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- Cool Down with Cult Favorite Slush Recipes



Heart to heart with the Art Couple

Kaif Ghaznavi and Muhammad Zeeshan

Editorial

Advisory & Creative Board

Gown & Town is not your average fashion magazine but a publication that has been inspired from the need to bring substantial news and information to people living in a close-knit community. With a team of experienced writers, photographers, designers and reporters, we aim to bring you a magazine that is the very personification of the happening life in Karachi and its amazing citizens!

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Editor's Note

Pablo Picasso once famously said, “Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life” The March-April edition of Gown & Town puts key focus on Art and artists. In our heart to heart with Kaif Ghaznavi, we get to know the spectacular dancer, actor and newbie mom in an up-close and personal interview with her and her equally talented artist husband, Muhammad Zeeshan, the internationally acclaimed miniaturist.

Hafsah Dero brings you a fresh perspective on Art with her article on the portrayal of women in art while Mahwish Hameed sheds light on what are the origins behind the infamous April fool's day. For a light and fresh feel, follow along to Mahjabeen Hameed's cool ideas on summer margaritas that are sure to be a hit!

Make yourself a drink, relax and enjoy this month's summer fresh issue of Gown & Town.

Don't forget to write to us at:
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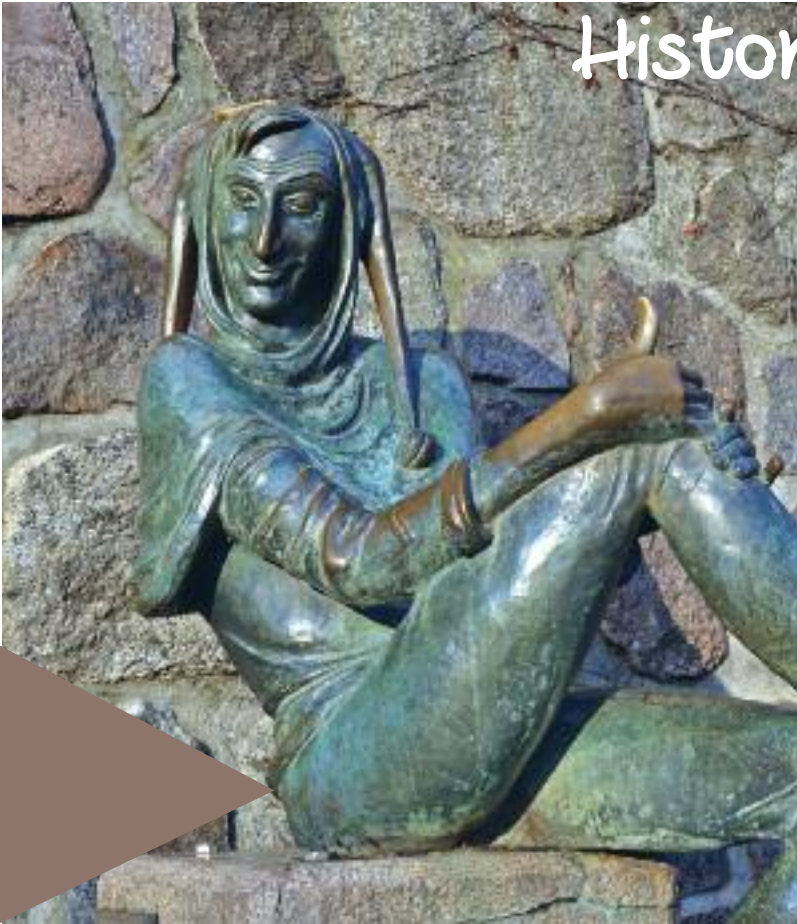
THE TRUTH ABOUT APRIL FOOL'S DAY



April Fool's day or All Fool's day might be one of the only days that is celebrated by people all over the world regardless of country and religion. Even living under a rock wouldn't stop you from knowing this famous day or perhaps getting pranked in broad daylight. These days, celebrities, websites, news and media agencies and the general public all go to great lengths on the 1st of April creating elaborate hoaxes and making outrageous claims to make a fool out of anyone and everyone. Ever wondered where all of it came from? What are the origins of the fool and his day?

History of the Fool

One of the most iconic ancient characters that have survived the test of time is the Fool or Jester. The Fool is one of the 78 cards in tarot, and termed as the joker, it is found in most modern playing cards as well. This card in tarot signifies a new adventure or beginning and of possible danger ahead. It also melds a joyful unawareness of the world with a sense of dreamy wonder and opening up to the myriad possibilities in life. Greek, Roman and English Literature all contain instances of a Fool's character that is alternately ridiculous yet wise and plays tricks on the protagonists of the play or the story. He signifies mostly the outsider in society who though wise cannot be understood and is forever ridiculed.



Myth, Love and Hilaria

Hilaria is a Latin term which means "the cheerful or merry ones." April Fool's day is sometimes said to have been derived from the ancient Roman festival of 'Hilaria' which was celebrated on the first day of the year which was at the time at the end of winter, or end of March. On this day, they honored their mother Goddess Cybele, feasted and some of the activities resembled those we see in the modern April Fool's day. Some historians say that April Fools started when the calendar was changed and the first of the year started being celebrated on the first of January instead of the first of April. The people who were slow on the uptake or forgot the fact started being termed as fools or were the butt of subsequent pranks and jokes.



Fool for Advertisements



April Fool's Day has notoriously become like a competition for advertisement agencies each year to showcase their creativity. Each year, sometimes weeks in advance, brands strive to fool their consumers by outrageous and sometimes insanely funny pranks. While hilarious, this phenomenon of using all occasions to their advantage has created a great sense of overuse and has belittled the importance of the real meaning of the celebrations in society to the point that people don't really now know the original purpose of the day they are celebrating. Capitalism eats away at us little by little, distorting reality and repackaging it as fun.



