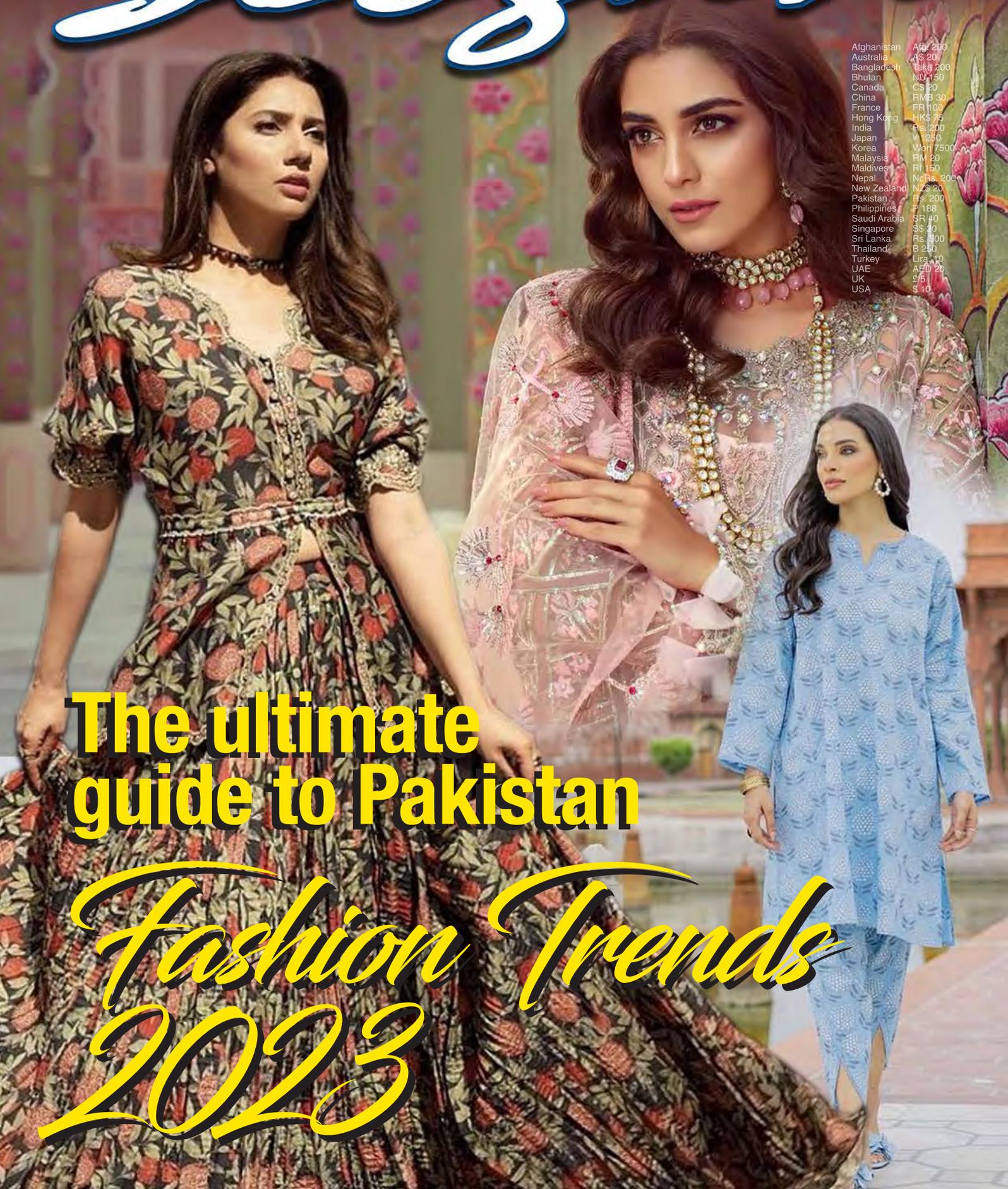


Slogan

Afghanistan	Af\$ 200
Australia	A\$ 20
Bangladesh	Taka 200
Bhutan	Nu 150
Canada	CS 20
China	RMB 30
France	FR 100
Hong Kong	HK\$ 75
India	Rs 200
Japan	¥ 1250
Korea	Won 7500
Malaysia	RM 20
Maldives	Rf 150
Nepal	NrRs. 2000
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



