

# Slogan

TV Serial Review:

**Dobara**

Film Review:

**Dune**

Afghanistan	Afg. 200
Australia	A\$ 20
Bangladesh	Taka 200
Bhutan	NU 150
Canada	C\$ 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	NcRs. 200
New Zealand	NZ\$ 20
Pakistan	Rs. 200
Philippines	P 188
Saudi Arabia	SR 40
Singapore	S\$ 20
Sri Lanka	Rs. 300
Thailand	B 250
Turkey	Lira. 10
UAE	AED 20
UK	£ 5
USA	\$ 10

## ISPR EMPOWERS WOMEN

**Highlighting ‘women of steel’, the ISPR’s latest collaboration with some of the industry’s finest is a story about women in the armed forces. Giving a peek to the diverse lives of five female protagonists scattered across Pakistan, the story ‘Sinf-e-Aahan’ focuses on women cadets and breaks stereotypes with its progressive narrative.**



# 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.





December 2021

Vol. 26 No. 12

**President & Editor-In-Chief**

Syed Jawaid Iqbal

**Editor**

Javed Ansari

**Executive Editor**

Faizan Usmani

**Assistant Editor**

Syeda Areeba Rasheed

**Layout & Graphics**

Haroon Rasheed

Kamran Ghulam Nabi – Riaz Masih

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING****General Manager (Planning)**

Syed Ovais Akhtar

**General Manager (Operation)**

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 35313821-24

Fax: +9221 35313832

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 Shabbirsons, 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 EBSCO and affiliated international databases through Asianet-Pakistan.

# Tik Tok Ban

It appears that reshuffles and constant changes in policy are not restricted to appointments for the cabinet only—the policies of regulatory bodies like the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) are also subject to consistent indecision and reversals.

In the case of content regulation, for example, companies and content creators have been left to deal with highly arbitrary and vague restrictions. The most befuddling case has been that of PTA's treatment of TikTok, the popular Chinese video-sharing service, which has been banned and unbanned four times in the past 15 months. The most recent ban was lifted on Friday, to celebrations by the content creators who derive their income from the video-sharing service.

Bans and prohibitions of digital content are, in most circumstances, a dangerous precedent to set. The government is trying to encourage a digital boom in Pakistan as a potential generator of economic wealth and in that scenario, bans can be harmful.

However, while there can be a good case for banning some salacious or defamatory content, the case of the TikTok bans was even more unwarranted, considering the PTA never managed to give a proper justification for the ban. A ban is a serious action taken by the government, to clarify restrictions and to serve as a deterrent.

When the government authority constantly bans an application without proper justification, then removes the ban, and later goes back on its word, it undermines the very purpose of the policy decision and takes away any use that such a measure would have had in the first place. Moreover, it injects uncertainty and ambiguity into the digital sphere. Up and coming businesses would be unsure of what kind of content would warrant a ban or not due to the arbitrary decisions of the authorities.

Authority measures cannot be invoked on a whim—this is why there are negotiation phases and different levels of penalties. Now that the ban has been revoked, the PTA must reflect on how to handle such situations in the future. If nothing else, we need a tangible and charted list of what has been achieved in this ban, and why it was lifted now—beyond the vague responses of objectionability, morality and legal issues.



# Rush



AS VERSATILE  
AS YOU...

Financing  
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](http://www.toyota-indus.com/vehicle-availability)

ToyotaPakistanOfficial | #ToyotaPak | ToyotaPakistan | [www.toyota-indus.com](http://www.toyota-indus.com) | INDUS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED







# Contents

06

- 03 Editor's Desk
- 06 Readers' Thoughts
- 07 Who Said That!
- 08 Grapevine
- 09 Newsbeat
- 13 Cover Story  
ISPR Empowers Women
- 16 Reviews  
Film: Dune  
TV Serial: Dobara  
Web Series: Locke & Key

07



12



10

08



16



18



## Memorable Night

This is related to the last month's cover story about the IPPA Awards held in Istanbul, Turkey. The story is titled 'Star – Studded Affair' that not only brought the giants of the Pakistani entertainment industry under one roof but also served as a great platform to present a positive and progressive soft image of the country. Viewers would want to see more such international awards that recognize Pakistani personalities who have served the industry in the past and the present.

*Nazli Ferit,  
Istanbul, Turkey*

## Child Labour

Childhood is the most wonderful time of a person's life. However, it is tragic for some children because, although governments have banned child labour, the trend continues to exist in society.

