

TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*

ROBOT Revolution in Japan



We drive
the
Xpander
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...
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New cars this week



Despite being the owner of the legendary Pininfarina, Mahindra's design language has always seemed to be stuck in the late '70s. The reason behind this remains a mystery, though sometimes, it pays off. The Mahindra Thar is a slightly touched up version of the 1996-2006 CJ Jeep Wrangler, a darling among the off-road enthusiasts. And no, Mahindra didn't skirt around any rule this time, they actually bought the license to build the original CJ. The Thar will come in two flavors, a 2.0 liter petrol or a 2.2 liter diesel, each making 150 and 130 Hp respectively. Will Mahindra bring this ball of fun to the Streets of Dhaka? We hope so!



Moving from a rugged off-roader to something that is considered the definition of perfection, Rolls-Royce has pulled off the cover of their Dawn Silver Bullet roadster. Described as an "ode to decadence" and "frivolity", RR to build only fifty of these two-and-a-half ton silver behemoths. Finished in Brewster Silver with the interior receiving a "vapour-blasted titanium finish" it is safe to assume the car will cost quite a bit more than the \$353,000 "regular" dawn. RR is keeping things quiet about the engine, but it is safe to assume the 563bhp 6.6-litre V12 will remain.

Reported backdoor leaves Google Drive users vulnerable



BERLIN, GERMANY - APRIL 22: The logo of the filehosting service Google Drive is shown on the display of a smartphone on April 22, 2020 in Berlin, Germany. (Photo by Thomas Trutschel/Photothek via Getty Images)

An alleged vulnerability Google Drive may allow hackers to trick users into installing rogue code.

According to a System administrator A. Nikoci, there's a flaw in Drive's "manage versions" feature, that could let attackers swap a legitimate file with malware. The cloud storage service reportedly doesn't check to see if a file is of the same type, or even enforce the same extension. Effectively turning an innocuous photo to an exploit program in disguise.

The exploit could be used to spear phishing attacks that trick users into compromising their systems. The compromised system will leave companies that rely on Google Drive for sharing documents open to further attacks.

Nikoci claims he has notified Google about the issue, but as of the writing of this news, it was still unpatched.

Leaked Renders unveiled Motorola's Next-gen Razr

On August 22, Saturday, a noted leaker Evan Blass tweeted a series of gifs and static renders of a phone that appears to be the successor of the Motorola Razr. According to the photos, the new phone is going to be called the Razr 5G.

The Razr 5G looks largely unchanged in terms of form factor, but seems to have shrunk and smoothed out the notches at both ends. The fingerprint sensor has been omitted completely and it appears the screen has been enlarged.

The most apparent design change is done to the camera, which juts out noticeably further

As for specs, it was previously leaked the new phone will allegedly upgrade to a Qualcomm Snapdragon 765 processor, 8GB of RAM, 256GB of storage, a 48-MP main camera, and a bigger 2,845 mAh battery.

Motorola is expected to officially unveil the phone sometime later this year, possibly at its virtual event on September 9.

CORRIGENDUM

Print issue of 21st August 2020: Spec list of 2020 BMW 218i Gran Coupé mistakenly stated 5 airbags. Car comes with 6 airbags.

We regret the error.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Gotta love them robots

Movies depict robots as the all-conquering machines that eventually put an end to humans. Sometimes they start off as tools of humanity, helping make coffee and driving us quickly to our destinations. But eventually they are out to murder us in some gruesome manner or the other. The Matrix showed humans can be harvested as moderate quality batteries. Even useless creators of the last terrible Fantastic Four movie would have uses this way. For now though, robots are cool. Japan, the country in love with all things robotic has taken a few massive leaps in providing assistance and support during the Covid crisis. Just be nice to the machines. We don't want them doing the whole T800 thing.

- Ehsanur Raza Ronny, Editor

TOGGLE

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TechBits



China is developing a GitHub alternative called Gitee

Tesla developing sensor to protect children left in a hot car



Google Maps adds street-level details in select cities

Scotland approves construction of their first spaceport



Netflix testing a 'Shuffle Play' button on their home screen



Don't become a Ponzi victim

SADMAN SAKIB PANTHO

Ponzi schemes and pyramid schemes are investment scams where naive individuals get tricked by false investors who promise them exceptionally tantalizing returns in exchange for their money. However, unlike a normal investment, this kind of schemes can offer constant profits just so long as the number of investors keeps increasing. Once that number dwindles, so does the money.

