

Slogan

Afghanistan	Afg. 150
Australia	A\$ 6
Bangladesh	Taka 100
Bhutan	NU 50
Brazil	BRL 20
Canada	CS 6
China	RMB 30
France	EUR 45
Hong Kong	HK\$ 30
India	Rs. 100
Japan	¥ 500
Korea	Won 3000
Malaysia	RM 6
Maldives	Rf 45
Myanmar	MMK 10
Nepal	NrRs. 75
New Zealand	NZ\$ 7
Pakistan	Rs. 250
Philippines	P 75
Saudi Arabia	SR 15
Singapore	S\$ 8
Sri Lanka	Rs. 100
Thailand	B 100
Turkiye	Lira 2
UAE	AED 10
UK	£ 3
USA	\$ 5

Hania Amir

**rubbishes 'entirely fabricated'
statement circulating in her
name on Pahalgam attack**

Feel the Good Life



NESTLÉ MILKPAK A2 Milk naturally contains the A2 Protein which makes it easy to digest and keeps you feeling light and good from the inside throughout the day.



Contents

11

04 Editor's Desk

05 Readers' Thoughts

06 Who Said That!

07 Grapevine

08 Newsbeat

11 Cover Story

Hania Aamir rubbishes 'entirely fabricated' statement circulating in her name on Pahalgam attack

13 Reviews

Web Series: Adolescence
Film: Warfare (2025)



07



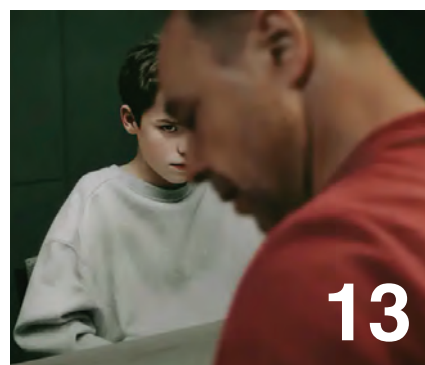
10



06



09



13



14



May 2025

Vol. 30 No. 5

President & Editor-In-Chief

Syed Jawaid Iqbal

Editorial Coordinator

Syed Zain Akhter

Layout & Graphics

Haroon Rasheed
Riaz Masih

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

*The views expressed by the contributors are
not necessarily shared by the editor.*

*Available on
Asianet-Pakistan.*

Well-deserved celebrations

Pakistan's decisive triumph in the recent military confrontation with India has sparked a wave of celebrations all across the country. Friday was officially observed as Yum-e-Tashakur (Thanksgiving Day) to honour the armed forces and the people for the victory in Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos.

While national pride is a natural response to battlefield success over a bullying arch rival, it would be unwise to view it as a conclusive victory. Considering the mindset of India's Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this could be a moment of calm before another flare-up.

Modi who started off as a card-carrying member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), fountainhead of the far-right wing Hindu nationalist ideology, Hindutva, has risen to power building his image as strong uncompromising leader ready to take on Pakistan at the slightest hint of a real or perceived provocation.

Under him came the 2016 "surgical strikes" across the Line of Control following the Uri incident, and later in 2019 Balakot air strike to 'avenge' Pulwama attack – a false flag operation. That led to the downing of an Indian jet and capture of its pilot by Pakistan.

At the time, Modi had publically expressed the lament that had India acquired Rafael combat jets from France, the "result would have been different." He used the April 22 horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam area of the illegally Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir to unleash an assortment of India's air power, including Rafael fighter jets, to "teach Pakistan a lesson", but ended up losing six jets, among them at least three Rafael planes, shattering Modi and his RSS acolytes' dream to see India emerge as a regional hegemon.

Instead, New Delhi sought Washington's intervention, say reports, to secure a ceasefire. This happened at a time the Modi government was preparing for three major events: his own 75th birthday come September (not too long ago, he had denied a party ticket to veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani at the same point in life); Behar state elections in October; and start of the RSS' centenary celebrations the same month, which he had wanted to mark by establishing India's military superiority over Pakistan.

Despite agreeing to a ceasefire, Modi is still talking of a 'new normal', describing it as swift retaliation and escalation dominance. Given the chinks the short conflict has exposed in India's military preparedness, the 'new normal' can have a rest, at least for now.

