

Slogan

Reflection:

**The Truth of
1971 Unveiled**

Film Review:

Spencer

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
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Japan ¥ 1250
Korea Won 7500
Malaysia RM 20
Maldives Rf 150
Nepal NcRs. 200
New Zealand NZ\$ 20
Pakistan Rs. 200
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**Shehla Chatoor's
STUNNING**

***Bridal
Wear***

The soul and signature of the Shehla Chatoor brand has always been its time honoured craftsmanship and the creation of timeless handcrafted pieces. This has remained unchanged for over two decades. Her latest Bridal Collection is an amalgam of pieces composed of rich and detailed hand embroidery offset by carefully crafted silhouettes, making the day special for the bride and groom.

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January 2022

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Gas Shortages

The recent suspension of the provision of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to major industries of Pakistan was prompted by foreign traders defaulting on contracts and supply commitments—owing to global gas shortages. With production under severe threat, long and short-term contingency plans are needed immediately. The government must explore alternate avenues through which energy can be supplied to various sectors in a more sustainable manner.

Pakistan, through intense diplomatic efforts, has been working to retain gas suppliers so that market demands are met for as long as possible. However, industries face a potential long-term cutoff due to various companies like ENOC of UAE defaulting on their contracts. In fact, excessive buying by North Asia has also contributed towards a significant shortage of LNG for other countries. Consequently, prices have shot up exponentially—making matters worse. Surely, all this is bound to affect Pakistani companies adversely. The best possible solution that can be employed, in such circumstances, is damage control. The status quo cannot be prevented seeing as various contracts were already in place, but the resource deletion and market trends forced suppliers into a tough spot. Fortunately however, energy can be sourced from alternative resources and that is where the focus of the authorities should be.

Most industries across the world are powered not only through LNG but by coal, solar, wind and hydro power—all of whom are environmentally friendly, more reliable and cheap. Current circumstances should be enough to prove to the government that it can no longer rely on the uncertain supply of gas for national production. Instead, development and investment into other sources of energy is sorely needed.



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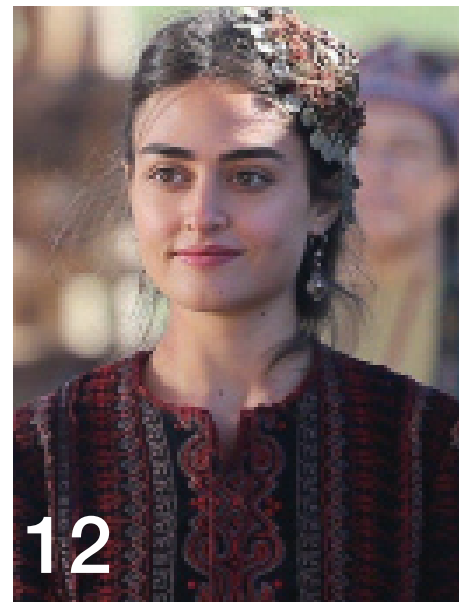
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Unique Storyline

This is related to the last month's cover story on the latest TV serial 'Sinf e Aahan' produced with the collaborative effort of the ISPR. The story is titled 'ISPR Empowers Women' that highlights women of steel. With some of the industry's finest female actors, the TV serial is a story about women in the force, a topic that is still considered taboo in some areas of Pakistan. The drama not only bring women cadets into focus but also attempt to break stereotypes with its progressive narrative and it does so beautifully. Viewers are hoping they can witness such power roles of women more on screen instead of seeing the bechari girl every time.

Taha Usman,
Karachi, Pakistan

Prioritizing Mental Health

Mental health crisis is a serious issue, especially among the youth. According to Dr. Vivek Murthy, the surgeon general of the United States, the excessive use of social media and violent video games are toxic, taking control of the lives of the young generation.

The prevailing mental health crisis is a function of a modern culture that promotes ignorance and nurtures self-indulgence and self-aggrandizement with little attention towards promoting such golden values as decency and mutual respect. Although no one would know how to effectively repair a defective culture, but it needs to start with a serious examination of its inherent flaws and defects.

Catherine Abigail,
California, U.S.



Rise of Inflation

Inflation in Pakistan is now out of control and the government and the economic managers seem to have no sense of control on the mafias and appear to be merely helpless spectators with no solution in sight. Further, the state of Pakistan's economy and the ineffective measures being taken to control the mounting inflation reveal the government's poor comprehension of the issues.

It is now pretty evident that the poor and the down-trodden are left to deal with their problems at the mercy of their fate.

Tariq Mehboob,
Sukkur, Pakistan.



Technology for All

Technology offers a range of wonderful tools and applications through which many students are able to achieve their goals. Nowadays, new communication technologies have emerged and a large number of students across the world are trying to get a better understanding of the emerging technologies.