In these modern times, in film, tv and cinema; fools have become to be people who are idiotic and gullible. The term fool has become synonymous with the word stupid. This is contrary to what people in the past believed where the character of the fool signified more positive attributes. The fool was a sign of a new beginning where the future was a mystery but there was a depth of untapped knowledge waiting to be explored. Oftentimes, the fool especially in literature and art was one of the most important characters of the scene or story where he was used to temper wisdom with hilarity. The fool was also characterized as a bard who had a white rose in one hand signifying freedom. At other times it was symbolic

of having beginners luck or expecting the unexpected from the universe. In all of these characterizations, the fool was not seen as it is seen today. Modern man, perhaps from a great fear of failure has forgotten to be the fool. He has forgotten the wisdom of trying new things and experiencing new phenomenon in a different light because of the perceived danger of being called a fool. Perhaps what is needed now is a little bit more humor in society and a willingness to be the fool sometimes and expect the unexpected from life. So this April Fool's day, take it in stride and enjoy it if someone pulls a prank on you or calls you a fool!

— Mahwish Hameed



Heart to heart with the Art Couple

Kaif Ghaznavi and Muhammad Zeeshan

The artist pair with the gypsy spirit, Kaif Ghaznavi and Muhammad Zeeshan define #CoupleGoals and in this exclusive interview, we had a heart to heart conversation over tea about their art, their journey and their married life together.

As Kaif Ghaznavi, resplendent in a beautiful sunny yellow traditional sari welcomed us inside her home near the sea, we were awestruck by the multitude of beautiful art pieces everywhere. Seated comfortably with Kaif and the man behind the spectacular art Muhammad Zeeshan, we got an up close and personal look at all that made them such a success.

Kaif, a kathak performer, an actress, a singer and now a mother, says that she is still unpredictable and so is her

husband, *"We have never stayed in one place for more than six or seven years, we are gypsies."*

When asked about her mesmerizing kathak performances and the inspiration behind it she told us that we humans are all basically storytellers and Kathak is just another form of that.

"You are trying to capture the audience through not only sight and sound but also trying to make them feel." Says Kaif who recently performed and sang **"Lut Uljhi"** a romance and an adaptation of the Bengali singer Konkana Banarjee's thumri.

When asked why she chose Kathak as her medium, here's what she had to say,



"I am an actor, and what I choose to sing or dance to always comes from within. Anything that you do comes from within. You have to listen to what your personality is telling you. If I had tried urban dance like hip hop on stage, I would have been terrible at it; it would not suit me."

A lesser known fact about you is that you were once a curator at VM Gallery and a lecturer at the NCA, can you tell us about your experiences with the art world?

Talking about her art journey, Kaif explained that she independently curated at VM Gallery and after graduating from the NCA in 2003, taught at NCA for 7 years after which, realizing her destiny was elsewhere, she went on her Fulbright.

"I discovered the diversity in the world especially through my experiences in San Francisco. Your mind expands when you travel and I realized what else I had the capability to do."

You have done diverse roles in different serials, you were Chandni in the sequel to Tanhaiyan and Pari in Sange Mar

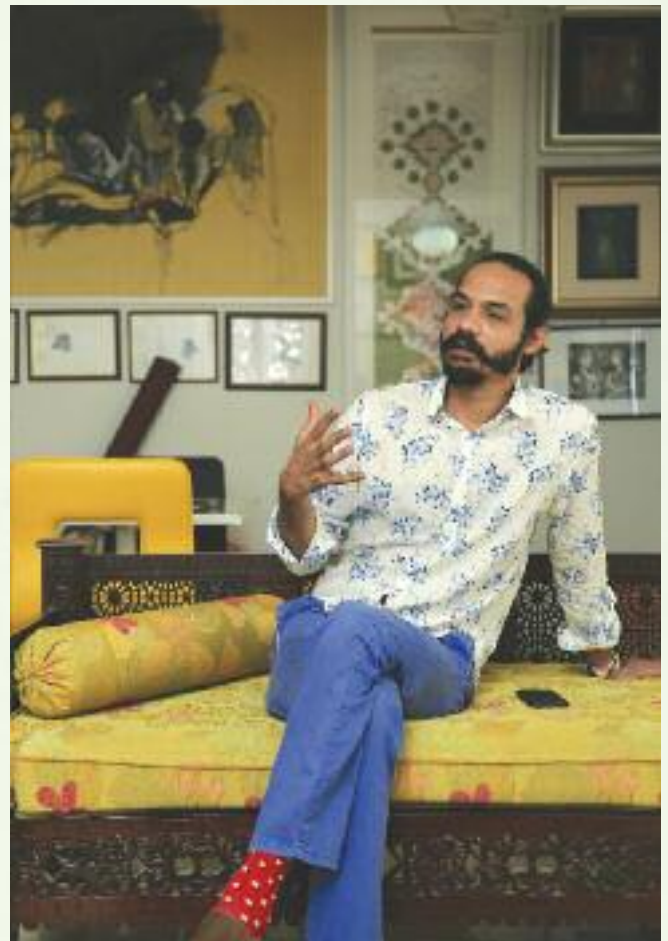
Mar, how do you choose your scripts and characters?

The charming actress said that she rejects many of the scripts because they aren't challenging enough and she gets bored on set. She says, *"Many times, the director would tell me that I am troublesome and then I realized that I shouldn't accept scripts that I don't have my heart and soul in."* She is currently shooting for a drama serial with Humtv and has just completed a feature film.

When asked about actors that inspire her, she says that she sees actors like the Indian actor Manoj Bajpai and the Pakistani actor Saleem Mairaj and she wants to achieve that level. Talking about Saleem Mairaj, she says, *"I want to explore his process, how he understands the character and in that exploration, I want to explore myself, better myself."*

People use art to de-stress sometimes, what do you do to de-stress and just wind down from life?

The actress tells us that when she's stressed, she starts to sing and it's completely unconscious. *"Sometimes my costars tell me, Kaif you've been singing for the past hour, can you shut up? I don't like that I'm annoying*





someone and if I get conscious about it, I go outside or I sing inside my mind but mostly I just go and sleep. I sleep a lot on set."