But the Modi government cannot afford to be seen as weak or indecisive. Faced with domestic pressure and international embarrassment, it needs to satisfy the desire for revenge. It could react in different forms such as covert operations, cyber-attacks, and hybrid warfare. The challenge for this side therefore is to effectively deflect and defeat any such escalatory moves.



Excruciating Debt Burden

In its latest Asian Development Outlook, the ADB emphasises that sustaining recovery requires consistent policymaking and steadfast implementation of reforms to enhance resilience and support long-term, sustainable growth. The report warns that any deviation from this path or premature relaxation of macroeconomic discipline could reignite balance-of-payments pressures and jeopardise the country's stability and continued financial support from multilateral and bilateral partners. Despite some considerable improvements in Pakistan's external position and a rapid-than-anticipated inflation decline, the country's substantial debt burden continues to render it economically vulnerable. Following sweeping US tariff measures that have disrupted global trade flows, adherence to structural reforms is imperative for Pakistan.

Tehmina Faruqi,
Jhelum, Pakistan.

Excruciating Debt Burden

In its latest Asian Development Outlook, the ADB emphasises that sustaining recovery requires consistent policymaking and steadfast implementation of reforms to enhance resilience and support long-term, sustainable growth. The report warns that any deviation from this path or premature relaxation of macroeconomic discipline could reignite balance-of-payments pressures and jeopardise the country's stability and continued financial support from multilateral and bilateral partners. Despite some considerable improvements in Pakistan's external position and a rapid-than-anticipated inflation decline, the country's substantial debt burden continues to render it economically vulnerable. Following sweeping US tariff measures that have disrupted global trade flows, adherence to structural reforms is imperative for Pakistan.

Tehmina Faruqi,
Jhelum, Pakistan.



Controversial Waqf Act

The passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 has ignited significant concern among India's Muslim community regarding their future rights and autonomy. The Act introduces substantial changes to managing waqf properties and charitable endowments integral to Islamic tradition. Notably, it permits non-Muslims to serve on waqf boards and grants the government increased oversight over these assets. These provisions undermine the community's constitutional rights to manage religious affairs independently. There is apprehension that the inclusion of non-Muslim members and enhanced governmental control could lead to the erosion of Muslim cultural and religious heritage. Furthermore, the Act's new ownership verification requirements raise fears of the potential loss of historically significant properties lacking formal documentation., and its implementation may exacerbate existing communal tensions and contribute to the marginalization of Muslims in India.

Faizan Ahmed,
Lucknow, India.



Sluggish Economic Recovery

After the rise of Donald Trump as U.S. President, the potential implications of escalating American protectionism remain unpredictable, particularly if global economic conditions deteriorate further. On the surface, there appears to be no explicit account of the financial consequences of the steep reciprocal tariffs imposed by the United States. Yet, the IMF and the State Bank of Pakistan have recently acknowledged the increasingly volatile international environment as a significant risk factor for Pakistan's economic outlook. In the context of heightened global economic uncertainty exacerbated by the Trump administration's trade war with China and other major economies, Pakistan should remain committed to the reform programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). So far, there are several downside risks to Pakistan's tenuous yet hard-earned economic recovery.

Shakeel Ahmed,
Karachi, Pakistan.

A photograph of Donald Trump speaking at a podium. To his right is a table titled 'Reciprocal Tariffs' showing tariff changes for various countries.

Country	Tariff Change	U.S. Tariff
China	67%	31%
European Union	39%	20%
Vietnam	90%	31%
Ukraine	64%	21%
Taiwan	40%	20%
Japan	52%	25%
India	50%	25%
South Korea	22%	10%
Thailand	61%	10%
Switzerland	64%	10%
Sweden	47%	10%
Malaysia	97%	10%
Maldives	10%	10%
Cambodia	10%	10%

Time for New Provinces

This is with reference to the Editor's Comment titled 'Time for New Provinces' that appeared in the April 2025 issue of SouthAsia. Dear editor! You are laying hands on a hornet's nest. Governance



emanates from the top and not from the bottom or roots. When the top is rotten, fumigation of the roots will not eradicate the cause.

Governance is not a handmaiden of baton but of erudition.