Ponzi vs Pyramid Scheme

In the case of Ponzi schemes, investors are lured in with promises of crazy returns. But when they actually gain their returns, they are paid from capital

derived from new investors because their money was never invested anywhere in the first place. On the other hand, in a pyramid scheme, people seeking to 'invest' are asked to recruit other investors who will, in turn, recruit other investors, and so on. From Ponzi schemes, fraudsters profit by either charging fees from investors or simply fleeing with the money. Pyramid schemes often appear to be legitimate businesses but here, the 'investors' are aware that they are gaining money by bringing in new investors into the scheme and hence, become a part of it as well.

The victims

More often than not, people who get duped into pyramid schemes are small-scale investors without basic knowledge of finance or investment. Sohrawardy Noor from PwC Bangladesh said, "Even in our stock market, very few investors go through the annual reports, industry reports or even the publicly available equity research reports. They instead rely more on the Facebook groups and posts with impossible deals without any logic."

Amidst the pandemic, a lot of small investors who have lost their jobs are relying on their savings. For valid reasons, they are worried about losing their investments' value and

getting into Ponzi schemes in desperate attempts.

How they lure you in

Illustrating how people are fooled, Sohrawardy shared what happened with some of his friends – "I remember when I was in class ten or so, some of my friends did not come to play one day. Later I knew that they are 'earning money online' and had registered as freelancers in a company called Dolancer. So you put in 100 dollars and then start earning by clicking advertisements and bringing more people for registrations. After 1 or 2 months, they sat to work and found that both the Dolancer site and the office were gone. They worked for months and couldn't even earn back their registration fees. Dolancer went away with crores, including my friends' savings."

In most cases, the deals from such scams are too good to be true. Rahma Mirza from EDGE Asset Management said, "Whether it's an e-commerce site with crazy deals or an investment opportunity, being part of a cautious group will always help to keep you grounded, no matter how tantalizing the offer is." In the context of the current pandemic, Sohrawardy Noor opined that policy interventions are a necessity to prevent such schemes during these volatile times.



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2020 Mitsubishi Xpander

RAHBAR AL HAQ

What is it

The Mitsubishi Xpander is a seven-seater multi-purpose vehicle built to carry around large families. Designed in Japan and produced in Indonesia, the car is best known for its polarizing front end.

Why does it look like that?

It's unique, that's for sure. In a world where every car looks like a badge-engineered version of another car, Mitsubishi managed to give the Xpander an unmistakable face. For one reason or another, the Three-Diamond Mark decided to swap the placement of the DRL and headlamps, giving the car an alien look. The 2020 facelift made some additional changes, adding a bigger badge and a slightly reworked front grille. Beauty is to the eyes of the beholder and the author is quite fond of the design, a view not shared by the rest of the Shift team.

What's it like on the inside?

Storage space. There's so much of it. It seems Mitsubishi has turned every flat surface on the car into a storage cubby of some kind. The dashboard alone contains eight different places for you to store your stuff, and that's excluding the large glove compartment. Every door card has a storage tray with an integrated water bottle holder, while the cavernous center console is topped up with a pencil tray. The theme continues elsewhere, with the passenger



seat featuring a shoe tray under the seat and three separate pouches in the back. Speaking of seats, they're made of cloth but branded seat covers are available as an option. The middle seats are adjustable, meaning adults seating in the cramped third row can have some actual legroom if the people at the front are willing to sacrifice some of their own. To alleviate some of the discomforts, there is a dedicated ac unit for the rear passengers and three 12-volt sockets are spread across the car for everyone's



charging needs. For hauling non-human goods, both second and third-row seats can be folded down, giving you a massive 1,608 liter of cargo space. Additional cargo room can also be found under the rear trunk liner, while the tools are hidden under a difficult-to-operate panel on the left D pillar. The rear storage comes at the cost of the spare tire, which has been relocated under the car. You need to undo two bolts in the trunk to access it.



How does it drive?

About what you'd expect, with a few surprises. Mitsubishi has taken great pride in designing the car's lightweight structure, the effect of which can be felt during driving. The car almost behaves like a subcompact sedan when driven reasonably, however, a spirited drive around a corner will quickly remind you of what it actually is. Visibility is great thanks to the extended A pillar, giving the

interior a very open and spacious feel. The 205 mm ground clearance gives the driver a commanding view of the road, as well as allowing the car to navigate most of Dhaka's road with ease. The sound deadening works rather well, with the engine only becoming audible when you floor it. One annoying issue about the driving position is the lack of a center armrest, leaving you no place to rest your left arm.

Verdict

If you are looking for a family wagon that stands out on the road but is conventional otherwise, this is for you. The Xpander blends the minivan practicality and bog-standard Japanese reliability with a front fascia that will make most people stop and think "what is that?" for a few seconds.