The ultimate guide to Pakistan

Fashion Trends
2023



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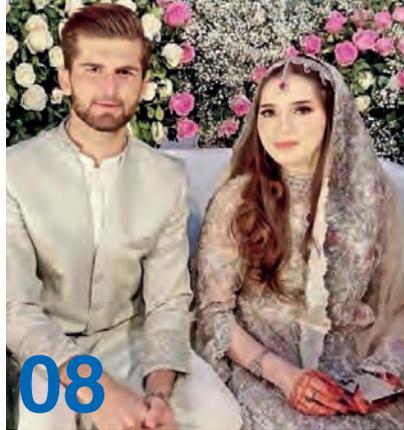
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Dead Reckoning
(Part One)

Film: Allahyar and the 100
Flowers of God





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Pakistani Dramas in Recent Times

Only a few months back Hum in particular was not afraid of experimenting every now and then but after Parizaad, the viewers were left waiting for a drama on the channel that would blow them away. ARY Digital has for some time started banking heavily on commercialism. Every now and then they aired a quality drama but most of their dramas have been over-stretched and commercial even when they offered novelty. Geo Entertainment is a completely different story because even though they air some of the trashiest dramas, these dramas get ratings like no other! Apart from Jo Bichar Gaye, I don't remember the last time I watched a drama offering quality entertainment on Geo. Unfortunately, Jo Bichar Gaye did not get a lot of views. Therefore, I am assuming that Geo has a certain 'fanbase' which is partially responsible for ruining the quality of Pakistani dramas.

Interestingly enough, in the present time, Express Entertainment was the only channel that offered variety and quality. Dramas such as Guru and Meher Mah in particular raised my hopes. Both these dramas are refreshing and thoroughly entertaining. I had my eyes set on Express Entertainment when Green TV launched only last week and changed my perspective about Pakistani dramas altogether.

Green TV dramas have been much more than just refreshing, they have been groundbreaking. While all the other channels and producers were scared to experiment because of the fear of not getting ratings, Green TV took the bold and necessary initiative to experiment like it has never been done before. Ever since the channel went on air, they have been airing dramas that are entirely different from each other every single day and in all the slots assigned to these dramas. Only a few days back, the viewers who were wondering if they will ever get to watch another drama such as Parizaad again were given the beautiful gift of dramas such as Kabli Pulao, Jeevan Nagar, Idiot, Shanaas, 22 Qadam, Jindo, and the list goes on.

Only in 1 week, Green TV proved that there are so many genres which Pakistani writers and directors can successfully experiment with. The best thing is that this channel has something for everyone. A few weeks back it was unimaginable for the viewers to even think that they will get to watch a Pakistani drama which was sci-fi. Nauroz definitely falls into that category. Although the Siyah Series isn't picture-perfect it is an initiative that would open more avenues for horror series.

Each one of the dramas that have aired on Green TV does not only have a different story altogether but this channel is also redefining the term 'hero' one drama at a time! Haji Mushtaq is an elderly person who you would never see as the only main protagonist in a Pakistani drama. Even if in the past such a character has been shown as a prominent character, it has never been the face of the drama. Usually, such prominent characters are 'assisted' by heroes who are conventional and who would 'sell' the story. Parizaad and Ranjha Ranjha Kardi are the only exceptions I can think of right now. Even a drama such as Dumpukht had a side hero.



Perpetual Economic Crisis

In the last five years, due to economic mismanagement and bad governance of the previous government, not only the country's economy was severely damaged, but it also weakened important institutions like the State Bank of Pakistan, the Ministry of Economy, the Planning Commission and the Federal Board of Revenue. Economic output has declined over the past five years to an annual average of 3 percent, resulting in a failure to create substantial new job opportunities each year and increasing unemployment. The budget deficit in GDP last year exceeded 7 percent to 8.8 percent. Due to the existence of a substantial fiscal deficit and the depreciation of the exchange rate, public debt rose to alarming levels. Similarly, there was a sharp increase in inflation during the previous regime. In short, Pakistan is currently facing a decline in economic output, a huge budget deficit, rising inflation, and an unprecedented increase in public debt. However, there is no end in sight.