Present governance conditions need the signs of Shelley's poem 'Ode to West Wind.' The poet says

*Oh, lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud!
I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!*

Aftab Qureshi,
Karachi, Pakistan.

Future of Pakistan Cricket

The future of the Pakistan cricket team hangs in the balance following a string of underwhelming performances on the international stage. Once known for its unpredictable brilliance, the team faces criticism for inconsistency, lack of discipline, and strategic incoherence. Despite a rich talent pool, poor grooming and management have hindered the transition of young players into dependable international performers. Pakistan's cricketing authorities must undertake serious structural reforms to revive their fortunes. This includes investing in grassroots development, improving domestic cricket standards, and ensuring merit-based selection processes. A clear, long-term vision for team building, with consistent leadership and a focus on mental toughness and fitness, is also crucial.

Farman Ghani,
Toronto, Canada.

Who Said That!



"Industry, agriculture, IT development, job creation, and increasing exports are among the government's top priorities."

Shehbaz Sharif,
Pakistan Prime Minister

"Trump has a clear roadmap in his mind with well-defined steps, each one designed to lead him toward his goals."

Narendra Modi,
Indian Prime Minister



"We are the only guardian of the ocean for all this region."

Muhammad Yunus,
Chief Adviser of Bangladesh

"It was the struggle of our leaders that made it possible to achieve provincial autonomy."

Mian Iftikhar Hussain,
Pakistani Politician



"The economy is in such a state that it cannot take the slightest shock."

Anura Kumara Dissanayake,
Sri Lankan President

"The U.S. should stop exerting extreme pressure, stop threatening and blackmailing, and talk to China on the basis of equality, respect, and mutual benefit."

Lin Jian,
China's Foreign Ministry Spokesman



"Art can change hearts and minds."

Aizzah Fatima,
U.S.-Pakistani Filmmaker

Rigged Race

The controversial six-canal project is the talk of the town in political circles these days. Unfortunately, as things unfold, the project is rapidly morphing into a Sindh-versus-Punjab tussle for all the wrong reasons. The most interesting part is that both the PML-N and the PPP are coalition parties in the current government setup. However, the nonstop heated exchange of words among the coalition partners over the project is quite surprising. The provincial leadership of the PPP has even threatened to quit the government if a consensus is not reached over the six-canal project. It looks like the controversy is being dragged intentionally by the country's leading political parties for political point-scoring and to keep the media busy while secretly allowing the real stakeholders to keep doing the job for the so-called greater interest of the nation. Who knows? ❏



Qadam Barhao, Shehbaz Sharif!

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and many others have expressed their pleasure at the closure of the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) due to rampant corruption. Suppose unbridled corruption is really the reason behind the closure of a state-owned enterprise offering basic commodities at subsidized prices to middle— and low-income groups. In that case, the PM must come forward to wind up the rest of the government institutions owing to their corrupt practices. If the eradication of corruption is the motto, what about shutting down the rest of the state-run institutions plagued by widespread corruption? ❏

Where's the New Talent?

The 10th edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) is underway with renewed hope to revive international cricket in the country and provide young talent with the ideal opportunity to prove themselves. Though international cricket has come back to the country thanks to the consistent efforts made over the decade by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the quest for new stars still happens to be a mission unaccomplished. Most of the top performers in the 10th edition of PSL are foreign cricketers or local players who have already debuted internationally. However, despite the presence of many new faces, we have yet to find real stars among them who could play for Pakistan and shine at the international level. Is it the dearth of real talent or something else? The PCB needs to get its act together. ❏



'Seat 1C' by Zafar Masud Unveiled

The book, "Seat 1C: A Survivor's Tale of Hope, Resilience of Renewal", authored by PIA crash survivor Zafar Masud was unveiled during an event at the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA), Karachi.

The event was organized by MILKAR, a mental health awareness campaign jointly launched by the Mir Khalil-ur-Rehman Foundation (MKRF) and the British Asian Trust, in the port city.

Addressing the event, Masud discussed life and mental health after the plane crash and said that accidents do happen, but we need to help each other when it comes to mental health.

He said, "Don't look at mental health from a single perspective, as it has many aspects."

He advised that after experiencing a trauma or an accident, one should not ignore it, even if one is strong. He

further urged those who went through a trauma to visit a doctor.