Lack of awareness and poverty are the main causes of the problem. Rather than sending their children to school, poor parents send them to work as they want their financial assistance. However, this practice has a negative influence on their physiological, psychological and emotional health.



Governments in South Asia should take some practical actions to prevent child labour and raise public awareness. Also, they should effectively apply regulations and fine employers.

*Raj Khosla,  
Kanpur, India*

## Female Education

Education improves the overall growth of an individual and enhances their prospects. Though women inherit exceptional qualities, the proportion of women in education is unfortunately low in Pakistan. Girls in rural areas still do not have access to education at all and so they are forced into labour or married at young ages. Getting an education is still viewed as a modern phenomenon in many parts of the country. What people fail to understand is that education is as necessary for women as men because it enhances knowledge and understanding and raises one's awareness of rights and individuality.

All developed countries have encouraged and endorsed education for women which is why many of these societies are progressive today. Education for women must be promoted with the same vigour in Pakistan for they are better planners. As a society, everyone must make a conscious effort to improve the educational prospects of women. The government must undertake initiatives and policies to ensure that girls across the country have access to education.

*Hussain Siddiqui,  
Islamabad, Pakistan*



## Respecting Players

Undoubtedly, the recent T20 World Cup has been a source of immense relief during the otherwise trying times people are facing. Cricket fans went through a rollercoaster ride of emotions during the series. It is, however, unfortunate that when our team loses, people start criticising it. Social media is flooded with spiteful memes, while some players are threatened.

Such behaviour affects the performance of players and also creates a negative image of the country. When a nation doesn't respect its players, other hostile groups see it as an opportunity to mock them.

One must understand that the craze for cricket – or any other sport – should never cross its limits. Success and failure are part of the game. The dignity and security of the players should



not be compromised under any circumstances.

*Sidra Iqbal,  
Lahore, Pakistan*





## The New Taliban

The new and improvised version of the Taliban. While there are evident differences between the Taliban 20 years back and the Taliban this time, the Western, leaders and media outlets has raised concerns whether the Taliban would succeed in governing Afghanistan or they would again behave in an immature manner as they still aim to eliminate Western influences from the country. Though the current Taliban are making efforts to dispel their previous image, it is still not sure as to how things would unfold. Perhaps some balanced decisions by the Taliban might clear the confusion.

Anil Senanayeke,

## Connected Roots

Not many people are aware about the importance the country has due to its ancient linkage that provides Pakistan a distinct identity. It seems to be a well-kept secret from the outside world that Pakistan is a treasure house of ancient heritage spanning scores of centuries.

Pakistan is an Islamic country but the cultural heritage and historical monuments of all other religions and faiths are duly preserved and protected in the country making it an important pilgrimage destination for the followers of Buddhism and many other faiths.

Maryam Sohail,  
Hyderabad, Pakistan



## Who Said That!

Bravery is standing with the truth and right. – **Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan**



Character is just an invention, but it's an invention that serves as both reason and justification for our behaviour. – **Kamila Shamsie, Pakistani-British Writer**



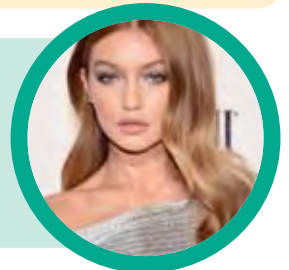
I have never felt pity on myself. You should feel strong thinking about the objectives and do what you want to do in life. – **Sultana Siddiqui, Pakistani TV Director**



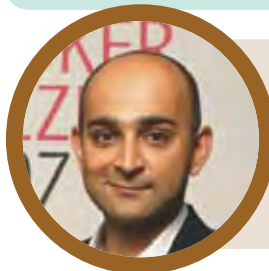
Work hard and you will make it; at the end, it's all about your design philosophy. – **Deepak Parwani, Pakistani Designer**



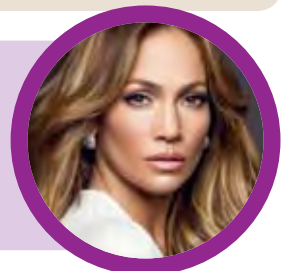
I think that not being perfect have given me the freedom to keep getting better. – **Gigi Hadid, American Model**



I'm interested in things women do that aren't spoken about. Manto's stories let me breathe. They make me feel like less of a monster. – **Mohsin Hamid, writer.**



You get what you give. What you put into things is what you get out of them. – **Jennifer Lopez, American Singer**



How many diamonds can you retrieve from one single mine; there has to be an end somewhere. I don't see any natural fast bowler after me. – **Shoaib Akhtar, former Pakistan's fast bowler.**





## Her Choice

**M**alika Bukhari is a prominent lawyer and a vocal PTI supporter who knows her ground when it comes to defending Imran Khan. Why is she not a federal minister or at least a SAPM in some ministry? Or it by choice that she stays out from governance?