We then asked the couple about their joint venture the "Kaifwala Foundation"

The couple told us that the **"Kaifwala Foundation"** is a venture that they started together about 10 years ago but it officially came into conversation in 2011. The foundation oftentimes anonymously tries to assist students who need help, like perhaps a student doing their thesis who is short of money for framing and such. They also try to create fringe spaces for people to perform who don't have adequate knowledge of platforms.

"KAIFWALA" The hilarious yet sweet story behind the name

The couple said that they were very proud of the unique name they came up with for their foundation so we asked how it came into being.

They told us that at one point in time, no one would buy Zeeshan's paintings for even a fraction of the amount they sell at today and that they were at a loss. So one day, they decided to find out the surnames of all the old rich families in Pakistan which included the likes of Jeeshaws, walas etc. Zeeshan had no surname, he'd denounced his surname when he was 18 years old and he

just went by 'Muhammad Zeeshan.' So he decided that his surname would start with 'Kaif' because she was his family now.

"The first name he came up with then was 'Muhammad Zeeshan Kaifshaw' in 2007 and still no paintings sold. In 2008 we were then **'Kaifjee'** and still no paintings sold. Then 2011 saw us as 'Kaifwala' and that was, finally a hit. Not only did it sound good but it was lucky for us. We tried some more possibilities but kept coming back to it." Here Muhammad Zeeshan added in **"Walas belong to either their profession or their caste like tinwala, mandviwala etc and it was like that with Kaif in my name. Kaif was always there in my name. It shows the humor in the journey of our life together."**

The couple said that NCA had a big part in bringing them together, because of its vision where people from different backgrounds could study together and get to know each other. They also coincidentally sat the NCA entry test together.

'Out of The Box' Zeeshan's first Interview

Kaif and Zeeshan then told us a hilarious story about Zeeshan's very first NCA interview. So *"Zeeshan was actually government schooled and he knew absolutely no English,"* Kaif tells us. *"But that did not stop him. When he gave the NCA interview, his drawing had the highest marks but you also had to write an essay of 250 words.*



He did complete the task and wrote 250 words in English. Whatever words he had ever known he wrote down but what he had written no one could make sense of. When the examiners asked him to explain, he said he did not know himself but that they were total 250 words, he had counted!"

NCA saw what others hadn't seen, his artistic spirit and how he thought 'out of the box'

The talented miniaturist had works displayed all around the room and we asked him how he got interested in miniature painting. Zeeshan explained that he had been a young commercial painter in Mirpurkhas and he used to make cinema posters, billboards and less often portraits. After enrolling in NCA, he became interested in sculpting. "In my second year," he said *"I had to declare a major but I fell sick during those days and ran out of all money except a measly fifty rupees. I could not afford the materials required for sculpture assignments."*

"I had no money for food, how would I afford assignments, and I didn't want to pause in my degree. So I decided I should go into miniature because there wasn't any material involved. That choice was very tough at the time but it was fortunate for me."



Kaif Ghaznavi and Muhammad Zeeshan with Gown&Town team

What was 'Car for Art's sake?'

"Just two days after our marriage," Zeeshan tell us, "I had a show and it was a success after which I bought a car and gifted it to Kaif on the 14th of February. Last year I wanted to sell it and I thought why not sell it in my own way? So I set up 'Car For Arts Sake' and sold it on 14th February. I enjoy creating these events where I can interact with people, I did an event on Quaid-e-Azam's 139th birthday and then recently I did this Friday sale. On one side I create art and on the other side I deal with the market."

"Zeeshan is a humorist" Kaif tells us, "You will find elements of satire in his art and he always finds something funny even in everyday situations, which is why he is seldom bored. He has influenced me too, involving me in his love of life. Sometimes his humor is very dry and people wonder if he's being rude or if he's serious. People in our society have stopped laughing and this is what he brings out in me, laughter!"

Why did both you decide to return to Pakistan after your years in the US? Generally there is unfortunately a mass of individuals who find opportunities abroad more frequent and interesting

"If we hadn't come back, we'd be in jail now because our visa had expired," jokes Zeeshan. "But jokes aside, it's very important to enjoy where you live and that's when

you enjoy your work. That is when your art reaches its potential."

"For both of us," Kaif continues, "We're grounded and rooted in our culture, we realized this when we were abroad that we were the 'other' in that society, we didn't belong and simultaneously we were watching our culture with a faraway view. There is loneliness there, alienation. I would be an outsider there only asked to answer questions on some specific issues and hash tags. What we call freedom there is only an illusion of freedom. Your soul is owned by the culture of your country and home is where the heart is! Always!"

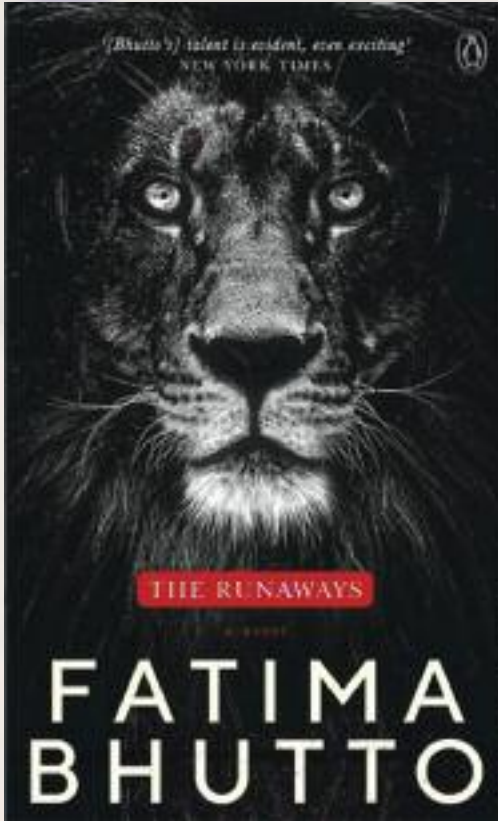
What would be your advice to struggling, literally starving artists in Pakistan?