"Luck and hope matter, but to overcome trauma, you must take



positive measures," he added.

He urged people not to ignore their responsibilities in the name of values or traditions.

In his book, Masud, one of the two survivors of the crash of the PIA plane in Karachi in 2020, discussed the impacts of traumatic events on human lives. The book also discusses his post-crash experiences, his recovery journey,

and the author's autobiography.

A large number of people from different walks of life attend the event.

MQM-P senior leader Nasreen Jalil, prominent businessman Amin Hashwani, and Masud's family attended the event.

In the tragic incident on May 22, 2020, 97 passengers and crew members were killed when a Lahore to Karachi-bound PIA flight, PK-8303, crashed in Karachi's Model Colony. However, two passengers on board the ill-fated plane

miraculously survived.

Recalling the moments of the tragedy, Muhammad Zubair, the second survivor of the plane crash, said, "The entire plane was on fire, and I miraculously survived.

"I still can't believe that I walked to the hospital after the crash," he added.

"Even today, I feel fear during takeoff and landing," said Zubair. 📺

HBL Celebrates a Decade of HBLPSL (2016-2025)

The most awaited sporting event of the year, HBLPSL, is back for its landmark season, HBLPSL X, celebrating a decade of HBLPSL. Kicked off on 11 April 2025 in Rawalpindi, the tournament will feature thrilling matches across four cities – Karachi, Lahore, Multan, and Rawalpindi. The final is set to take place on 18 May 2025 at the iconic Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

HBL has sponsored the League since its inception in 2016, and in 2025, it completes its decade-long association. HBLPSL has played a transformative role in both cricket and nation-building. As the biggest sporting event in the country, HBLPSL has played a key role in reigniting the nation's passion for cricket. It provides a platform for young cricketers to be a part of the international cricket circle and brings international cricketers to Pakistan.

Commenting on the significance of this milestone, Ali Habib, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer – HBL, said, "HBL is proud to have been the founding sponsors of this tournament, delighting

tens of millions of Pakistanis in Pakistan and across the globe. This year, HBL is celebrating a decade of HBLPSL with the theme 'Zabar10 Khel'. HBLPSL season ten proves that Pakistan possesses the passion, the commitment, and the skill to hold events of international standards."



HBLPSL 2016-2025 Winners:

- HBLPSL 1 (2016)
Season Winner – Islamabad United
Player of the Tournament – Ravi Bopara (Karachi Kings)
- HBLPSL 2 (2017)
Season Winner – Peshawar Zalmi
Player of the Tournament – Kamran Akmal (Peshawar Zalmi)
- HBLPSL 3 (2018):

Season Winner – Islamabad United
Player of the Tournament – Luke Ronchi (Islamabad United)

- HBLPSL 4 (2019)
Season Winner – Quetta Gladiators
Player of the Tournament – Shane Watson (Quetta Gladiators)
- HBLPSL 5 (2020)
Season Winner – Karachi Kings
Player of the Tournament – Babar Azam (Karachi Kings)
- HBLPSL 6 (2021)
Season Winner – Multan Sultans
Player of the Tournament – Sohaib Maqsood (Multan Sultans)
- HBLPSL 7 (2022)
Season Winner – Lahore Qalandars
Player of the Tournament – Mohammad Rizwan (Multan Sultans)
- HBLPSL 8 (2023)
Season Winner – Lahore Qalandars
Player of the Tournament – Ihsanullah (Multan Sultans)
- HBLPSL 9 (2024)
Season Winner – Islamabad United
Player of the Tournament – Shadab Khan (Islamabad United). 📺

Aramco, BYD unveil car tech alliance

Saudi Aramco and the Chinese electric vehicle giant BYD announced an agreement to collaborate on new-energy vehicle technologies.

The Saudi oil giant is already a partner with Renault of France and the Chinese automaker Geely in a joint venture to produce thermal engines.

Its subsidiary, Saudi Aramco Technologies Company, is now teaming up with the Chinese EV and hybrid vehicle giant, although

the terms of the accord were not specified.