## He Did It

**N**auman Niaz had to do it - apologize to quickie Shoaib Akhtar for crossing the red line in a PTV show. There must have been healthy motivation behind the idle doc to have asked Shoaib to leave the show in the first place.

## Party Asset

**F**rom her marketing days for a leading magazine to serving as information minister for the PPP to currently serving as a vocal parliamentarian, Sherry Rehman has come a long way. She is quite an asset for her party.



## Put To Grass

**S**hibli Faraz perhaps has no background in science and technology. So, as a federal minister, has he been put to grass and wait until the PM feels the need to give him another important ministry?



# CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that the Men's Champions Trophy in 2025 will take place in Pakistan.

It will be the first major global cricket tournament to be played in Pakistan since 1996 when it hosted the Men's Cricket World Cup with India and Sri Lanka. The final was played in Lahore with Sri Lanka claiming the title.

The ICC Champions Trophy was also scheduled to be played in Pakistan in 2009 but it was moved to England due to security reasons. The tournament was moved out of Pakistan after three countries — Australia, England and New Zealand — refused to tour the country over security fears months after an attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore.

The Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board Ramiz Raja termed the news as a matter of great pride and delight for the country. Former cricketers and sports enthusiasts also rejoiced and congratulated the PCB and fans in Pakistan. 🇵🇰



## Patreon to Challenge YouTube

Patreon is creating a video-hosting solution and native player for all its content creators by launching a podcast called 'The Creator Economy'. Being a membership platform, Patreon provides content creators with business tools to run a subscription service.

The new feature will presumably allow creators to host and share videos



**PATREON**

without leaving the platform. Patreon app will drive more users to the app and avoid YouTube altogether. The company's patron, Vimeo, will also become less important once the feature is launched. 🇵🇰

## Foodpanda Tests PandaFly Drones

Foodpanda, Pakistan's leading food delivery company and also the country's leading e-commerce platform, has launched a pilot project to test food delivery through a customised drone. The test flight took place in the F-9 Park in Islamabad.

A food package weighing approximately 2.5kg was taken from a restaurant at one end of the park by a Foodpanda rider and loaded into the

drone's storage bag. The drone then delivered the package to the other end of the park, where it was collected by another rider and distributed to children invited from 'Sweet Homes' for the occasion.

The use of disruptive technology by the company in the future will mean faster deliveries over longer distances. The technology is the first of its kind in Pakistan. 🇵🇰



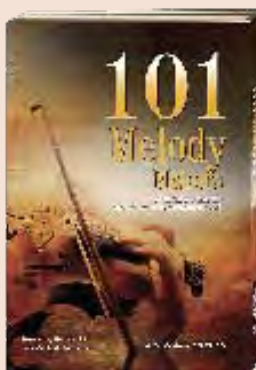
# Melody Makers

A book titled '101 Melody Makers of India and Pakistan and their Representative Work' compiled by Sultan Arshad Khan, was launched in Karachi recently.

Javed Jabbar said on the occasion that '101 Melody Makers' was an encyclopaedia..

S M Shahid, Arshad Mahmud, Sultana Siddiqui and Bushra Ansari said the volume represented the music history of the Indian sub-continent. It was a comprehensive study about the leading music personalities of India and Pakistan.

It took the compiler about 20 years to complete the book based on extensive research and in-depth knowledge. And compilation of memories and personal experiences with the leading singers and musicians. ❏



# Women Smashing Patriarchy

'Qatil Haseenaon Ke Naam', the coming Pakistani series on Zee5, is grabbing attention for all the right reasons. The teaser shows an unapologetic side of women



who are ready to kill but won't compromise. The song playing behind the teaser is quite catchy.

The teaser also emphasizes on the theme of female empowerment, focusing on the fearlessness of women and their determination to avenge deceit.