While students and teach-

ers are rapidly becoming familiar with the dos and don'ts of online education, many new entrepreneurship programmes



and online collaborations are also being formed, which is a positive sign.

Though the coronavirus pandemic has severely affected us all, but the one thing that has impacted positively is the increasing awareness in the general public about the use of online technology for education and trading. People now find it easier to work online as everything is on their fingertips.

Syed Saif-Ul-Islam,
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Combating Corruption

Corruption is plaguing our society and diminishing the instinct for innovation and creativity. Even though most people pay taxes, one can never see these taxes being utilised to the benefit of the people. If these taxes are used correctly, they can do wonders. A way to root out corruption is to invest in educating the masses. The youth are the future of the nation and to combat corrupt mindsets and practices, we need an educated younger generation who are capable enough to realise the harmful effects of corruption. Increased levels of literacy will produce an ethical workforce that will move beyond self-interest and work towards the greater good of society.

*S.V.P.T. Bandara,
Ratnapura, Sri Lanka.*



Use of Social Media

People use social media along with different online apps with great freedom and joy. However, we must keep aware of the pros and cons of social media, which has become such a massive part of all our lives that it can no longer be ignored. Many popular applications such as Tiktok, Instagram, Likee and Snapchat, etc. consume significant amount of time and thus deviate us from our daily tasks and goals.

What we must do is to use social media more constructively and benefit from it by knowing about different fields. Utilizing social media can help us become aware of current happenings, events and trends being followed around the globe.

*Choten V. Dorji,
Gelephu, Bhutan.*

'I have always believed that one should not be scared of losing.'

– **Imran Khan,**
Prime Minister of Pakistan



" Oftentimes I deliberately put ambiguity into my books so that... the reader is left with an echo of: 'How much of this was from me?'"

– **Mohsin Hamid,** *Novelist*



"First of all, convince yourself that you are the best because the rest of your life is going to go proving this to others." – **Wasim Akram,** *Cricketer*



Either way, change will come. It could be bloody, or it could be beautiful. It depends on us.

– **Arundhati Roy,** *Author*



You get what you give. What you put into things is what you get out of them.

– **Jennifer Lopez,** *American Singer*



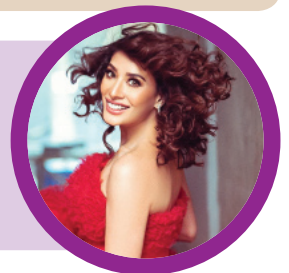
"The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude."

– **Oprah Winfrey,** *American TV Host and Philanthropist*



'Film-making is a collaborative effort and everyone who brings these dreams to the screen is worthy of recognition. Even the spot boys.'

– **Mehwish Hayat,**
Pakistani Actress



'You can plan, but what happens on a football field cannot be predicted.'

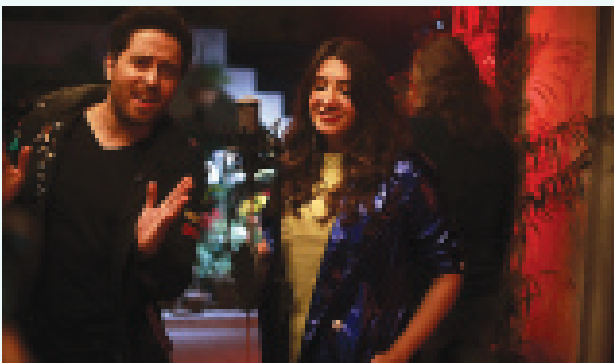
– **Manuel Neuer,** *German Footballer*





Talk of the Town

What Maryam Nawaz wore at her son Junaid Safdar's wedding has been the talk of the town. From donning a Saira Shakira outfit and a lehenga-choli by Abhinav Mishra to wearing the most talked-about green sharara by Nomi Ansari and a classic angarkha by Nida Azwer, she manages to impress all. Now the PML-N manages to get votes in the next elections, everyone would know why.

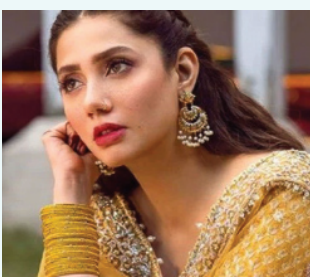


Making Good Music

The music industry appears to be getting back on its feet as the effects of the coronavirus pandemic are diminishing. Paying tribute to Pakistani music from the 1980s, Haroon Shahid and Zeb Bangash have released a song 'Tum Saath Ho' that has all the elements of a good number making, it a treat for the listeners.

Hammad Azhar's Problems

Amidst the gas crisis, the PTI MNA Aftab Siddiqui has written a letter to Federal Minister Hammad Azhar saying that he has not responded to his calls and messages. Siddiqui condemned the attitude shown by Azhar by calling his act shameful and pitiful. Such a harsh statement makes one think whether this really is about gas shortage or the frustration of losing the KPK local body polls.