Zeeshan explained that the young generation was too hasty. He said, "It's simple really, everyone will tell you to keep working but what struggling artists really need to learn is to find themselves a mentor. Whether it's a writer, an actor or a painter, oftentimes the artist would like to show their work to the star and want critique on their own work. What they should do is spend time with their senior, learn from him and be their understudy. Mostly just be their friend because people who spend time together, grow in their art together."

— Mahwish Hameed
Photography: Sajeel Liaquat

How Far Would You Run To Escape Your Life?

A look inside Fatima Bhutto's latest novel "The Runaways"



'It's clear that there is an ambitious literary mind at work...Bhutto's talent is evident, exciting'

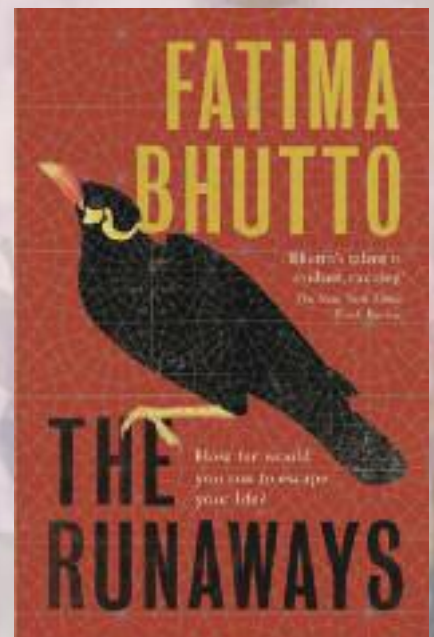
The New York Times Book Review

The premise of the novel seems depressing where three young adults from different backgrounds, different lifestyles and who have made very separate life choices will end up making one life altering choice run away and join the Islamic State. **Yet Elif Shafak described the book to be 'tender, powerful and richly embroidered'**. Bringing out different emotions in different people, this is a journey through the lives of three protagonists, Monty, Anita and Sunny.

'Bhutto is a gifted and compelling writer, economically and poetically summoning up this beautiful mountainous backwater' *Mail on Sunday*

The novel wraps up sensitive topics like class barriers, hunger for power, radicalization and immigration into bite sized pieces consumed by the three central characters which are in their essentially a product of their upbringing. The book across three cities, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and Iraq shows us the diversity and yet the similarity of the Muslim mindset. Written by someone, who herself is familiar with these selfsame topics; the novel portrays the anxiety of today's Muslim young adult, especially ones that are immigrants. The novel involves the readers into asking the question, how far can anyone run from their lives, their upbringing and their own selves? A must read definitely even if just to explore the different dynamics of young adult immigrants.

'Incredibly ambitious, extremely powerful and moving' *BBC Radio 4*



Portrayal of Women in Art

An artist is a secret poet hidden under the spell of his paintbrush. Expressing and reliving the colours in same shades but telling a different story every time. Under this spell is a very controversial painter in Pakistan, Iqbal Hussain. At first glance, his paintings might insult the basic morals of the masses, but a closer look at his storytelling conveys a different message. One particular painting of his, in which a woman is seen in a very obscene manner, her bare cleavage commits every kind of crime among the hearts of religious fanatics, her indecent way of sitting causes a stir in the observer's eye, but the way she stares back sends shiver down the spine. It is tired, it is mocking, it is angry, as if we, as a society, have forced her into this horrible state. Then, the colours painted by Hussain compliment the emptiness in her eyes, dark and devoid of any amusing hues. Although the bright red of her lipstick shade and her clothing, hides her true self from the world.



Picture of Iqbal Hussain's painting



This brings many debatable questions as to why the women have been painted in such and such way. Various artists from the beginning have portrayed women as angels and monsters, as an example of chastity and eroticism, and as saints and sinners. Women have been painted fully-clothed, with layers and layers of clothes, covered from head to toe without any hint of a body underneath, as well as naked, glorious and comfortable in her own skin. Painting of the Madonna in Byzantine style, pictures her holding Christ wrapped in her arms, safe and secure. As one can notice certain calmness and confidence on her face, like the world is there at her command. Another painting of *The Birth of Venus* by Botticelli, a surprising work for Early Renaissance. As Venus hides herself with her long locks, even then she is seen so surreal within herself. Her body looks more real, more alive than compared to other artists of the time.



Damsels in distress, cougars and various roles have been given to women throughout the centuries in art. The way an artist sees his muse, he is going to depict through the visual representation of his views. The most significant element that should not be missed is that these paintings have been painted by men. Men of religion, men of society, men of this world. Thus, these men

present us women of their taste, be it modest or immodest art. For a long time, feminists have criticized such work only to put forward a statement that men cannot paint women in their entirety. These women pose as submissive, abused, chaotic and devilish; what they do not see is that women as a whole can be plain and strong in her own way.



Gwen John's self-portrait till this day, is still unrecognized among many artists. This field has been under male dominancy for so long that women artists are ignored. In her self-portrait, observer meets a plain woman, perhaps dull for many. With no silk clothing, or laces, no ornaments, no jewellery or any makeup for that matter, just simple a women. Even with no such body to flaunt, seduce the eye, we cannot simply miss her stare. A stare with such power, such unspeakable command over her audience that we cannot help but think 'what is her story then?' Male artists pay no heed to this very fact that women are no angels and neither are they monsters. This is where such female artists step their foot in, out there, to convey that women are humans.