*Durdana Nawab,
Islamabad, Pakistan..*

Declining Agricultural Productivity

In the past, Pakistan has been self-sufficient in wheat, rice, maize, and cotton production. In marked contrast, today, the country is forced to import them by spending a lot of foreign exchange to meet local needs. Pakistan's current imbalanced economy has been limited to benefiting from the agricultural sector to the extent that it has to export a significant portion of its rice production instead of meeting its domestic needs. Most of the countries with agrarian economies have revolutionized their output per acre thanks to science and technology. Indonesia, which was buying 90 thousand tons of rice from Pakistan, has increased its demand by 200,000 tons. Although this is an encouraging situation for Pakistan, the local needs of the country cannot be neglected. Pakistan also has its complete infrastructure, including universities and competent scientists, which farmers should benefit from.



*Chowdhury Jawaid Akbar,
Lahore, Pakistan.*

IMF and Fiscal Policy

Pakistan timely sought help from the IMF for the improvement of the country's financial stability. The IMF has emphasized economic stability and reduction of budget deficits in line with traditional economic policies to reduce debt and control inflation. According to the IMF, Pakistan should focus on financial stability to increase economic output and employment. It has become clear from the recent experiences of several European countries that the traditional policies of the economy, in which economic stability is prioritized, have lost their effectiveness. In short, although the overall deficit or government debt depends on the overall stability of the economy, it is essential to take into account where the deficit money is being spent constructively. In this context, the quality of expenditure is of utmost importance. Meanwhile, a low tax rate to GDP is a significant obstacle for developing countries to use fiscal policy for constructive purposes. Similarly, by broadening the tax base and tax structure, improving the efficiency of tax administration, and making tax rules and regulations more stringent, the funds required for the constructive roles of fiscal policy can be obtained. Is Pakistan willing to implement this fiscal policy?



*Haroon Ali,
Karachi, Pakistan.*

India and Nuclear Weapon Proliferation

The book, *The Security Imperative: Pakistan's Nuclear Deterrence and Diplomacy*, by Zamir Akram has recently vanished without a trace from Amazon website after having been featured there for a few weeks.

While several books have been written on Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear weapons, most of them, particularly those published in the West and in India, reflect a hostile narrative that portrays Pakistan in largely villainous terms. The book authored by Zamir Akram, one of Pakistan's most distinguished diplomats, is a meticulously-researched, widely-referenced, invaluable narrative of why, when and how Pakistan was compelled to develop its

nuclear weapons as a deterrent to India's nuclear ambitions. The book lays bare how the 2005 United States-India nuclear deal and India's illicit proliferation of missile technology escalated dangers to an unprecedented level in South Asia, and even globally. The book also identifies the strong possibility that India itself may have been a secret, indirect customer-beneficiary of the allegedly privately conducted nuclear proliferation attributed to Dr A.Q. Khan. However, the book and its publishing credits have been removed from the Amazon website, reportedly without any reason being provided. This action is nothing but an assault on freedom of expression, and is a pitiable attempt to prevent sharing of irrefutable facts that implicate both India and the US in conducting discriminatory, clandestine activities that have increased nuclear weapon proliferation to endanger the whole world.

*Former Senator Javed Jabbar,
Karachi, Pakistan.*

Unbridled Population Growth

Since I have been in America for more than a decade and my job includes traveling around and visiting other cities within a few hours' distances, many scenes of this untouched and diverse country in the world are in my mind. How much the advancement in technology has affected ordinary life was not even possible to imagine a few years ago. Then, in this ultramodern environment, the harsh realities of life polluted by cruelty and injustice are hidden somewhere and clearly visible. Similarly, Europe has its own identity. But China is a distinct feature of the modern era. Now, the question of what we can learn from which country is not an easy one. Now, see that the whole world considers education to be the basis of development and prosperity, and we still haven't learned how to run a primary school. Population growth is leading us to disaster. Does our system have enough power to try to solve this problem by following China's path?
*Dr. Kaleem Ajjaz,
 Chicago, United States.*

Challenge and Response

The most important question before us today is whether Pakistan can ever become a modern state under the guidance of the rulers we have today. Unfortunately, Pakistan is not a state where there is scope for science, technology, liberal thinking, and logic and whose citizens have opportunities for modern education and social development. Moral degradation and social backwardness are also our primary concerns. Pakistan's problem is not motorways or orange line trains. The real challenge is to reinvent the national ideals, but only when the government's steering is in the right hands. Pakistan can build hundreds of motorways, it can establish a rich system of bullet trains from the sea coast to the Himalayan foothills, but if the leaders are more interested in stashing black money in overseas accounts than the welfare of the people, then God can only save the country.
*Bushra Jamil,
 Dubai, UAE.*

Who Said That!