Retirement Plan

Rumour has it that the Pakistani actress Mahira Khan is thinking about writing an autobiography in the later stage of her life. She hinted at the possibility in an interview with Fuchsia magazine. That's probably a retirement plan.

P&G Delegation Meets President Arif Alvi

A delegation of senior executives, led by Adil Farhat, Chief Executive Officer, Procter & Gamble (P&G) Pakistan, met President Dr. Arif Alvi in Islamabad. In the meeting, the P&G delegation reaffirmed its commitment to Pakistan and pledged to continue serving the people of the country through its high quality products and brands.

President Alvi lauded P&G's efforts and said the Government is working hard to make Pakistan an attractive destination for global business firms and multinational organizations.

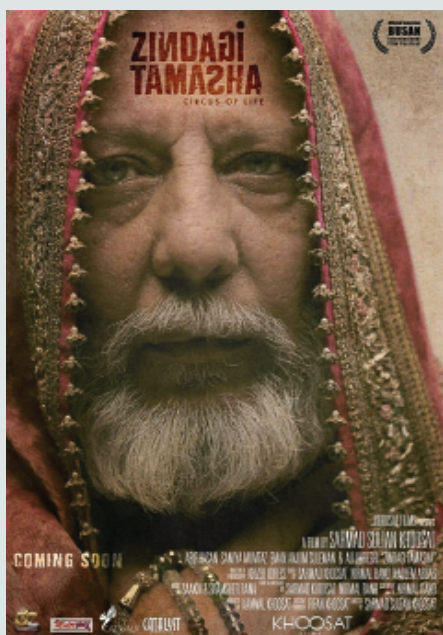
P&G recently celebrated 30 years of its successful operations in the country. Since 1991, P&G Pakistan has been serving consumers with superior quality brands providing superior value and driving category growth. P&G has already brought valuable foreign direct investment into Pakistan by expanding its local manufacturing footprint. 🇵🇰



'Zindagi Tamasha' to Release in March 2022

The film 'Zindagi Tamasha', directed and co-produced by Sarmad and Kanwal Khoosat, will finally release in Pakistan on March 18, 2022.

Though the film has already won many international awards, its official release had been delayed amid controversy after the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) called for protests against its original release on January 24, 2020, alleging it was blasphemous and offensive to Muslim sentiments. The film was also slapped with a litany of censor



issues.

'Zindagi Tamasha' was the first Pakistani film to win the prestigious Kim Ji-Seok Award at the Busan International Film Festival in 2019. The film won the Snow Leopard Award for Best Film at the 6th Asian World Film Festival (AWFF) in 2021.

Starring Arif Hassan, Eman Suleman, Samiya Mumtaz, and Ali Kureshi in the lead role, the film has also been Pakistan's official film entry in

the International Feature Film Award category for the 93rd Academy Awards in 2020. 🇵🇰



English County Sussex Signs Muhammad Rizwan


Pakistan's leading batter and wicket keeper Muhammad Rizwan is all set for his maiden stint in English county cricket with Sussex. English county made the announcement revealing that Rizwan will join Sussex following Australia's tour of Pakistan in April 2022. He will then be available in both Championship and T20 cricket until the end of the Vitality Blast in mid-July.

In his Tweet, Rizwan said he is absolutely honoured and excited to be a part of the historic Sussex County Cricket Club for the 2022 season. On the other hand, Sussex's wicket-keeping coach Sarah Taylor is looking forward to learning from him. 🇵🇰

Pakistan's Bodybuilders Shine at NBBUI

Pakistan grabbed gold and silver medals in the 38th NBBUI World Bodybuilding Championships 2021, held on the 27th and 28th of November in Valencia, Spain.

Representing Pakistan, Irfan Asghar and Abdul Majeed took spectators by storm with their brilliant performances and were awarded gold and silver medals at the championship.

The sportsmen also shared their gratitude by thanking IDEAS by GulAhmed for sponsoring their championship tour. The duo was also seen donning the stylish outerwear by Ideas Man. 



Mohib Mirza All Set for Directorial Debut

Actor Mohib Mirza is all set to mark his directorial debut with the release of the film 'Ishrat Made in China.' The film is an action-packed thriller with mind-blowing stunts, loads of dance moves and gripping moments. The film also marks the film debut of ace designer Hassan Shehyar Yaseen aka HSY.

While Mohib Mirza plays the lead role, the film also features Sanam Saeed, Shamoan Abbassi, Sara Loren, Ali Kazmi, Mani, Shabbir Jan, Nayyar Ejaz, Imam Syed and Mustafa Chaudhry. 




Puma Signs Asif Ali as Brand Ambassador



Puma, the world's leading sports brand, has signed Asif Ali as the brand ambassador for a period of two years.