The series has performers like Samiya Mumtaz, Beo Raana Zafar, Faiza Gillani, Sarwat Gilani, Sanam Saeed, Mehar Bano and Eman Suleman. It also stars Ahsan Khan, Osman Khalid Butt and Sheheryar Munawar.

Written by Farjad Nabi and Meenu Gaur, 'Qatil Haseenaon Ke Naam' is directed by Meenu Gaur and produced by Hasan Abidi and Shailja Kejriwal for ZEE5. ❏

# Tales of Umro Ayyar

Making waves among celebrities, the mystery of the intriguing looking box and metallic pendant on social media has finally been revealed. The hype was about Pakistan's first Urdu comic book Umro Ayyar that has now been turned into a film that will be released in 2022.

Directed by Azfar Jafri, the film unveiled its first teaser with a 49-second-clip revealing the title of the project with intense background music. It features Osman Khalid Butt, Naimal Khawar Khan, Faran Tahir, Sanam Saeed, Ali Kazmi, Adnan Siddiqui, Usman Mukhtar and others.

The film is based on a very



popular character that we all grew up reading about, Umro Ayyar. The character has appeared in 'Dastan-i-Amir Hamza', a collection of stories about magic, adventure and intrigue written over 1,000 years ago. The stories have travelled across several Muslim countries over time, becoming an integral part of their literary heritage. ❏



# Good News for Overseas Pilgrims

Saudi Arabia has launched a new service to facilitate overseas pilgrims in getting Umrah and visit permits for Holy Mosques in Makkah and Madina through mobile applications.

The ministry urged all users of Eatmarna and Tawakkalna applications to take the initiative and update the two applications on their mobile app stores. Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj announced that pilgrims wishing to perform Umrah will no longer be required to wait for 14 days to book for the ritual.

Some months ago, the Saudi Ministry of Interior eased restrictions across the kingdom, allowing a full return to operations and capacity. 🇸🇦



## Frida Kahlo Sells for \$35 Million

The painting shows a teary-eyed Kahlo with her hair loose around her, a portrait of Rivera bearing a third eye embedded above her brow. The portrait was auctioned at Sotheby's and was sold for a record \$35 million, the highest price ever paid for a painting by a Latin American artist!

Kahlo had spent long periods bed-ridden after a traffic



accident in her youth. She created some 200 paintings, sketches, and drawings. Her work features mainly self-portraits. It transformed her misfortune into works of bold colour and emblematic strength.

Frida Kahlo attained international fame after her death in 1954 and was recognized as a

feminist icon after the 1970s. 🇲🇽

## Usman Shinwari retires from Test cricket

Fast bowler Usman Shinwari has announced his retirement from Test cricket. He has represented Pakistan in one Test match and played 33 first-class matches.

The player posted the news on social media saying, "I have made my comeback again from a back injury and now I am fit but due to my doctors' and physio's advice, I have to leave the long format to avoid such injuries in future and prolong my cricket career. I am resigning from red ball."

The pacer has also played 17 ODIs and 16 T20 Internationals representing Pakistan. 🇵🇰



## 'The Donkey King' Headed for China

The Donkey King, the highest-grossing Pakistani animated film by Aziz Jindani, has become the first Pakistani film to get a wide theatrical release in China. The character of Mangu in the film has already played the role of global ambassador for Pakistani cinema.

The dubbed version of the hit film has had its theatrical release in Spain, South Korea, Russia, Greece, Turkey, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Taiwan.

The animated comedy film was



released in Pakistan in October 2018 and has been produced by Geo Films and Talisman Studios. The original version features the voices of Jan Rambo, Ismail Tara, Hina Dilpazeer, Ghulam Mohiuddin and Javed Sheikh. 🇵🇰

# Sonya Hussain Wins Best Actress Award

The PISA Awards, held in Dubai, awarded Sonya Hussain with her first-ever Best Actress Award. The actress broke down in tears while receiving the trophy as she expressed gratitude for her well-deserved recognition.

She said that during the seven years of her acting career and 16 nominations later, she is finally receiving the honour.

Sonya made her acting debut with the TV series 'Dareecha'. Her performance in 'Aisi Hai Tanhai' earned her a nomination for Best Television Actress at Lux Style Awards.

She has appeared in several films as well. ❏



# Action Thriller

After almost two years of delay, the trailer and release date of 'Kahay Dil Jidhar' featuring Junaid Khan and Mansha Pasha has been revealed. The film will be released in cinemas across Pakistan on Dec 17, 2021.