— *Hafsah Dero*



Child Marriage

A Prevailing Disease in Pakistan

The Government and the Opposition have always been at war. Be it criticizing each other's work or party members, be it a particular statement or policies. These two bodies of institutions have never agreed on a single term within Pakistan's vicinity. For them, the other body is always the main culprit behind any new raised issue socially, politically and economically. Recently, both the respective bodies came face to face when a certain bill was being introduced. The Opposition party and its party worker, Shireen Rehman, had carried forward extensive research on "Child Marriage". The Bill raised a controversy and was voted against by Government's various senators. The Bill claimed to increase the **"Child Marriage"** age from 16 year old to 18 year old for girls. It also stated that underage marriage will lead up to three years of imprisonment, with a fine of Rs.100, 000. In this 21st Century, Pakistan is still stuck in the past. The idea of "Child Marriage", is not just an idea, but a life changing decision. This disease of "Child Marriage", is prevailing on the roads of society. A lifelong practice that is being practiced and here, when literate people are introducing bills against this notion, it is being opposed by the people who have yet to learn a lot in life. It is opposed on the ground that it is an "Un-Islamic law" and that marriage is possible once the person reaches his or her "Puberty". In this time, we can only pray for such people. Girls, who



18 are at the age where they should be playing with dolls, going to school and calling their mothers "Ami", are in dire situations. These girls are feeding children, sending their child to schools and being called "Ami" themselves. What more horror can we, as a society, face than hearing our girls being called mothers. Girls who cannot voice the injustice being done to them, are an example for us that Pakistan has yet miles to go before it can truly call itself a country giving equal rights to all. In 2017, a well-known designer, Ali Xeeshan, made a very powerful statement on his Fashion Show, by giving a voice to these silent little girls. A girl of not more than 12 years of age, walked on the ramp with school uniform and a bag on her back. The idea was spectacular and everyone who saw the girl could not stop gossiping about her. This girl with glistening eyes, a beautiful smile across her face, had "Henna" applied to her hands and embellished with jewelry, as if posing a bride to be wed off. Speechless, we all are left speechless in front of such an angelic sight. Our hearts cannot comprehend the fact that this is possible and the people have no idea what is happening around them. It is the most highly practiced activity in rural areas, where every one in four girls are married off at a young age. The parents are in poor condition to support their own blood and they cannot take more burden with several other children being starved altogether. An average household has almost ten people living under one roof, with only one bread earner. In this condition parents, who are uneducated, marry their young daughters to older men or even younger. The girl has a roof on her head and food in her stomach provided by her husband, but nobody seems to care about the physical, mental and emotional stress that the child is going through. Many of the marriages take place under "**Watta-Satta**", in which girls are exchanged and married off in simultaneous homes. Parents, often marry their daughters for exchange of money and they have no shame in it, rather feel proud, because the money is used to feed off the whole household. On various occasions, even influential families marry their daughters for religious reason, stating it is the "**way of Islam**". It is not that these parents have no decency, but rather they are not aware of the repercussions of the matrimony has on these girls. So many girls are married early because their parents worry the society they live in, where unmarried girls are no longer safe to keep at home. Lot of people blame the girls and point fingers on their character, as an excuse to engage them in matrimony. These girls are being ripped of their childhood and all the happiness that surrounds it. They have no idea what it is to be young, play with dolls,



go exploring and live childhood years in bliss. Their life only means marriage, children and performing household chores. Girls are treated as a free "home worker" for the in-laws, with no respect. There have been so many cases where girls of age 15 and 16 have died during childbirth. They are weak and more immune to diseases such as STD, fistula and many more, just because their body was not yet ready to take so much stress when it has not yet grown properly. Hitting puberty is not an excuse enough that these young girls can now bear children, the trauma of child birth is yet very new and horrifying for them to experience. Children of such young mothers are malnourished, the girls have no stamina to bear another child and even if they do, they do it at the expense of their health. Many children are still born from young girls leading to mental and emotional trauma, from which they barely come out of. These girls are domestically abused, according to statistics about 24.3% of the cases have been reported in last year against domestic violence by girls of age 15-19 year old. It is estimated that about 30% of the marriages in Pakistan fall under child marriage. Under this scenario, when the water has



run out of hands, many NGOs and Government Acts worked in to provide safety and tried to end this practice. The problem is not that the Acts are not being implemented, but the issue seems to be lack of knowledge. Rural areas, where it is mostly practiced, people have no idea of the Acts or its consequences, they believe they are doing the greater good for their daughters and sons. Child marriage is not only a problem for girls but for boys of young age, whose parents have brain washed them that marriage is the ultimate goal in life, it is a means of earning money and end to their struggles. Young boys have no idea of marriage, relationship, hygiene, sexual relation or children. These young boys are children themselves. Illiterate parents are producing more illiterate parents, these boys and girls, without any proper guidance, turn into the spitting images of their parents making the same mistake again. Illiteracy is the main target and so is awareness. Save the Children, an NGO, provided awareness and training in these rural areas and keep on doing so. Many households have become aware of the law against child marriage and its various problems. Parents have become alert and so have the children. Girls are continuing their education, as a means to gain knowledge and a step towards a better future. However, this issue still remains. Villages and the lower strata of the

city are still tangled in this activity. Recently, a case went viral on the social media which led to a great outcry against child marriage. A 10 year old girl's lips were painted red, covered in jewelry from head to toe and wore crisp red coloured "dupatta" draped over her head, was crying heavily and in distress when her family was getting her married to a man of 40 year old. The girl was saved by the local police, but the pictures did the deed. The pain that girl was going through is beyond our understanding, she could see her whole life turning into dust and her childhood burned into ashes. The picture was a reality check for Pakistan that it is still not cured of the disease. Society, as a whole, need to stand up against the tyrants and lock them in jails. Families and children are to be educated and made aware of the situation at hand. Government has to work to ensure safety and strict implementation of laws. Trusted NGOs are to be given opportunity to work alongside these girls to help them. Pakistan has to a great deal of work ending child marriage completely. These children are the future of Pakistan, if they are not educated and live under proper conditions then the future of Pakistan is forever doomed. Children are to carry pens in their hands to solve math problems, not to sign on "Nikkahnama".