With the newly signed deal, the 30-year old Asif Ali becomes the first Pakistani cricketer to be signed by the sportswear manufacturing company.

Puma has already got India's Virat Kohli, Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, and New Zealand's Brendon McCullum on board.

Previously, Pakistan captain, Babar Azam, and wicket-keeper batter, Mohammad Rizwan, have been signed by cricket equipment manufacturing company, Gray-Nicolls. 

A New Web Series by Asim Abbasi

'Zindagi Gulzar Hai' couple Fawad Khan and Sanam Saeed is back with a web series by Asim Abbasi on Zindagi Original.

The show is said to blend fantasy and magic realism within the backdrop of a family reunion. The streaming platform is yet to announce the airing date for the much-anticipated web series. 



Asia News Network Has a New Chairman

Bangladeshi journalist Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of Bangladesh's largest selling English daily – The Daily Star, has been elected the next Chairman of Asia News Network (ANN).

The 72-year-old journalist started his journalism career in 1972 and brings with him several decades of experience as a media and communication specialist to lead the regional alliance. The alliance is a grouping of 23 leading Asian news titles founded in 1999.

After working in the United Nations for 14 years, he co-founded The Daily Star newspaper in 1991, as Bangladesh was transitioning to a democracy. His editorial direction and commentaries on the country's socio-political issues saw the paper fast rising to be the most-read English daily in the country. ❏



Story of Separation

Featuring Maya Ali and Wahaj Ali in the lead roles, 'Jo Bichar Gaye', a new drama serial, is currently on air on Geo Entertainment. Written by Ali Moeen and directed by Haissam Hussain, 'Jo Bichar Gaye' is based on the novel written by Col. Z. I. Farrukh, featuring true events from the 1971 India-Pakistan War and the ensuing separation of East Pakistan.

The other cast includes Nadia Jameel, Adnan Jaffar, Sajid Shah, Fazal Hussain, Rana Majid, Aurangzaib Mirza, Omar Darr, Ahmed Abbas, Shireen Zahid, Usman Zia, Omar Cheema, Zaheer Taj, and Fahad Hashmi among others. ❏

PCB Appoints New Chief Executive

After a robust recruitment process, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed Faisal Hasnain as the new Chief Executive who will take charge in January 2022.

Hasnain is a UK qualified Chartered Accountant and has had a professional career of over 35 years in high-profile finance and sports administration roles with some of the world's leading blue-chip organisations. This includes his role in Monaco and Dubai as the

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and as the Managing Director of Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC).

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja was delighted to confirm the appointment and welcomed Hasnain to the Pakistan's cricket family. ❏



Fawad Khan to Star in Ms Marvel Series

The Khoobsurat actor Fawad Khan has finally confirmed that he will be part of the forthcoming Disney+ Hotstar series.

Disney-Marvel series features a Muslim teen lead character and a significant Asian cast. The six-part series features newcomer Iman Vellani as Kamala Khan in the lead character, a New Jersey-raised teenager who discovers that she has been God gifted with

special powers. The character arc has her finding out who she is and learning about relationships.

The series will also see Pakistani veteran actress Samina Ahmed and Nimra Bucha in lead roles while the Oscar-winning Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy is directing one episode of the series. The other three directors include Adil El Arbi, Billal Fallah and Meera Menon. ❏



Fatima Fertilizer Earns Guinness Recognition


Fatima Fertilizer became the first company within the global fertilizer industry to have clocked 60,220,000 safe man-hours, which is the highest accomplishment within the global fertilizer industry.

This landmark achievement was only made possible by demonstrating the highest safety performance through the implementation of world class safety standards and industry best practices.

This latest achievement by Fatima Fertilizers has marked the Guinness Book of World Record and demonstrates that its work processes and quality standards



are truly global, while at the same time constantly focusing on continuous quality improvement.

This recent achievement by Fatima Fertilizer is testament to the fact that its work operations and quality standards are truly world class, while maintaining a consistent focus on continuous quality improvement. 

Nomi Ansari's Secret Courtyard

Pakistan's most celebrated fashion designer, Nomi Ansari showcased his spectacular collection 'Secret Courtyard' at Dubai Fashion Week.

Sticking to the signature style, 'The Secret Courtyard' by Nomi Ansari brings a grand display of colours, print and intricate handwork. And how can one forget the iconic masterpiece, the famous green dress adorned by Pakistan's leading politician Maryam Nawaz Sharif. 




Arslan Butt and Esra Bilgic Together

Pakistani actor Arslan Butt and Turkish actress Esra Bilgic came together to work on a project, the details of which are not known. The news of the duo working together came to light after Butt posted a picture of them on his Instagram account where he appreciated Bilgic for her humble and gentle nature on the sets. He further invited her to visit Pakistan soon since the Pakistani cuisines are waiting for her. Bilgic also reacted to the Instagram post immediately dropping a set of thanking emojis leaving the fans more excited about the project. 