The trailer of the film shows Junaid Khan and Mansha Pasha as college sweethearts but end up as rivals in the professional field. Mansha accuses Junaid of being related to the drug mafia. The trailer features the lead cast's journey from college students to professionals fighting each other. Junaid Khan is seen playing a police officer while Mansha Pasha plays a fearless journalist. ❏

# 'Khel Khel Mein' Recreates 1971 Dhaka Fall

Directed and produced by Nabeel Qureshi and Fiza Ali Meerza, under the banner of Filmwala Pictures, 'Khel Khel Mein' features Sajal Aly and Bilal Abbas as leads. The film was recently released in theatres with the story plot recreating the 1971 Dhaka fall. The scene is not an ISPR narrative but a



fresh take and shows the hard work of the cast and crew.

Nabeel has expertise both with the script and camera. His debut feature film



'Na Maloom Afraad' won the LUX Style Award for Best Film Director, followed by 'Actor in Law' in 2016 for which he again won an award for Best Director. 'Khel Khel Mein' is definitely worth watching. ❏

# Ed Sheeran Collaborates With Elton John



British singer and songwriter Ed Sheeran has announced his latest collaboration with veteran musician Elton John on Christmas.

The singer posted a photo of him with the 74-year-old musician saying, "Coming soon!" While the 30-year-old singer is seen wearing a Mrs. Claus outfit, to promote their new tune, John is sitting with a big smile on his face. It seems that they both are aiming for Christmas number one this year. ❏





# ISPR EMPOWERS WOMEN

Most military narratives tend to revolve around the men in arms. The ISPR's collaborative effort last year, *Ehd e Wafa*, was one such story. It could have been followed up by yet another testosterone-infused heroic tale about our soldiers. Instead, refreshingly, *Sinf e Aahan* was conceptualized.

Highlighting 'women of steel', the ISPR's latest collaboration with some of the industry's finest is a story about women in the forces. Helmed by Nadeem Baig, produced by Samina Humayun Saeed and Sana Shahnawaz and written by Umera Ahmed, *Sinf-e-Aahan* was already being touted as a winner long before it aired.

The initial teasers were riveting, each introducing the drama's leading ladies and giving the audience some insight into the premise. It was clear that the drama was not only going to be bringing women cadets into focus but would possibly also attempt to break stereotypes with its progressive narrative. It was particularly interesting how the story featured characters with diverse





## Cover Story



demographics, filling the gap for inclusive stories that could set the tone for future drama makers. The protagonists hailed from very varied backgrounds and even religions, with one of the cadets being a Christian girl.



The cast is as starry as it gets, with Sajal Aly, Kubra Khan, Syra Yousuf, Yumna Zaidi, Ramsha Khan, and Sri Lankan actress Yehali Tashiya Kalidasa in pivotal roles. The



supporting cast also wields clout with big names like Usman Peerzada, Saba Hamid, Muhammad Ahmad, Ali Rehman, Asad Siddique, Sheharyar Munawar, Usman Mukhtar, and Asim Azhar. The drama also marks the television debuts of influencers Dananeer and Merub.

The drama gives the audience a peek into the extremely diverse lives of five female protagonists scattered across Pakistan who are all struggling to break out of the chains that discourage them from pursuing their passions because society deems it unfit. Pariwesh (Ramsha Khan) and Arzoo (Syra Yousuf) have supportive fathers who encourage their daughters to pursue their dreams regardless of being riddled with money problems. Despite of his father supporting her,

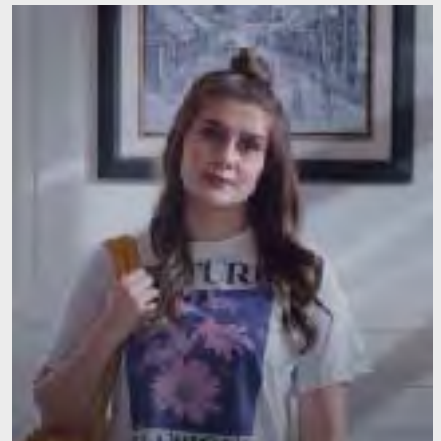




Arzoo is being toyed by her so-called love played by Asad Siddique. But Pariwesh destroys gender roles with her

her achievements and her being an inspiration for Mahjabeen. The general's achievements inspire her to want an

girl who refuses to be undermined by conservative relatives and has her heart set on entering the army. Her scenes will



cheeky response to her mother for firing a rifle as a woman.