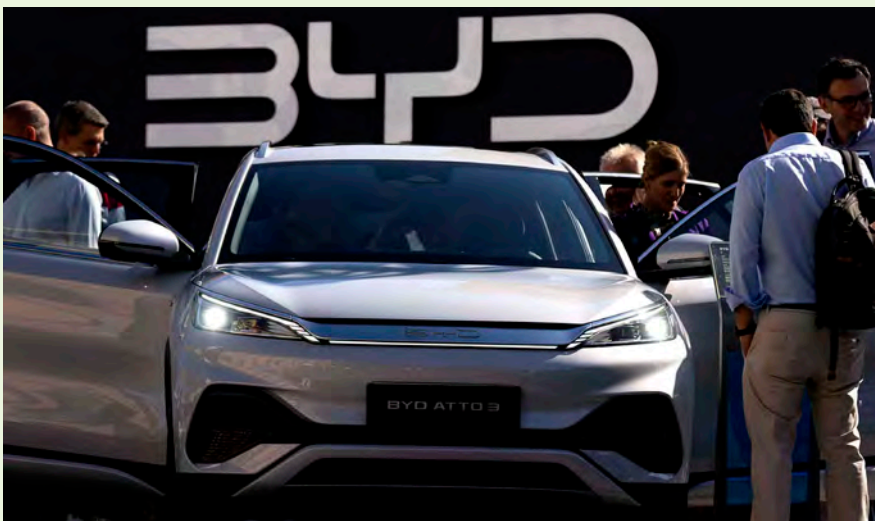
In a joint statement, the companies said the deal aimed to “foster the

development of innovative technologies that enhance efficiency and environmental performance.”

Saudi Aramco, the world’s largest producer of oil, “is exploring a number of ways to potentially optimize transport efficiency, from innovative lower-carbon fuels to advanced powertrain concepts,” said Ali A. Al-Meshari, its senior vice president of Technology Oversight and Coordination.

Luo Hongbin, BYD senior vice president, said, “SATC and our cutting-edge R&D capabilities in new energy vehicles will break the boundaries of geography and mindset to incubate solutions that combine highly-efficient performance with a lower carbon footprint.” Saudi Arabia is working to diversify its economy, dependent on oil export revenue, and wants to set up 5,000 EV charging stations by 2030.

The Saudi sovereign wealth fund holds a 60 percent stake in Lucid, a California luxury EV maker. It has signed an agreement with Hyundai of South Korea to build an electric and thermal vehicle factory in Saudi Arabia. 



28 trade officers picked for foreign postings

The government has appointed 28 Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) to serve in foreign missions.

The TIOs will be posted after completing a pre-departure training session at the Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development (PITAD) in Islamabad. The training aims to equip them with the skills they need to help reshape the country’s trade and investment diplomacy.

Commerce Minister Jam Kamal highlighted the “transformative vision” behind this fresh batch of TIOs, which were selected through a merit-based,

transparent process involving all key stakeholders.

“Gone are the days when TIOs were perceived to be abroad for ceremonial duties or leisure. Now they are expected to perform, and their performance will be measured through established yardsticks,” he stated. The minister was speaking at the inauguration of the training programme at PITAD.

The minister urged officers to move beyond conventional methods. “You must brand Pakistan not just as a



country, but also as a unique identity recognised through its exports — our mangoes, basmati rice, and world-class soccer balls. Let the world know us through our excellence,” he said. 

Iffat Omar declines to serve as Punjab's cultural adviser

Former model and actor Iffat Omar has declined the Punjab government's offer to appoint her as the cultural adviser to Information Minister Azma Bokhari.

"I've humbly declined the offer," Omar said.

Her statement comes after several publications and Instagram pages reported that Omar was appointed as the cultural adviser and would work with the information ministry to design programmes to promote and preserve Punjab's cultural heritage.

In 2022, Omar announced that she was leaving acting and decided to shift her attention to a different platform and focus on social media work instead.

"I have decided to quit showbiz because the work is so bad and I criticise it myself. To do the work yourself and then critique it as well doesn't feel right," she said.

The model did, however, say there are chances of her returning, though it would be conditional. "If ever in life I'm offered a really great script, I will think about it — otherwise I'm done," she said.



Currently, she hosts a podcast on YouTube titled 'Say It All With Iffat Omar', in which she interviews experts from different fields. 

Indian yoga guru asked to delete ads against 'Rooh Afza'

Indian yoga guru Baba Ramdev told a Delhi court that he will take down adverts in which he made controversial remarks about a rival firm's drink, criticised by a judge as "indefensible."