Feroze Khan and Sana Javed Together Again

7th Sky Entertainment brings Feroze Khan and Sana Javed together for the third time for a project titled 'Aye Musht e Khaak'. The drama follows the story of two individuals Mustajab and Dua who are poles apart from each other.

Exploring the themes of faith, love, and deception, 'Aye Musht e Khaak' is written by Maha Malik, directed by Aehsun Talish, and co-produced by Abdullah Kadwani and Asad Qureshi. With Feroze Khan and Sana Javed in the lead roles, the drama supports an ensemble cast including Asad Siddiqui, Shabbir Jan, Iffat Omar, Shahood Alvi, Danial Afzal Khan, Hira Umer, and many more. 





Shehla Chatoor's

STUNNING

Bridal Wear

The soul and signature of the Shehla brand has always lain in its time-honoured craftsmanship and the creation of timeless handcrafted pieces that has remained unchanged for over two decades.


Bridal Couture has been a very significant and an integral part of the design house for the last two decades. Chatoor has always seen bridals as timeless investments. She views these artisanal pieces like items of jewellery which can be passed on to future generations as heirlooms.

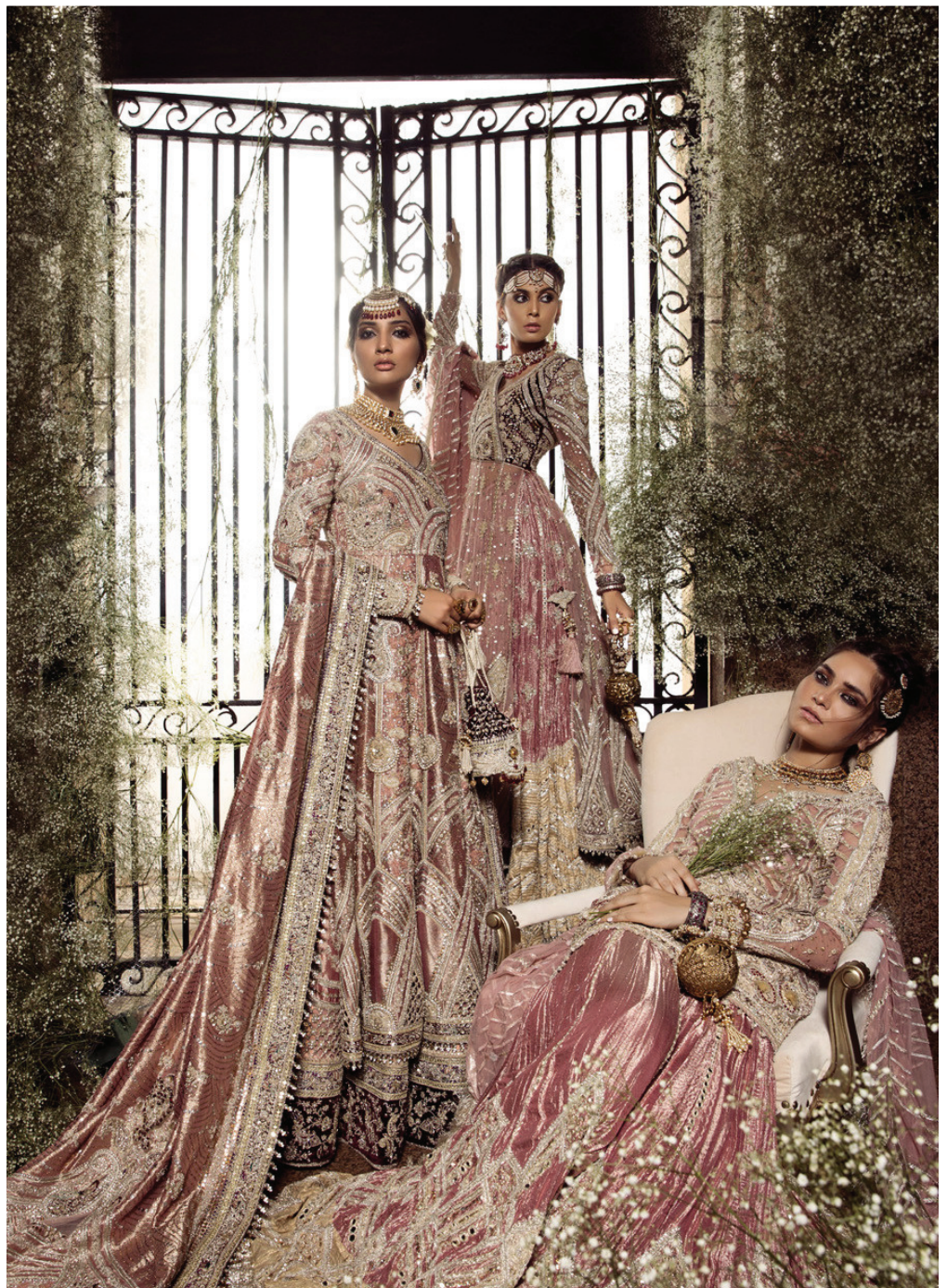
Shehla Chatoor's latest Bridal Collection is an amalgamation of artisanal pieces composed of rich detailed hand embroidery offset by carefully crafted silhouettes. The collection has been painstakingly crafted with hand-spun fabrics including silk and cotton along with velvet, tulle, organza and organdy using a rich and regal colour palette