On the other hand, Mahjabeen (Kubra) and Sajal (Rabia) don't have it easy with parents who want to dictate their lives for them. Kubra plays a privileged girl from Islamabad who is seeking validation and glory that she never gets from her parents. She is natural and utterly convincing. There were several scenes referencing General Nigar,

army adventure of her own, despite her mother and love interest (played by Ali Rehman Khan) being adamant that she will fail. Sajal's Rabia faces her own battles, forsaking her dreams because her parents prioritize that she should get married first. The societal pressure to marry is the only obstacle standing in her way of pursuing a career despite her being competent.

Yumna wins over as a fiery Pashtoon

make you laugh and instantly fall in love with Shaista. Merub has also done a fine job as her younger sister. The Pashtoon accent is not convincing but it is good that they don't overdo it.

With Nadeem Baig behind the camera, one can hope for the narrative to continue to be well-balanced. The drama offers a break from the usual love triangles, broken hearts, and typical gharelu mislay. ❌

# DUNE THE BEGINNING

By Muhammad Ali Khan

Based on the 1965 sci-fi novel of the same name by American author Frank Herbert, the 2021 adaptation of 'Dune' by French-Canadian director Denis Villeneuve is exciting with its fair share of action sequences. Previously, two more films were made based on the novel but they didn't do any justice to the book.

The novel was considered to be the greatest science fiction books ever written with 20 million copies sold but the previous two adaptations proved to be a disaster. While the 1984 version of 'Dune' by David Lynch was fatally flawed with a dull narrative and menial imagery, Frank Pavich's 'Jodorowsky's Dune' was a documentary that failed badly as it documented pretty much all subsequent screen sci-fi.

'Dune' 2021 outshines all because Villeneuve refuses to squish the whole book into a single film. He sensibly tackles only one section of the story by emphasizing more on the futuristic aspects of the book. Opening the film with the words "Part One" and closing with a statement "This is just the beginning", Villeneuve's 'Dune: Part 1' promises a bona fide epic experience connoting that there's more to the story.

Written by Jon Spaihts and Eric Roth with Villeneuve, the film is set in the distant future in the year 10191 and revolves around Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) who is the descendent of a noble family. Along with his father Duke Leto Atreides (Oscar Isaac) and mother Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson), Paul makes his way towards the desert planet of Arrakis to take control from the previous owners Harkonnens.

The Emperor banished the Harkonnens for their abusive behaviour but their cruel leader Baron Vladimir (Stellan Skarsgård) does not intend to give up easily.

Arrakis, also known as Dune, is not an empty desert for it holds many dangers like the giant deadly sandworms and the fierce desert-dwelling inhabitants called Fremen who live underground in elaborate warrens, constructing advanced technology to sustain themselves in difficult conditions. Despite this, Arrakis is a valuable possession as it is the source of 'spice', the most valuable substance in the universe for its life-enhancing properties.

It is said that whoever controls Arrakis controls spice as it gives them immense power. Hence, they both face each other in the fight for control of Arrakis. While Harkonnens wants to kill Fremen, Paul and his people are eager to help them because Paul thinks he is a Messiah, the Kwisatz Haderach, whom a religious Atreides woman Bene Gesserit (Charlotte Rampling) is trying to breed from generations. He was also having visions of the future where he sees a Fremen woman named Chani (Zendaya) and so he believes his instincts and fights to save both his tribe and the Fremen and bring peace to Arrakis once and for all.

Timothée Chalamet as Paul shows his natural charisma as he balances his power and understands how to follow his destiny. Oscar Isaac is noble as the Duke while Rebecca Ferguson steals the show as Lady Jessica as she is both enigmatic and fierce. Since Charlotte Rampling plays a serious religious figure, she covers her



admirably straight face behind sinister black lace. Other than the opening narration, Zendaya as Chani is a peripheral figure in the film that barely appears on screen. But since Paul and his prophetic glimpses are a major part of the film, we might see her more in the second film.

One can't deny that the filmmaker has done a great job at making a film which has a unique idea, lot of hard work and impressive conceptualisation, all in one. While cinematographer Greig Fraser, production designer Patrice Vermette and visual effects supervisor Paul Lambert portray everything, from ornithopters to vast spaceships and sandworms splashing through deserts, in a terrific way, editor Joe Walker and Villeneuve's own storytelling manages to keep the story as intact as it was in Herbert's book.