"India murdered humanity on Canadian soil by killing an innocent man."
 - **Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar,**
Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan



"With India working hard to achieve the goal of becoming a developed country by 2047, it requires the base of a strong and impartial justice system."
 - **Narendra Modi,**
Prime Minister of India



"What we are asking in our programme is that please collect more taxes from the wealthy and please protect the poor people of Pakistan."
 - **Kristalina Georgieva,**
Managing Director of the IMF



"Lost in a crowd of greats, not a single Oscar. That's showbiz."
 - **Maureen O'Hara**



Bangladesh will continue efforts to fight for the rights of Palestinians."
 - **Sheikh Hasina Wajid,**
Prime Minister of Bangladesh



"We will get nuclear weapon if Iran does."
 - **Mohammed bin Salman,**
Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia



"I'm eager to be part of a story that addresses the stigma of divorce and combats the shame of being single after."
 - **Ushna Shah,**
Pakistani TV Actress



"The group of judges who had disqualified Nawaz Sharif in 2017 is responsible for the inflation."
 - **Rana Sanullah,**
Pakistan's Former Interior Minister

London to Lahore

Pakistan media is abuzz with the news about the return of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan, possibly in October. Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's three-time prime minister, has been in self-exile in London since November 2019 after getting a four-week bail from the Lahore High Court on medical grounds. Other than Pakistan, despite his frail health, he has consistently been flying all over the world - London to Dubai, Dubai to London, not to exclude many other European cities. However, one wonders if his endless love for his beloved country is taking him back to Pakistan, or is it something else making him come back to Lahore with much enthusiasm and fervour? In sum, Nawaz Sharif's much-anticipated return from London to Lahore can be better described in the words of Mirza Ghalib.....*Sharm tumko magar nahin aati!* ❏



Spectre of Hyperinflation

Pakistan can be referred to as the land of possibilities that mostly take place in a reverse direction. Having lost its ability to pay monthly power bills, the 240-million nation now finds itself nowhere when it comes to making both ends meet, let alone education and other 'luxuries.' However, as the ground realities suggest and as per a fresh warning issued by the World Bank, Pakistan is in its tipping point crisis, with its 40 per cent population now living below the poverty line under elite capture. Not only this, Pakistan takes the lead with the lowest per capita income in South Asia and the highest out-of-school children in the world. Time is running out as the ailing economy is yet to change course to take off for a brighter future. ❏

Asia Cup Nightmare

The ICC Cricket World Cup is around the corner. Nonetheless, considering Pakistan's poor performance in the Asia Cup, which recently concluded in Sri Lanka, the overall chances are not so high for a team that lacks strength in many departments. For instance, Pakistan does not have a proper spinner as well as a genuine all-rounder who could pose any threat to the opposing side. The team's opening pair is not yet final, struggling with a new combination in every next match, while, other than the skipper Babar Azam, the middle-order strength is as shallow as a rain puddle. Though it wouldn't make a difference to a highly politicized cricket board that revels in changing its chief many a time throughout the year, Pakistan's early exit from the World Cup would be a nightmare for a cricket-loving nation. Fingers crossed! ❏



Jinnah was a bigger leader than Ataturk: Moot

An interactive discussion ‘Mr Jinnah’s Life and Achievements’ was recently held at the Quaid-i-Azam House Museum (Flagstaff House).

In his welcome speech, Liaquat Merchant, grandnephew of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, said it’s important to remember the founding fathers of Pakistan. He lamented the fact that only one newspaper, Jang, published a supplement and Dawn an editorial on his 75th death anniversary. Prof Dr Jaffed Ahmed said Pakistan owes to the efforts of Mr Jinnah and his commitment. Dr Ahmed was of the view that if we had constructed on his ideas, the eastern wing of Pakistan would not have been separated. “I regard Jinnah

as a bigger leader than Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, because Ataturk had the support of the military.”

Delivering the concluding remarks, writer and security expert Ikram Sehgal put



emphasis on the fact that all is not doom and gloom. “Despite the bad, corrupt leadership we’ve had, we are in Pakistan



whose achievements include, among others: Pakistan has the second largest copper and gold reserves in the world, it’s the sixth largest milk producing country in the world, and has developed a missile system. Despite the crises, we are a resilient nation,” he said.