of ivory and gold dovetailed with magenta and plums, silver and champagne, sea-green and soft mint, black with gold, Kashmiri tea-pink and fuchsia, and a plethora of blacks and ivory amalgamations.

The collection is beautifully accented with intricate traditional hand-crafted mirror-work, gota, marori and zardozi detailed motifs and embroideries to further render Shehla Chatoor's signature ethos.

The bridal collection also includes a presentation of elegant and majestic menswear pieces imbued with old school charm and includes sophisticated waistcoats and sherwanis with stunning intricate old-world embroideries. Chatoor's bridal capsule is special enough for a bridegroom to don. 



THE TRUTH OF 1971 UNVEILED

By Faizan Usmani

The first screening of an English documentary film “Separation of East Pakistan – The Untold Story” was recently held at the Nueplex Cinema in Karachi. The documentary is produced by Ms. Erum Binte Shahid, with Senator (R) Javed Jabbar as the Executive Producer and writer, Mohammad Zeeshan as the Content Director, and Mitra Bonshahi, Mehreen Jabbar and M. Bilal as the Consulting Editors. The screening was attended by eminent scholars, intellectuals, celebrities and a large number of people from different walks of life.

Bringing out many facts previously unknown to history, the documentary film “Separation of East Pakistan – The Untold Story” discloses the lesser known reality about the fall of Dhaka in 1971 as how the history has purposefully been manipulated against Pakistan, creating strains between Bangladesh and Pakistan, to ensure continued unrest between the two Muslim nations who were once part of the same country.

Based on the views of both national and international experts, the documentary shares facts and information, busting the false narrative surrounding the separation of East Pakistan and ensuing making of Bangladesh. Other than Javed Jabbar, the documentary stars the opinions of several national and international scholars, such as Dr Yasmin Saikia, William J. Drummond, Dr Ayesha Jalal, Dr Junaid Ahmed, Dr Huma Baqai, Dr Rasul Bakhsh Rais, Dr Ian Talbot, Mujibur Rahman Shami, Dr Khawaja Alqama, Riaz H. Khokhar, Brig (retd.) Karrar Ali Agha and M. Reza Kazimi.

Before the film screening, the eminent scholar Senator Javed Jabbar briefly shared the main idea behind the making of the documentary film about the history of 1971, which has purposefully been diluted by hyperbole and false

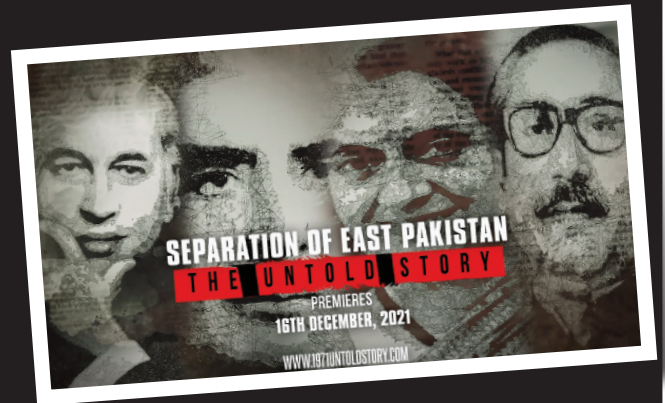
information to suit political objectives.

The first part of the film is based on acknowledging some fatal but far-reaching mistakes, which were made by the rulers and political stakeholders of the then united Pakistan. The second part of the film is aimed at demystifying the baseless propaganda peddled by Indian lobbyists, particularly with regards to the mass killing of about 3 million Bengalis in East Pakistan after the launch of the Operation Searchlight by Pakistan Army on March 25, 1971. Dr. Junaid Ahmed, the author of the book “Creation of Bangladesh: Myths Exploded” is one of the experts in Javed Jabbar’s documentary film. According to Dr. Ahmed, during the military operation which lasted for about 262 days, the horrendous level of carnage committed against the Bengalis could never be a possibility, as falsely disseminated by India.

Sharing her views in the documentary, Dr. Huma Baqai shows the audience the other side of the story to ponder upon, revealing how the issues of unequal distribution of resources and language were misused to promote a separatist politics.