The sci-fi is beautifully executed and rightly explains why Villeneuve was waiting for the big screen outing of the film as some of its elements might have been lost on the small screen. Since 'this is just the beginning', as the ending of the film claims, viewers might have to return for 'Part Two' to complete Villeneuve's vision of the book. **S**



DOBARA

## SECOND INNINGS

By Muhammad Ali Khan

HUM TV has been producing hit shows with brilliant storylines for quite some time. Adding to the list is the channel's latest serial 'Dobara', a modern take on the liberation of women. Though the serial highlights complicated relationships and societal pressure faced by women in today's world, it comes across as a breath of fresh air, providing insights into the concept of second marriage for women, as the title says Dobara, meaning 'a second time', and that too with a younger man.

Directed by Danish Nawaz and written by Sarwat Nazir, 'Dobara' seems a promising TV serial that has great expectations. The story centres around two main characters, Mehrunisa (Hadiqa Kiani) and Mahir (Bilal Abbas) who are poles apart yet find solace in each other's company.

Mehrunisa is a 40-year-old widow who has recently lost her husband Hidayatullah (Nauman Ejaz). Flashbacks show how she was forcefully married to her 20 year older cousin due to her father's ailing conditions. She expresses her desire to Hidayatullah to study further and pursuing table tennis but he dismisses her wishes, saying she should take care of the household. He doesn't even let her drive. Perhaps that's the reason she feels she is a free bird after his death and hardly mourns him.

Soon she starts going to a nearby park wearing a tracksuit and plays football with the househelp's children. Since she shows no traits of being a widow, her sister-in-law (Sakina Samo) is taken aback. Sakina is the typical sister-in-law and phuppo who finds ways to taunt everyone, especially Mehrunisa. She even criticises her for wearing not-so-good attire while going to the park but Mehrunisa pays no

heed and does whatever she likes. The scene where she lets down her bun and opens her hair is beautifully shot as it portrays that she is letting go her past and moving towards the future.

Enters Mahir who plays a young guy with a broken family where none of his step-parents are ready to accept him. Currently, he lives with his father; his stepmother is always making a fuss about his ways of living. But Mahir knows his way. He makes fun of her and tests her patience to the core.

He has a girlfriend as well called Narmeen (Zoya Nasir) who keeps on forcing him to bring his parents for her proposal but since he has no job or a stable home, he is confused as to what he should do. Finally, after mustering some courage, he talks to his parents who luckily agree to go to Narmeen's place. What he is unaware of is the chaos that awaits him there, resulting in his break-up.

Since he has no one to turn to, he roams around the park sadly. That's where he and Mehrunisa cross paths. They get to know each other through their shared interest in tennis. Since Mahir is a tennis coach and Mehrunisa too wants to revive her tennis passion, it will be interesting to watch how their story unfolds.

Hadiqa Kiani as Mehrunisa plays a mature woman who is both smart and childish yet understands what society might think of her. Though Hadiqa is a novice in acting with 'Dobara' being her second project, she impresses the audience with her acting skills, proving that women above 30 can play major roles in TV serials. Bilal Abbas Khan does his role as Mahir with perfection.



The way he teases his step-mother is interesting to watch. This is the first time he is doing such a mischievous role.

Zoya Nasir as Narmeen is a treat as she depicts a middle-class modern woman. She looks completely different from her previous TV serial 'Zebaish'. Sakina Samo perfectly plays the nagging Canada-returned sister-in-law and aunt who keeps complaining. She interferes rather too much in her brother's life and his relationship with his family. She is always giving free advice to everyone, though no one is listening.

Mehrunisa's children Minal (Maheen Siddiqui) and Affan (Usama Khan) also play a major role as they struggle in balancing the sorrow of losing their father and their mother's new and young love interest. Though Minal's husband Zameer (Nabeel Zuberi) raises some valid questions about society, he is shut up by Minal's irritating aunt and no one objects.

'Dobara' has a strong cast and intelligent direction with a powerful script that keeps the audience glued to the screens. It is a refreshing take on society as a whole and the stereotypes attached to the second marriage of a woman and that too with a younger man. ❏

TV SERIAL

## LOCKE &amp; KEY

## SECRETS OF THE KEYHOUSE

By Syed Mohib Akhtar

Developed by Carlton Cuse, Meredith Averill and Aron Eli Coleite, 'Locke & Key' is a live-action adaptation of a comic series by Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodríguez that revolves around the Locke family.