Dr Huma Baqai, Ameena Saiyid, Managing Director of a publishing house, Architect Arif Belgaumi, and Artist Jimmy Engineer also spoke on the occasion. ❏

Shaheen Afridi weds Shahid Afridi’s daughter Ansha

Cricket star Shaheen Afridi and Ansha Afridi’s ongoing

festivities have been causing quite the frenzy on social media.

Held in Karachi, the Baraat event was a marvelous, red-themed affair. Before the big wedding ceremony, the couple also celebrated their Mayun and Mehndi.

The wedding was a star-studded event, which was attended by Babar Azam, the current captain of the Pakistan national cricket team as well as other prominent personalities and Pakistani celebrities. Pakistani mega stars

Humayun Saeed and Fahad Mustafa were also present at the



event. Well-known broadcaster Sawera Pasha was photographed alongside Shaista Lodhi and Javeria Saud in attendance at the event. ❏

Wahab Riaz retires from international cricket

Pakistan speedster Wahab Riaz announced his retirement from international cricket. The left-arm armer shared the development in a post on his official X, formerly known as Twitter, account.

The 38-year-old will continue to play in T20 leagues around the world.

“Stepping off the international pitch. After an incredible journey, I’ve decided to retire from international cricket. Big thank you to PCB, my family, coaches, mentors, teammates, fans, and everyone who supported me,” Riaz said. ❏



Nestlé Pakistan promotes nutritional awareness, sustainability education

The government of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Nestlé Pakistan inaugurated the Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) room in at KG Model School for Girls in Skardu and conducted training for 250 teachers on nutritional awareness and sustainability education with an aim to reach out to more than 15000 children under its flagship N4HK program in Gilgit, Skardu, Shigar, and Kharmang.

Highlighting the importance of this partnership, Sheikh Waqar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Nestlé Pakistan, “We are excited to collaborate with the GB government that it is facilitating in extending the

reach of our N4HK initiative to teachers, caregivers, and students in districts of Gilgit, Skardu, Shigar, and Kharmang. We are confident that the awareness imparted on nutrition and this N4HK room in Skardu will play a very important role in promoting healthy habits and a better nourished future generation.”

N4HK is Nestlé’s global nutritional awareness initiative. It supports teachers and caregivers on their journey to raise healthier kids through a curriculum-based education program promoting healthy nutrition, hydration, hygiene, and active lifestyles. The N4HK rooms in partner schools provide a way for teachers and educators to reinforce the



importance of a good nutrition concept for children. ❏

Toyota Pakistan and Bank of Punjab: Redefining Auto Finance

In a groundbreaking partnership, Toyota Pakistan and the Bank of Punjab have joined forces to introduce an exceptional financing campaign for select Hilux variants. This collaboration is set to transform the auto financing landscape in Pakistan, offering a range of attractive features and benefits designed to make owning a Toyota Hilux more accessible and convenient than ever before.

Affordable Monthly Rentals: The campaign’s standout feature is the remarkably low monthly rental, starting at just PKR 85,500. This affordability opens the doors to a wide range of potential Toyota owners who may have previously been deterred by budget constraints.

Lowest Mark-up Rate: With a market-leading mark-up rate of only 7%, this campaign makes owning a Toyota Hilux not just a dream but also a financially savvy choice.

Insurance with Tracker: Security and

peace of mind are paramount when it comes to automobiles. This partnership includes insurance with a tracker at a competitive rate of 1.5%, ensuring that your investment is well-protected.



Priority Delivery: Customers who choose selected variants under this campaign will enjoy priority delivery, getting behind the wheel of their new Hilux sooner and with greater convenience.

However, it’s essential to note that this offer does come with eligibility criteria. To qualify, individuals must be Pakistani citizens between the ages of 21 and 45

who qualify for the Prime Minister Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme, with a primary residence in Pakistan. Government employees, unfortunately, are not eligible for this particular campaign.

Flexible Loan Tenors: The campaign also offers flexibility in loan tenors, ranging from 3 to 7 years. This empowers customers to select a repayment plan that aligns with their financial situation and preferences.