The documentary reveals how Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, the leader of Awami League, did not want an independent nation and how Indira Gandhi, who served as prime minister of India from 1966 until 1977 and from 1980 until 1984, admitted to India’s active involvement in the separation of Pakistan.

Dismantling the fake news about 3 million deaths, mass plunder and 200,000 rapes in the Eastern wing of Pakistan, the documentary shows how India and the Soviet Union together



played dirty politics to divide a nation to the extent of training Bengali civilians and arming them as Mukti Bahini in the camps on the Indian side of the border and initiating and supporting the Mujibur Rehman’s “6 points” agenda to ignite a separatist movement in East Pakistan.

In his documentary, Senator Javed Jabbar has shown intellectual integrity in acknowledging the fatal errors made by the Pakistani political leadership that paved the way for alienation and a lack of trust between citizens and leaders. For instance, he recognised the fact that Field-Marshal General Ayub Khan’s One Unit Policy caused political alienation of East Pakistanis, together with a litany of factors such as a growing trust deficit between East and West Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto’s self-centred power politics and his blatant refusal to comply with the 1970s election results as well as General Yahya Khan’s uninformed actions.

Other than busting the myths around military overreach and its opposing effects, the documentary film “Separation of East Pakistan – The Untold Story” is also aimed at improving relationships between Bangladesh and Pakistan, leading the countries towards stronger ties and mutual cooperation in different areas of development, business and cultural promotion. The documentary ends with Bertrand Russell’s quote: “The better part of human history lies not in the past, but in the future.”

SPENCER

TALE OF POWERLESSNESS

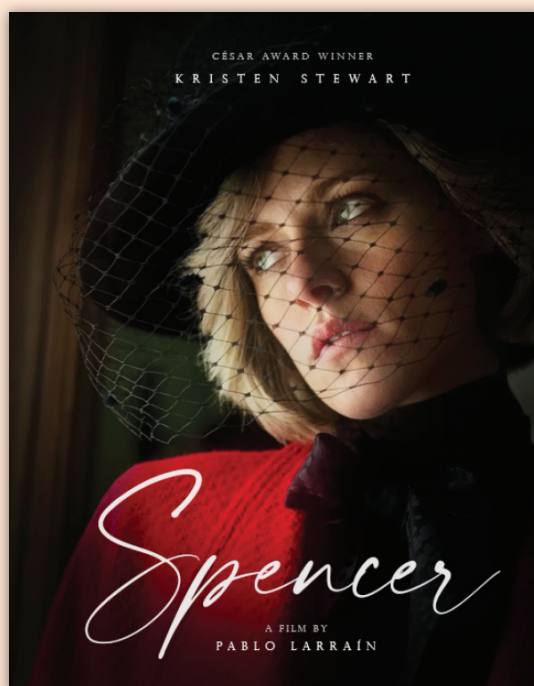
By Syeda Maham Rasheed

The life of Lady Diana, the Princess of Wales, has always been in the public eye, be it her wedding with Prince Charles or her relationship with her in-laws. The most recent is the Season 4 of the web series 'The Crown'.

Adding to the number of films comes Pablo Larrain's 'Spencer', a story about a Christmas holiday at the Sandringham House. Just as Larrain depicts the life of Jacqueline Kennedy in 'Jackie' following the week of her husband President John F. Kennedy's assassination, 'Spencer' too focuses on the crucial phase of Princess Diana's life when things begin to disintegrate in the royal family. The film showcases a tense Christmas for the Princess over a course of three days, and narrates what she was going through during the time.

Written by Steven Knight, 'Spencer' opens with a disclaimer "A fable from a true tragedy", indicating that it's more fiction than fact. The film starts with a Christmas setting in 1991 where Princess Diana (Kristen Stewart) deliberately arrives late at the Sandringham House. Entering the palace, the Equerry, Major Alistair Gregory (Timothy Spall) greets her with a stern face telling her that she is late and should be with the royal family celebrating Christmas.

Diana manages to put a brave face for her kids William (Jack Nielen) and Harry (Freddie Spry) despite knowing about her husband Prince Charles's (Jack Farthing) affair with Camilla Parker Bowles (Emma Darwall-Smith). It is evident that Diana and her sons are close to each other and the rest of the family, including Queen Elizabeth



(Stella Gonet) and Prince Philip (Richard Sammel), does not treat her well. Other than her kids, the only person who shows kindness and is supportive towards Diana is the royal dresser Maggie (Sally Hawkins), but she also disappears when Diana needs her the most.

Since Lady Diana sees no future for her and the kids at the royal palace, she longs to return to her childhood home, which is sealed off behind barbed wires and she cannot go there. Despite warning, she goes to her old home and looks at the ruins of her lost childhood. The attitude of the Royals and her husband's advice of having two faces, one in private and another for the people, further agitate her.