In a video promoting a sweet drink made by his company, Patanjali, Ramdev alleged that some brands used their profits to build mosques and madrassas.

He did not name the brand, but it was widely seen to be a reference to Rooh Afza, a popular drink made for more than a century by Hamdard Laboratories, an Islamic charitable organisation.

The video went viral, sparking outrage. Hamdard also filed a case, asking for the advertisements to be removed.

Rooh Afza is a non-alcoholic sweet drink in syrup form popular in South Asian countries, including India and Pakistan. It is usually referred to as sherbet. The syrup, introduced in 1906 by Hamdard, is usually mixed with milk or water



and is very popular among Muslims breaking their fast during Ramadan.

In the video, Ramdev also used the phrase "sherbet

jihad" — a play on terms like "love jihad," used by radical Hindu groups to accuse Muslim men of converting Hindu women by marriage. In this case, it appears to be suggesting Muslims are profiting from money spent by Hindus.

Recently, a judge in the Delhi High Court criticised Ramdev's remarks, calling them "indefensible."

"It shocks the court's conscience," Justice Amit Bansal said.

The court also asked Ramdev to file an affidavit within five days, saying he would not issue any such statements, advertisements, or social media posts in the future. 

China says door for US trade talks 'wide open'

China says it is willing to engage in trade talks with Washington, a day after US President Donald Trump signalled that the hefty tariffs he imposed on the country would be reduced after the sides reached a deal.

Since Trump began his second term in January, he has unleashed a tit-for-tat trade battle with Beijing that has seen US levies on many Chinese goods reach 145 percent.

These include duties initially imposed over China's alleged role in the fentanyl supply chain and later over practices Washington deemed unfair.

Beijing has responded with sweeping counter-tariffs of 125% on US goods.

The fierce trade war between the world's top two economies has rattled markets and raised fears of a global recession.

Trump acknowledged that US tariffs on China were currently "very high," saying they would "come down substantially" after a deal is struck.

When asked about the remarks, Beijing repeated previous comments that tariffs and trade wars have "no winners." 





Hania Aamir

rubbishes 'entirely fabricated' statement circulating in her name on Pahalgam attack

Hania Aamir has rubbished a fabricated statement being circulated on social media in her name regarding the Pahalgam attack in India.

The widely-shared statement falsely attributed controversial remarks to the actor, suggesting she blamed

Pakistan's military for the attack and called on the Indian prime minister to differentiate between civilians and "Islamist terrorists."

In response, Aamir took to Instagram to set the record straight. She posted a detailed story addressing the situation, calling the viral 'statement' "entirely fabricated" and stating that it does not reflect her views.

"Recently, a statement has been falsely attributed to me and is being widely circulated on social media.

I want to address this directly: I did not make this statement, and I do not endorse or align with the words being linked to me. It is entirely fabricated and misrepresents who I am and what I believe," she clarified.

The actor went on to express her



heartfelt condolences for the lives lost in the attack, urging empathy and restraint in a time marked by grief and anger.

“That being said, this is a deeply sensitive and emotional time. My heart goes out to the innocent lives lost and the families affected by the recent tragedy. Pain like this is real, and it deserves empathy, not politicisation.”

Aamir also cautioned against generalisations and blame-based narratives that further fuel division, adding, “The actions of extremists do not represent an entire nation or its people. Assigning blame without proof only deepens divides and distracts from the real need for compassion, justice, and healing.”

Urging her supporters to verify information before sharing, she concluded with a message of hope and peace. “Let us honour those impacted by choosing empathy, truth, and togetherness. I remain committed to spreading positivity and respect in all that I do.”

The fabricated statement shared a ‘plea’ to the Indian prime minister on behalf of “the common people of Pakistan”, slamming the fact that the “entire entertainment industry has been banned in India”.

The fabricated statement asked the Indian premier to not take “action” against innocent citizens.

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, several Pakistani celebrities’ Instagram accounts have been blocked in India, including Aamir’s.

The move, which came shortly after the April 22 attack, for which India blamed Pakistan, and Pakistan denied involvement, appears to be part of a broader crackdown on Pakistani content.

Earlier, 16 Pakistani YouTube channels, including those of major news outlets including Dawn, were officially banned. 