In conclusion, the collaboration between Toyota Pakistan and the Bank of Punjab is poised to revolutionize the auto financing sector. With its low monthly rentals, attractive mark-up rates, insurance with a tracker, and priority delivery,

this campaign caters to the aspirations of potential Hilux owners in Pakistan. By simplifying the buying process and offering flexible loan tenors, this campaign brings Toyota’s renowned quality and performance within reach of a broader audience. If you’ve ever dreamed of owning a Toyota Hilux, now is the perfect time to turn that dream into a reality. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to drive home in style with Toyota and the Bank of Punjab. ❏

Burak Özçivit Visits Pakistan

Burak Özçivit is a very famous Turkish actor. He is popularly known for his performance as the main lead character in the historical Turkish series 'Ertugrul Ghazi' sequel, 'Kurulu: Osman. Burak Özçivit is also known to Pakistanis for his character Malkucho Bali Sahab in famous series Mera Sultan (Magnificent Century). Burak Özçivit is happily married to famous Turkish actress Fahriye Evcan.

Currently, Burak has arrived in Pakistan for the endorsement of J. Fragrances. He shared pictures from his journey on his official Instagram account. The actor arrived in Karachi. He has

visited the malls as well. The actor tried different Pakistani cuisines as well. He

brand ambassador for J. Fragrances. Fans are overjoyed about the unique opportunity to meet their beloved actor in person.



Burak Özçivit's videos and pictures are doing round on social media. Fans are really happy on his visit to Pakistan. Remember that, Har Pal Geo has aired seasons of Kurulu: Osman in the urdu dubbing and a lot of Pakistanis are the fans of Burak. Pakistani fans were mesmerized by actor's undeniable charm and charisma. Burak also visited Malls in Karachi where people gave him an amazing reception. He was also overwhelmed by the love of Pakistani fans. ❏

was warmly welcomed by J. Owner and other hosts. The special visit is hosted by J. as Burak has been named the latest

Jaisay Aapki Marzi's Umer Bold Look Heavily Criticized

Jaisay Aapki Marzi is getting good ratings these days and we are getting to watch a good story on screens. All the characters in the drama are getting a lot of coverage and are coming under discussion. Hira Umer plays Ramza, sister to Durefishan's Alizey. Many people are loving ramza as she sounds like the only voice of reason among all other psychopaths. Hira is doing great and fans want her to get more screen time so she could drill sense into everyone.



Hira Umer is also very active on social media. She often shares pictures from her trips and whereabouts with her family. She is comfortable in her style and openly shares what she does. Hira Umer recently shared clicks from a Dubai trip and she was wearing a green bikini. She took pictures at the golden hour and shared them with her fans. ❏

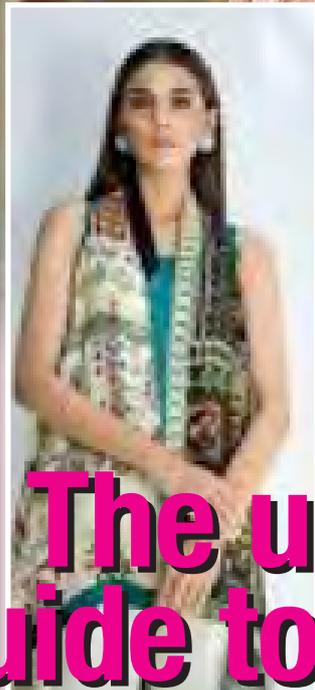
The Legend of Maula Jatt' earns international nomination

It seems that Pakistan's latest rendition of the story of Maula Jatt continues to make a name for Pakistani cinema as it readies to go head-to-head with worldwide competition at the Taurus World Stunt Awards.

While acquiring the title of the highest-grossing Pakistani film



was undoubtedly an impressive feat, the list grows with this nomination under the Best Fight category acquired by Bilal Lashari's The Legend of Maula Jatt. The film earns its place in the list for the infamous final nail-biting fight scene between Maula and Noori – played by Fawad Khan and Hamza Ali Abbasi. ❏



The ultimate guide to Pakistan

Fashion Trends 2023

Are you familiar with Pakistan's most recent fashion trends for girls? Perhaps you do, but are you aware of the necessary vogues listed below? What are the most recent fashion trends in Pakistan? Pakistani fashions? Better fashion? 2023 Fashion? That's

something fashion gurus can all agree on, I suppose.

Today, Pakistan Zest will discuss sophisticated yet graceful trends that are not only voguish but also quite comfortable to wear all day. To add glitz to your entire appearance, read this article carefully to learn about the most recent trends in shirt length, Bardot

necklines, sleeve designs, and trouser styles.