After the brutal murder of their father Rendell Locke (Bill Heck) by his student Sam (Thomas Mitchell Barnett), the Locke children Tyler (Connor Jessup), Kinsey (Emilia Jones) and Bode (Jackson Robert Scott) along with their mother Nina (Darby Stanchfield) move to their father's ancestral home called the Keyhouse in Matheson, Massachusetts, which is home to magical keys. Feeling connected to their father in their new house, the children confront the mysterious happenings and secrets of the Keyhouse that leads them to face an evil entity Dodge (Laysla de Oliveira) from their father's past who is trying to get the keys for all nefarious purposes.

By the end of Season 1, the children are at peace as they send Dodge back from where she came, The Black Door, a portal that holds back a dimension full of demons. Little did they know that Dodge is impersonating as high school boy Gabe (Griffin Gluck), who is also Kinsey's boyfriend, using the Identity Key. She uses the same key to change Ellie (Sherri Michelle Saum) into her lookalike and the children by mistake throw their gym teacher across The Black Door. Dodge tricks them into opening The Black Door with the Omega Key, the most important key of all.

Season 2 picks up three months after the end of the previous season where Dodge and Gabe are now one person. Unaware about this fact, the

children are enjoying their summer relaxing with friends and playing with the magical keys. After some chaotic experiences with Sam, Nina is also trying to move on and sparks a possible romance with newcomer Josh (Brendan Hines).

Amidst all this, Gabe is conspiring with Eden (Hallea Jones) who is now his counterpart after she was hit by the Iron Whisper in the previous season. Gabe is trying to create an army of demons and get the Omega Key from the Lockes while the Lockes fear growing up as they would forget the magic once they turn 18. While Gabe and Eden are a threat, the real danger lies behind The Black Door.

A round of applause to the makers for casting such a perfect ensemble as they all put their best foot forward. Since the heart of the series lies in the Locke sibling dynamic, the overall work relies upon them. Tyler struggles with impending adulthood while Kinsey seems a bit confused between her boyfriend Gabe and filmmaker friend Scot (Petrice Jones) but Bode continues to shine bright as an important member of the Locke family. The way Tyler and Kinsey keep Bode away in some violence scenes, gives the season a new depth. Yet, the series is at its best when the trio is solving a mystery together.

Viewers were waiting for Nina's character to up her game but she keeps to the side throughout and it feels like she is missing by the end. In a world full of teenagers, Ashmore as Uncle Duncan stands out as the only adult character who turns out to be a crucial member. He manages to navigate into his past and rekindle his memories that were stolen from him as a kid, resulting in the best subplot of the season.



Oliveira as Dodge, an impeccably dressed monster, is terrifying, ruthless and menacing that no one wants to mess with. However, her male counterpart Gabe lacks the sinister aura Dodge has as he is less intimidating and not scary at all. Much better is Eden who is vicious with a sly smile any good villain needs to have.

'Locke & Key' is a compelling, adventurous and at times even emotional show about a family that faces challenges of growing up, family bonds and carrying a legacy that they did not choose. Though this season feels a bit darker than its predecessor, the pace is much faster making it lose some of the magic and getting away from the deep dark secrets that make the show an interesting watch in the first place.

There are some interesting additions to the season with the story delving into the keys' origin as to how they are made and who can make them using frequent flashbacks. The keys and the Keyhouse itself are the main highlights of the season with impressive visual effects. It smartly explores the past of Matheson and the Keyhouse which is important even for the future series to come.

'Locke & Key' is thrilling and captivating as a whole, making the show worth watching yet it is still unclear what Dodge is looking to gain from the keys. Viewers will be in for yet another treat as Season 2 ends with the same twist at the end as Season 1, hinting at a possible third instalment of





## DELIVERING **TRUST** WORLDWIDE CONNECTING PAKISTAN AND BEYOND

Send your shipments worldwide with convenience  
and reliability as we deliver your TRUST at the  
best possible rates.



#TCS #TrustALeaderToDeliver #TCSWorldWide #MadeinPakistan



☎ 111-123-456 🌐 [www.tcs.com.pk](http://www.tcs.com.pk)



## 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](mailto:info@cmc.com.pk)

Web: [www.cmc.com.pk](http://www.cmc.com.pk)

**CMC**  
*The Perception Management Company*

*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.*