ADOLESCENCE

Not Easy to Watch

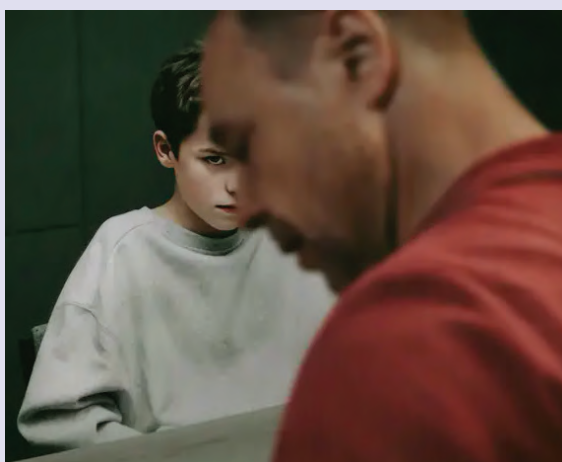
By Maleeha Faisal Siddiqui

In a media landscape saturated with coming-of-age stories, the Netflix series *Adolescence* distinguishes itself as a bold, boundary-breaking psychological drama that doesn't just talk about growing up in the digital age—it drags you through its most harrowing corridors. With just four episodes—each crafted as a single unbroken shot—the series manages to do what many full-length seasons often fail. It tells a chilling, haunting tale of the truth about toxic echo chambers on social media that continue to plague thousands of impressionable minds.

The show follows the unraveling of Jaime Miller, a quiet, intelligent, and seemingly well-adjusted teenager who commits a brutal act of violence that shocks his suburban community. Instead of relying on flashbacks or courtroom drama, *Adolescence* focuses each of its four episodes on four real-time, one-take sequences, each from a different point of view: Jaime's best friend, his school counselor, his grieving mother, and finally, Jaime himself. The technique is not just a gimmick—it's a powerful narrative device that immerses the viewer in a slow-burning, pressure-cooked atmosphere. The attention to detail pulls you into the story, making you feel as caged as each character's plight, particularly the unspoken torment festering within Jaime.

What's most striking about the storytelling is how organically it explores systemic failure. The show does a great job at diving into the machinery at work that

leads to crimes as horrendous and fates as complex as that of the young Jaime Miller, who, in a fit of rage and under the intoxicating influence of anonymous online communities, spirals out of control. The show never exonerates him,



but it does contextualize him, and in doing so, forces the audience to sit with the discomfort of ambiguity. Where did the system fail? Was it the family? The school? The algorithms that seem almost sentient in their ability to radicalize?

Jaime is a very apt metaphor—he is not just a person, but a vessel for the quiet violence of isolation, misdirected anger, and algorithmic manipulation. He is what happens when a generation grows up learning to curate their pain for likes while cries for help drown in a sea of curated perfection. The digital world offers Jaime something seductive: a tribe, an ideology, a sense of importance. And then it devours him.

Each episode's singular shot format traps us in confined spaces: a claustrophobic locker room, a sterile counselor's office, a

cluttered bedroom that suddenly feels like a war zone. The camera never flinches, and neither does the writing. The monologues are sharp and emotionally raw, particularly in the third episode, where Jaime's mother breaks

down while folding laundry—a mundane act rendered tragic by context. The pain in her voice is not just grief, but confusion. How could someone so loved become so lost?

Adolescence also makes you sit with the silence. There is no dramatic soundtrack to soften the blow, only the weight of consequence and the helplessness of hindsight.

One of the show's most powerful accomplishments is its refusal to offer closure.

Instead, it leaves us with questions, unease, and the persistent hum of a phone vibrating on a nightstand. The performances are brilliant, restrained but loaded with meaning. There's no melodrama here, just the unbearable intimacy of being too close to a disaster.

Adolescence is not easy to watch, but that's precisely the point. It demands that we not ignore the cost of negligence, glamorized violence, and unchecked digital manipulation. It's a timely, devastating piece of storytelling that punches far above its episode count.

