspense.

However, while the premise of

enough time to grasp each storyline fully.

Another area where Barzakh struggles is in its dialogue delivery. The actors, while seasoned and talented, seem to be delivering their lines in a manner that feels oddly out of place in a Pakistani setting. The intonation and

structure of the Urdu dialogues often come across as more suited to American banter, which creates a dissonance that can pull the viewer out of the immersive experience the series is otherwise trying to create.

This forced emoting style diminishes the characters' authenticity, making it difficult for the audience to fully connect with them.

In conclusion, Barzakh is a commendable attempt at pushing the boundaries of Pakistani television, exploring genres and themes rarely touched upon in the industry. Its breathtaking



Barzakh is undoubtedly ambitious and refreshing for the Pakistani screen, the execution leaves something to be desired. The series attempts to weave multiple subplots into its narrative, each heavy with its thematic weight. But instead of adding depth, these subplots often feel overwhelming, burdening the viewer with too much information in too little time. This heavy-handed approach can make the viewing experience feel cumbersome as if the series is trying to do too much at once without giving the audience

cinematography and intriguing plot offer a welcome change from the norm. However, the series is weighed down by its convoluted script and the unnatural delivery of its dialogues. While Barzakh is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, it serves as a reminder that sometimes, less is more. It could have been a true game-changer if the series had been more focused and grounded in its cultural context. As it stands, Barzakh is an exciting experiment that doesn't quite reach its full potential. ❌



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