— Hafsah Dero

Bhai Bhai - The Play



The play Bhai Bhai was staged at Karachi's Arts Council in February this year for two weeks. The play grabbed the attention of the audience and it was the debut of the versatile Hina Dilpazir who has become a famous name due to her iconic presentations on TV, including the character of Momo in Bulbulay. Aamir Qureshi, son of the fabulous Mustafa Qureshi, and an artistic actor in his own right as the main lead of Bhai Bhai, makes it a must-watch play.

"Bhai Bhai" is about Ali who plays Boney, a

refined screenwriter endeavoring to make a major name for himself and win income by selling his contents on Netflix. Faran, who plays Buddy, is road savvy, frequently takes what he alludes to as getting and has his own specific manner of managing life's issues that contrasts with Boney's rationality of life. "Bhai" viably identifies with the gathering of people for the play has been interpreted by including components of our public yet not harping a lot on the details of life but also concentrating on angles that hold the estimation of the play. Every one of the play's scenes started unexpectedly yet that was the substance of the play. The discourse added pieces to the riddle prompting the peak of every scene and in the end to the completion that showed the acting ability of the two siblings.

Bhai pursues the hate love relationship of two brothers, attempted by Faran and his real sibling Ali Tahir, both of whom stole the show with their glowing energy and exhibitions. The 100-minute long play had clever minutes, especially when Hina Dilpazir, who papers the job of the mother, seemed to wow the audience. That said it was a slight bit excessively long and could have effectively spared 30 minutes, with a more tightly wrapped plot. To the



extent the plot goes, Bhai rotates around an all-inclusive exchange between two siblings – Boney (Ali) and Buddy (Faran) – who cherish one another however are managing uncertainties too. Boney is a screenwriter who is attempting to compose a content for Netflix while Buddy is a lush, who is just there to ransack products from houses in the area. They are finding an exit plan for themselves and when their interests start to conflict, they experience considerable difficulties managing it.

The drama was an impression of Sam Shepard's famous comedy "True West" and was presented in Minglish, which entertained all types of audiences and was performed under the banner of Tahir Entertainments, Bhai Bhai was story of two alienated brothers played by real-life brothers Faran and Ali Tahir. Faran Tahir's Buddy was helped Ali Tahir's Boney. Both Faran and Ali Tahir are grandsons of the legendary playwright Imtiaz Ali Taj who was not only one of the inventors of Urdu theatre but also penned the symbolic Chacha Chakan stories as well as the play Anarkali that was later re-created as Mughal-e-Azam.



In the play, Ali Tahir, acted with his elder brother and it was a huge achievement, that too on stage. 'It's a huge deal for me to be working together with Faran; I was more excited than edgy as I know that we did great job there.' Ali Tahir said as he discoursed about working with his brother who has vast experience of Broadway and Hollywood. 'We already have a chemistry that can be translated on screen and that's giving me the kick; it was my wish to have him as a director as I am learning a lot from him and the techniques that he is using.



He further said, “The way we travel through these emotions, happiness, nostalgia, that’s the beauty of this play and the credit of all that goes to the director for bringing it out through light settings and characterization, moments we miss in theatre.”

Faran Tahir came to Pakistan after 39 years when this play performed in Karachi at the Arts Council before going to Lahore and Islamabad. On being a piece of a cast that has heaps of involvement amazingly, Ali says that it's constantly incredible when the on-screen character before you solid, as it helps in bringing out better exhibitions. 'I don't accept weight as an on-screen character of having a decent on-screen character before me.' Ali who has been around throughout the previous 25 years says as he discusses his co-stars. 'I generally consider it an open door claiming the better the entertainer, the better the odds of good exhibitions as you can possibly bob off exchanges and give

responses when the individual before you are at standard, generally the execution would get dull.'

Aamir Qureshi said, we needed to cooperate for quite a while and fortunately, we are pulling it off at this point. He isn't just a capable on-screen character yet my closest companion who has been a piece of a great deal of stunning dramatizations and movies throughout the years. I have worked with Hina Dilpazir on TV however we will work out of the blue in front of an audience. She has an incredible after because she is one of those entertainers who, regardless of whether she conveys one line, will make the group giggle.

In short, that drama was quite interactive and had gotten the attention of audience and observers. This type of play should be staged frequently.

— Dr. Sabir Ahmed

Head, Dept. of Mass Communication & Media Studies





SUMMER HAIRSTYLES that will change your **LOOK**

It's almost the summer season and the high temperature isn't easy on the hair! When our hair isn't literally wilting because of the heat, it's mostly flat, frizzy and totally unmanageable. Let's not mention the inevitable fight to fix our hair until we eventually settle for the plain old ponytail that makes us all feel like we're back in school. But don't sweat! Here are some beautiful yet super easy hairstyles that you can recreate this summer!

Ponytail Braid

If you're super busy this summer but need a hairstyle that's trendy yet keeps all that stray hair from flying into your face while working, we have something just for you. Do your own twist on a ponytail! Why go for a plain old boring ponytail when you can efficiently and quickly just do a ponytail braid! Its super-fast and easy, just style your hair into a normal ponytail and braid it up afterwards, for an added effect, tie a piece of your hair around your hair band so that it looks like you tied your hair with your hair.



Top Knot Bun

A really trendy summer favorite is the top knot bun! There are days in summer when there's really not anything at all you can do with your hair, you're feeling slow and your hair is feeling sticky. That's the time to just shove all of that hair off of your neck and stick it up there in the air. All you need are a few bobby pins and a hair band (things all of us keep losing) and you can look just like a ballerina without all the effort. The best way to get a seamless top knot bun is to first make a ponytail and then wrap it around itself and then tuck it in with a few tactfully placed pins, et voila!

Dutch Braids

Everyone is obsessed with braids in the summer, whether it's us or Kim Kardashian and what's better than one braid you ask? Two Braids! Slay your badass summer looks with two Dutch braids that will make you beat the heat and still look super stylish. Dutch braids are better than regular braids because they aren't flat and add a lot more volume to the look of the braid. Just finish off the ends with either colorful bands or wrap the left out ends around them for an even cuter look!