In just four episodes, it makes its case clear: we cannot treat the emotional lives of our youth as background noise, especially not when entire ecosystems exist online that are waiting to consume them. This show deserves not just to be watched, but to be discussed, unpacked, and remembered. **S**

WARFARE (2025)

A War Within

By Rimshah Kamran

Warfare stands as one of the most authentic war films in recent memory. Co-directed by Ray Mendoza, a former U.S. Navy SEAL with 16 years of service, and acclaimed filmmaker Alex Garland, the film delves into the realities of modern warfare. Mendoza's firsthand experiences during the Iraq War, particularly the 2006 Battle of Ramadi, serve as the backbone of this narrative, offering a perspective seldom seen in mainstream cinema.

The screenplay, crafted by Mendoza and Garland, is based on the real events of November 19, 2006. The story unfolds, capturing a Navy SEAL platoon's ill-fated surveillance mission in Ramadi. The film's authenticity is further heightened by the involvement of actors who underwent military training, ensuring a portrayal that resonates with realism and emotional depth.

The ensemble cast features standout performances from Will Poulter, Cosmo Jarvis, Kit Connor, Finn Bennett, Joseph Quinn, Charles Melton, Noah Centineo, and Michael Gandolfini. Each actor brings a unique intensity to their role, capturing the camaraderie, tension, and trauma experienced by soldiers in the heat of battle.

Beyond its technical achievements, Warfare excels in

capturing the psychological toll of combat. The film doesn't shy away from showing the emotional unraveling that occurs when soldiers are pushed to their limits. Flashbacks, fragmented memories, and quiet moments of introspection are woven seamlessly into the narrative, allowing viewers to experience what happens in

own reflections, lending the story a level of truth rarely achieved in fictionalized accounts. These moments of vulnerability elevate the film from a traditional war film to a deeply human story. It's in the silence between gunfire, the haunted stares, and the difficult choices that Warfare truly finds its voice.

The film's cinematography, led by David J. Thompson, immerses viewers in the chaotic environment of urban warfare. From the disorienting sounds of distant gunfire to the palpable tension of close-quarter combat, every frame is designed to evoke the sensory overload of war. The editing by Fin Oates complements this approach, maintaining a relentless pace that mirrors the unpredictability of combat.

Warfare is not just a war film but a meditation on the human condition under extreme duress. By focusing on the soldiers' experiences rather than political narratives, the film invites audiences to reflect on the personal costs of conflict. It reminds audiences of the sacrifices made by those who serve and the enduring impact of war on the human psyche.

Warfare is a masterclass in storytelling and filmmaking. Its commitment to authenticity, compelling performances, and immersive direction make it a standout in the genre. For those seeking a war film that transcends the typical tropes, Warfare offers a gripping and thought-provoking experience. **S**



battle and what lingers after. The trauma and moral ambiguity faced by these men are explored through nuanced performances and restrained direction, which avoids glorifying violence and instead presents it as something sobering and deeply personal. The authenticity of the emotions portrayed is rooted in Mendoza's



Rush



AS VERSATILE
AS YOU...

*Terms & conditions apply.

Specifications vary from variant to variant.

Check Toyota availability at your nearest dealership or log on to www.toyota-indus.com/vehicle-availability

Facebook: ToyotaPakistanOfficial Instagram: #ToyotaPak Twitter: ToyotaPakistan Website: www.toyota-indus.com INDUS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED



"RUSH" (T)





Right on Target in Corporate PR

Would you put a square peg in a round hole? Will it serve the purpose?

Strategic communication may appear simple but is it?

It may sound clichéd but is true that we work in close coordination with our partners and clients to deliver unmatched output which helps us move forward.

Developing strategic, long-term plans for some of the top companies in the world has given us insights that are a benchmark in the industry in Pakistan.

We provide strategic support to drive business value through such tools as corporate branding and positioning, perception management, damage control, crisis management, media relations, government relations, parliamentary lobbying, behavioural change communications, investor relations and much more.

To learn more about our services, contact us at:

20-C, Lane 12, off Khayaban-e-Ittehad, Phase II Extension, DHA, Karachi-75500.

Tel: +9221 35313821-24, Fax: +9221 35313832 E-mail: info@cmc.com.pk

Web: www.cmc.com.pk



CMC is an exclusive affiliate in Pakistan of Ketchum, USA, one of the world's largest and most geographically diverse PR agencies, operating in 70 countries and winner of the highest number of awards in the global PR industry.