Later she finds a book on Anne Boleyn (Amy Manson), the Queen of England (1533 – 1536) and the second wife of King Henry VIII. Reading about Boleyn's beheading because her husband could marry his mistress further disturbs Diana for she fears the


same could be done with her. She starts having visions of the queen and soon finds it hard to differ between reality and fantasy. Diana seems to lose her grip until she finds a way to break free.

Donning beautifully crafted hats with Diana's signature short bob haircut, Kristen manages to blend all kinds of emotions that the Princess might be feeling at various points in her life. Sally Hawkins as Maggie plays a short yet meaningful role. Though she is the Princess' favourite dresser, Diana finds a true friend in her. Sean Harris portrays the loyal kitchen stalwart Darren who is always eager to make something special for his princess.

Larrain portrays Diana's pain and frustration with heavy and somewhat blunt dialogues.

Cinematographer Claire Mathon beautifully captures the royal stares that make Diana feel trapped. Jacqueline Durran did an amazing job with Diana's costumes and even labelled all her gowns as 'POW', Princess of Wales.

The first dinner scene is brilliantly executed where Diana feels disgusted by wearing the same pearl necklace as her husband's mistress. She breaks free of the necklace sending the pearls all around including her pea soup. She proceeds to chew the pearls, cracking them with her teeth and then runs away. Imagine the pain of sitting across from your cheating husband on a table.

Pablo Larrain's take on the film is one-sided for it largely focuses on how much Diana wants freedom. Described as a fable in the beginning, 'Spencer' is a political tale of powerlessness, revolt and liberation. Viewers are going to feel all the emotions if they are a fan of the Royal Lady. 

FILM

HELLBOUND

DELIGHTFUL
WATCH

By Muhammad Ali Khan

How would you feel if you knew the exact time of your death? We all know that's not possible. But for Netflix's series 'Hellbound', everyone is aware of their final time. Taking horror to another level, Netflix offers one of the darkest but most satisfying web series of 2021.

Directed by the 'Train to Busan' director Yeon Sang-ho, who specialises in making zombie films, 'Hellbound' is a live-action adaptation of a webtoon that became a talking point on social media soon after its release. The six-part series promises a dark adventure about people coming to terms with their sins as they receive death prophecies from unusual creatures. Yeon focuses more on the reactions of the humans after knowing about their final time rather than the three CGI black giant beasts that beat the life out of these people.

Set in the years 2030 to 2027, the series opens with a guy sitting at a cafe looking at the clock on his phone. Just when the clock hits 1:20 pm, there is a loud noise of the three CGI beasts smashing the windows of the cafe. They beat the man and then burn him to ashes. The opening might be disturbing for many but it sets the tone for the entire series hinting that there is violence and bloodshed and the viewers may only continue to watch the entire season if they can handle it.

Hell breaks loose after the

man's death and detective Jin Kyeong-hoon (Yang Ik-june) is called to investigate the matter with his fellow detective Hong Eun-pyo (Park Jung-pyo). Since the New Truth Society, a cult that attacks sinners, is spreading the word about the incidents, the detectives question their leader Jeong Jin-soo (Yoo Ah-in). Jeong explains how he gets prophecies and how a person receives them. The person first sees a ghostly creature that tells them about their final time on earth and entry in Hell and when the time finally arrives, the trio beasts come to life. For the New Truth Society, you are a sinner anyway no matter how big or small the sin is.

Enters Min Hye-jin (Kim Hyun-joo) who is an attorney investigating the victims of the New Truth Society. In order to understand the sudden shift of the world towards darkness, Hye-jin goes deeper into the case, finding a connection between the New Truth Society and another cult called The Arrowheads who broadcasts everything. Talking about God's wrath on the sinners, the group shows a video of students beating their sociology professor Gong Hyeong-joon (Im Hyeong-guk) for not believing in God.


While anyone can be a member of the New Truth Society, The Arrowheads are usually teenagers with baseball bats that choose



their predators after playing a game of chairs where everyone's fate is destined. Though Hye-jin is content that this is just the beginning of violence, the series takes an ugly turn when she too receives a prophecy.

Yoo Ah-in as Jeong is the highlight of the entire series as he plays the role with such ease that people are drawn towards him and the cause he is supporting. He takes control of every moment with calmness and his presence is enough to make the viewers feel his wrath.

Written by Choi Kyu-sok, 'Hellbound' is a horror thriller that grows with each episode. While the first half comes to terms with the roots of the New World, the second half is more about the consequences. With clever writing and mindful direction, the series goes through several twists and turns making it a delightful watch for the viewers.

Yeon Sang-ho promises for a much more violent and dark season two if Netflix agrees to take it. Binge watch the first season before the second season is out. 



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