There are many voguish trends to keep an eye on, but I'll focus on the most significant one today. Make sure you adhere to at least a couple of them if you truly want to stay fashionable! Pakistan Zest offers a few workable strategies to elevate or at the very least slightly

Cover Story

enhance your own look as Pakistan's hottest new trends take off.

Look gorgeous and appealing to everyone every day by adding a touch of glitz and adopting Pakistani celebrity dress trends. Every day, fashion is evolving, and there is a tendency known as "rapid fashion changeover" when it comes to Pakistani fashion.

Scroll down to the newest information.

Short Frocks with bell bottoms

This Eid is all about knee-length shirts or frock styles (about 32 inches), in contrast to 2017, when fashion started to rebel against short frocks in lawn and party dresses, with frills all over and peekaboo sleeves, as well as finding a rising following. The short frock can be paired with flappers or bell bottoms with a wide flare. Straight pants don't look so appealing with short frocks.

Embellishments!

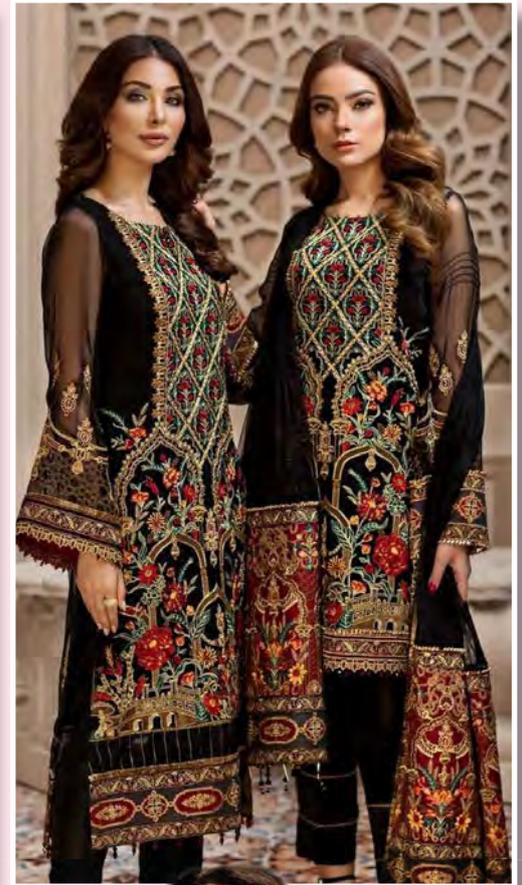
Lawn dresses with embellishments are the new design statement for summer 2023–2024. On the front and back panels of a lawn dress, the sleeves, the bottoms, or even the dupatta, you can use eye-catching net laces, frill, feather lace designs, laces embellished with beads and pearls, embroidered net, etc. Your tailor might give you a hard time in joining the pieces and then also charge a lot for the stitching but believe me, it's worth it!

A big No to tights, capris, and straight shalwars this year!

The era of shalwars, capri pants, and tights is past; now is the time to dress in something stylish and original with Pakistan's newest fashion trend, bootcut pants. Bootcut trousers will make you look taller, and more stylish and also help you stand out from the crowd whether worn with a short dress or a knee-length kurta/kurti. They look equally good with long shirts and are very grateful.

Your new bootcut trouser design should be well-structured yet unstructured in keeping with the general relaxation of tailoring that is sweeping Pakistani runways.

We have given you great ideas on your lawn summer dresses in 2023 to revamp your wardrobe. You will slay this summer and be a headturner! ❏



MAYI RI

Mirror to the Society

By Rimsha Kamran

‘**M**ayi Ri,’ the latest TV serial produced by Fahad Mustafa and Dr. Ali Kazmi and directed by Meesam Naqvi, has captivated Pakistani television audiences with its poignant portrayal of social issues. Airing on ARY Digital every Monday to Sunday at 7 p.m., this TV serial takes a brave step in shedding light on the sensitive topic of child marriage, unraveling its complexities.

The storyline primarily revolves around Ainee and Fakhir, portrayed by talented emerging artists Aina Asif and Samar Abbas Jaffri. Despite being cousins, they find themselves trapped in a forced marriage, bound by a long-standing family tradition of early unions. ‘Mayi Ri’ skillfully portrays the challenges and hardships Ainee, Fakhir, and their families face as they navigate the consequences of this forced marriage.