Half Bun

Half ponytails are old school now; the new inn trend is the half bun. The half bun is super fun and gives off Coachella vibes! This look is a bit risky so if you're looking for something new this summer and trying to challenge your look, this would be perfect for you. Although it looks pretty fabulous, it's actually not a lot of work. You start off by making a half ponytail, the regular kind and just turn it into a top knot bun.

Side Braid

It's summer but no one stays indoors just because it's hot. When you need a quick going out hairstyle but your hair feels dull, the best way to jazz up your look is to wear it in a romantic side braid. This easy look is perfect for a day out to lunch with friends or a night out on the town. Paired with drop earrings and a bold lip, the side braid may just save you on a bad hair day!



Chop It Off

The easiest solution this summer is to chop it off. Sometimes it feels good to give in to temptation. This summer, give yourself a completely new look and try out short hair on yourself! The best part of this is that you don't have to style it; shoulder length hair or a long bob is in trend and is a style in itself! It will definitely be worth it to feel the breeze in your effortlessly short locks!

— Mahwish Hameed

Cool Down With Cult Favorite Slush Recipes

Summer out of all the season's turns out to be one of those siblings that is a snitch and tells all of your secrets to your mom. It is frustrating, tiring and makes you pull all your hair out of your head. In the same way, summer drains your mood and your energy in a matter of days. At this point of time, everyone seems to appear as your enemy in the scorching heat. The first thing you need to do is cool down your body as well as your mind with refreshing mock-tails that can be made in just a few minutes. Easy to recreate, these recipes will make you as cool as a cucumber!



29 Watermelon Fiesta

Watermelons are the ultimate go to options in summers because they keep your body hydrated. They are full of nutrients that prove to relieve your stress at all times. This trendy combo of summer fruits can replenish your thirst and keep you active all day long.

Ingredients:

- 1 whole Watermelon
- 4 tablespoon Sugar
- ½ of a lemon
- 1 pinch of salt



The process:

First you need to split the water melon by ratio 1/6. It should be in such a way that you have a small piece like a lid on one side and a full chunk on the other side. Now spoon out the insides and keep them in a bowl till all of the flesh is taken out. The next thing we need to do is blend the watermelon flesh along with the other mentioned ingredients which are sugar, salt and lemon all together at once. Ta-da! Top it with ice-cubes to feel refreshed even more. Such simple steps can make a cool mock-tail. You can even add your favorite fruits like kiwi into the mix. It will expand the flavor profile and texture of the mock-tail by twice!



by giving it a good nudge with a spatula or spoon from time to time.

After it's all blended, it would change its form into slush! Next you need to add in the lemon and some sugar to make it taste even more exotic! There you go! Home-made watermelon slush is ready to help you in the scorching heat!

Extra fancy for the summer pictures! While you're enjoying yourself with all the home-made goodies, why not make it fancy? It will be the talk of the town once you take a picture of it and share it with your friends!

— Mahjabeen Hameed

Watermelon Slushie

Watermelon Fiesta turned SLUSH!
(Any fruit can be used)

Ingredients:

- 1 whole frozen Watermelon/berries
- 1 jar of water
- 4 tablespoon Sugar
- ½ of a lemon
- 1 pinch of salt

The Process:

SLUSH? YES!! A home-made slush? Double YES!! This might be a bit nerve wrecking at first but then patience is the key to success. The same ingredients can be used to make slush as well! Don't believe me? Try it out yourself. In fact, not only a watermelon but any fruit can be replaced instead of it to make slush! Initially, you need to freeze any fruit be it watermelon, berries or maybe kiwis. Then you need to crush it up in a blender (add in a good amount of water) at full speed till it is thoroughly grinded. This is tedious as you need to help the grinding



Nostalgic Verses



I see it very clear..
 that lone smile you wear..
 So effortless to see
 Yet, none will worry...

The loss is just too great,
 one cannot be bared..
 Envy is a desire;
 And a pain often feared..
 Yet fighting within this much,
 That smile will lose its hope
 And the lone shall leave its touch....



An endless void of guilt,
 A heart filled with regret..
 An ocean of despair,
 A curse no longer bared..
 An empty sign of hope,
 A Hatred no longer controlled..
 This is what, the thunder gives
 When passion dies..
 The heart forgets to live....

You say it is I,
 who couldn't see,
 the pain of your suffering.
 But wasn't it the world,
 It could never see,
 The pain of my suffering.

It feels as, I'm dead yet alive,
 Waiting for this body to fade?
 You must wait, you must wait,
 My end days are near, they say,
 Just till then bare this face,
 Soon, these eyes will,

Never see today...



Nostalgic Verses

Unknown to the pains of others
 And unknown to the pain of you..
 These thoughts shall dwell in vain
 As none can see the truth..
 The curse is just so strong
 And the ladder seems so long..
 Should he try to save dark?
 Should he be left, to seek the pain..?
 Will the curse now, still be bared?
 Does it has to be his name... ?



Confused these eyes may see,
 How tired the sense can be,
 So much she wants to say,
 But can, these words find a way ?

To them there is no wrong,
 The pain belongs to her,
 To end the pain of them,
 She's about to end her world...

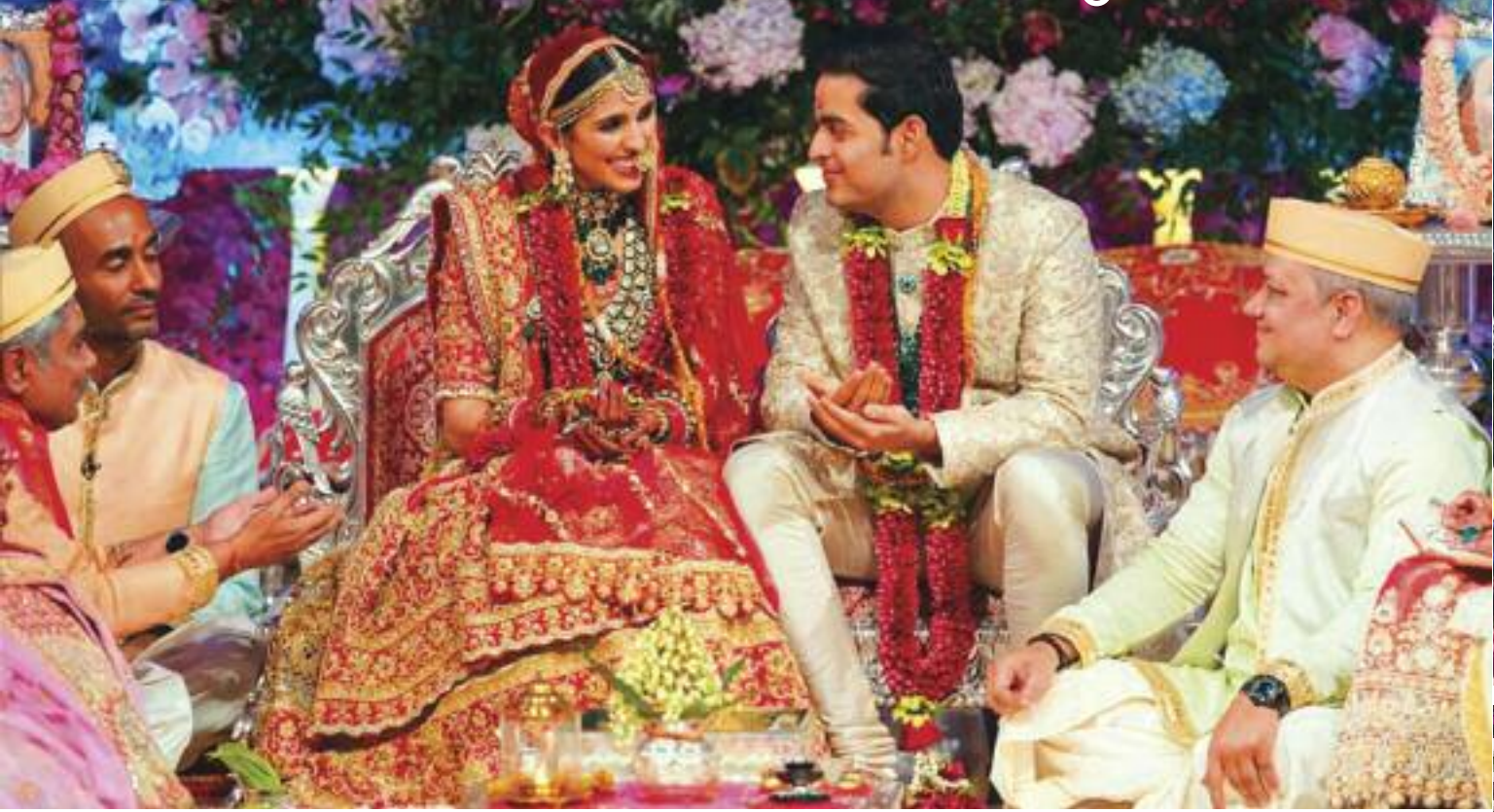


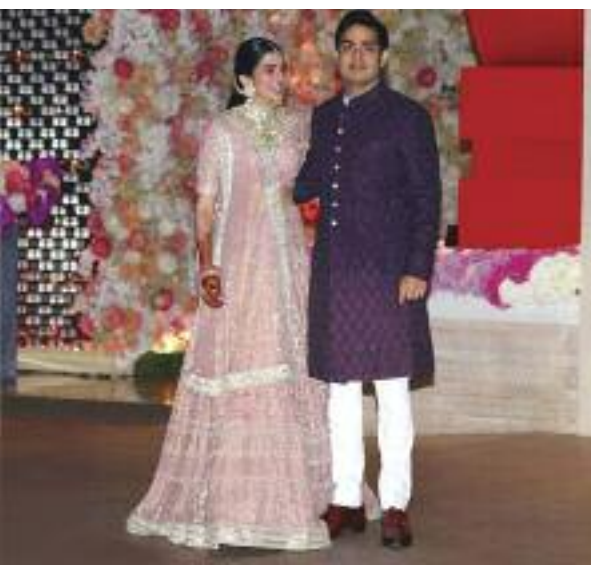
Only if you could see my heart..
 Never again would you say a word of despair to me..
 Never again would you crush another dream
 And never again would you take away the believe that
 once Someone had..
 Filling that soul with doubt so great..
 Now ever again.. Can it be saved... ?

— Wania Khan



The Spectacular Ambani Wedding in Pictures





BIRTHDAY BUZZ

MARCH



TIGER SHROFF

MARCH
2



OLIVIA WILDE

MARCH
10



LILY COLLINS

MARCH
18



SHRIYAA KAPOOR

MARCH
3



ADIF ASLAM

MARCH
12



KANGANA RANAUT

MARCH
23



JUSTIN BIEBER

MARCH
3



AMIR KHAN

MARCH
14



KEIRA KNIGHTLEY

MARCH
26



JANINI KAPOOR

MARCH
6



ALIA BHATT

MARCH
15



LADY GAGA

MARCH
28

BIRTHDAY BUZZ

APRIL



AJAY DEVGAN

APRIL 2



KRISTEN STEWART

APRIL 9



JAMES FRANCO

APRIL 19



MICHAEL FASSBENDER

APRIL 2



ALESSANDRA AMBRÓSIO

APRIL 11



JOHN CENA

APRIL 23



ROBERT DOWNEY JR.

APRIL 4



EMMA WATSON

APRIL 15



VARUN DHAWAN

APRIL 24



SAMINA PEERZADA

APRIL 9



UMER SHARIF

APRIL 19



SHAN SHAHID

APRIL 27



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