Ainee is forced to do house chores and completely abandon her education while Fakhir continues. She has to persuade everyone in the family to let her continue, but her elders force her to wear jewelry to school as she is newlywed. Her father marries again while altogether abandoning her mother, and her uncle marries the sister of her father’s bride. Fakhir understands what Ainee is going through and tries all he can to help her. While dealing with other typical issues of a desi household, Ainee discovers she is expecting a baby. She works tirelessly to ensure that her

education is not left behind as she tackles the household chores and her baby.

The serial’s ensemble cast, which includes Nouman Ijaz, Maria Wasti, Sajida Syed, Maya Khan, and many other talented artistes,

without relying on a conventional love triangle. It tackles deep-rooted patriarchal issues within a traditional, middle-class Pakistani society, sparking conversations about the importance of personal development and stability before



delivers compelling performances that breathe life into their respective roles. Aina Asif and Samar Abbas Jaffri, in particular, shine in their portrayals of Ainee and Fakhir, effectively conveying their characters’ emotional turmoil and resilience.

‘Mayi Ri’ delves into the struggles faced by Ainee, and her journey to balance her education, household chores, and motherhood is heart-wrenching and inspirational. The TV serial sheds light on the societal pressures and expectations placed on young brides, emphasizing the importance of education and personal development.

What sets ‘Mayi Ri’ apart is its ability to captivate viewers

marriage. The drama is a powerful reminder of the significance of education, financial independence, and a stable mindset in sustaining a successful marriage.

In conclusion, ‘Mayi Ri’ is a commendable addition to Pakistani television drama. It fearlessly addresses the critical issue of child marriage while offering engaging storytelling and outstanding performances. It proves that Pakistani dramas can thrive by delving into societal issues, leaving a lasting impact on viewers. ‘Mayi Ri’ is not just a drama but a mirror reflecting the need for change in our society’s mindset and values. It deserves recognition for its courage and thought-provoking narrative. ■

GUNAH

POWER OF STORYTELLING

By Maleeha Faisal Siddiqui

‘Gunah’, a new TV serial currently on air on Express TV, is a gripping mini-serial that delves deep into the dark depths of human emotions. The riveting story revolves around jealousy, sibling rivalry, and brutal emotional deceit. Directed by Adnan Sarwar, the mini-serial boasts an impressive ensemble cast that includes renowned actors such as Sarmad Khoosat, Saba Qamar, Juggan Kazim, and Rabia Butt. Their exceptional performances bring life to a narrative that is as intriguing as it is unsettling.

Written by Mohsin Ali, the story unfolds in a seemingly idyllic setting, where a wealthy feudal lord resides with his beautiful wife, creating an illusion of a perfect life. However, a web of treachery and betrayal lies beneath this façade of luxury and contentment. The feudal lord’s wife has a younger sister who harbours an intense and forbidden affection for her brother-in-law, the unfaithful Mr. Feudal. She is determined to be with him at any cost, even eliminating her older sister from the picture altogether.

The treacherous lovebirds bide their time, patiently waiting for the opportune moment to rid themselves of the loyal and devoted wife. Their sinister plot takes shape when the younger

sister, during one of her visits to her sister’s residence, notices a tutor who spends significant time conversing with the older sister. This observant tutor also openly displays affection towards her.

Fuelled by jealousy and her desire to possess Mr. Feudal, the younger sister feigns a wicked plan. She locks the tutor and her sister in a compromising situation and stages a scene to make

imaginary grave. These seemingly inconspicuous actions become the linchpin of the case, unravelling the tightly woven threads of deception.

Through diligent questioning of domestic servants and careful observation, the police officer begins to connect the dots. However, the most crucial evidence comes from an unexpected source—the

victim’s son. His erratic and self-destructive behaviour, coupled with his startling testimony, provides the final push needed to apprehend both the brother and sister-in-law.

‘Gunah’ captivates viewers with its compelling storyline and

impeccable direction. It is a testament to the power of storytelling and the ability of talented actors to breathe life into complex characters. As the narrative unfolds, it explores the depths of human emotions, the consequences of unchecked desires, and the lengths people will go to achieve their ambitions.

In a world where appearances can be deceiving, ‘Gunah’ is a stark reminder that a world of secrets, lies, and moral ambiguity lies beneath the surface of seemingly perfect lives. The mini-serial challenges viewers to confront uncomfortable truths about human nature and people’s choices when driven by obsession and jealousy. ❏





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