Specs

Engine: 1.5 litre 16-valve DOHC MIVEC 4 cylinder (103 HP, 104 lb-ft)
Transmission: CVT, FWD.
Safety: ABS, EBD, Active Stability Control, Dual SRS Airbags, rear parking camera
Features: LED Daytime Running Light, touchscreen infotainment, multi-function steering wheel, CD/USB/AM/FM/Bluetooth, keyless entry.

Photos: Akif Hamid

For details, contact Rangs Ltd.

Developers mad at giving up 30% of the Apple pie

SAIM AHMED SHIFAT

Over the last year, companies have been getting more vocal about their disagreement with the sales cuts Apple takes from its app store. App developers like Epic Games and the digital music service Spotify have recently challenged Apple, the most valuable company in the world, for the company's policy of taking a large cut of its app store sales.

The App Store is one of the most prominent centers for commerce. Last year, the platform led to half a trillion dollars in sales. And Apple still takes 30% of the sales on its platform from third-party developers. This cut has made way for tremendous growth for Apple in recent years. However, it has also caused some problems in the guise of antitrust scrutiny, dissatisfaction from app developers, and several lawsuits from consumers and business partners. These problems were further intensified when Epic Games recently sued both Apple and Google, accusing them of breaking antitrust laws and forcing app developers to pay 30% of the revenues generated.

Epic Games is the maker of Fortnite, arguably the most popular game in the world right now. The game has recently been removed from both the Apple and Google Store in response to the developers' encouraging direct payment through the app instead of the payment services of Apple and Google. This removed the payment processing fees that the app store owners could avail. After Apple had pulled Fortnite out of the App Store, Epic launched an in-game event inside Fortnite creating awareness among gamers and released an epic parody video titled "Nineteen Eighty-Fortnite" with the hashtag "#FreeFortnite" mocking Apple's "1984" commercial for the Mac.

Do the Companies Really Need a Third of App Store Sales?

Apple and Google together are worth more than \$3 trillion and they provide software to support a majority of the world's smartphones. This dominance has ensured higher bargaining power enabling high commissions consistently for the giants. A 30% cut seems illogical to the developers for payment processing and better security as credit card companies charge around 3% for similar services. This is a rising sentiment among the developers and regulators. Moreover, the tech giants do not have to resort to app store charges as their manufactured smartphones have become the only way for businesses to reach people. Unlike Apple, Google has much lower stakes in its Play Store as the store is a much smaller portion of its overall business. They have not impacted Epic Games the way Apple has. Android users can download apps from outside of the android app store. This leaves Epic with



numerous ways to reach consumers with android devices.

How are the Consumers Impacted?

One side-effect of this 30% sales cut is the increasing cost for consumers. The developers have to pass the added cost to consumers in order to survive and support the app store policy. Spotify, for instance, increased its monthly subscription back in 2014 from \$10 to \$13 to accommodate Apple's fee. Apple then took advantage of the situation by introducing its own music streaming service at \$10. Now, Spotify subscription in a website is a must however, they can not mention that in the Spotify iPhone app. Besides developers, consumers also spoke up against Apple in 2019 and filed a huge class-action lawsuit that accused Apple of breaking antitrust

laws while enforcing the commission and inflated app prices for iPhone users.

On August 7, Facebook joined the talks and complained against Apple's collecting of 30% of sales in live events where people and small businesses share seminars, talk about fitness and take cooking classes through the Facebook app. Facebook wanted to process the payments by themselves so that all of the generated revenues could go directly to the small businesses that generated the contents. However, Apple declined to do so. When asked about the problems and disagreements, Apple's CEO Tim Cook defended the company in front of Congress mentioning a better situation prevailing for developers than the past, when 50-70% of the retail price used to go to the middlemen.

The Way Forward

Apple generates more sales through its App Store although Android is much more widely used as an operating system. Epic, for example, generated around \$43 million through Apple's App Store whereas it earned only a little more than \$3 million in sales from Google Play. (CNBC, Sensor Tower) So, Apple remains the most crucial option for developers as far as making money is concerned. However, the rules and policies have to change to establish a much better ecosystem for the developers and final consumers. With recent disagreements piling up and spilling out into the public forums, Apple might have to concede to ease the tensions and shift the momentum in their favor.

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Cutting ties with a giant: Viber CEO on Facebook relations and #StopHateForProfit

SHAER REAZ
TRANSCRIBED BY RAHBAR AL HAQ

Since the United States erupted in a spate of protests against systemic racism and racial violence last May, a slew of companies have banded together and boycotted business ties with Facebook. With over 1100 companies joining in an attempt to deny Facebook ad revenue – companies like Honda of North America, CocaCola, CVS Health and more – the movement has tried to press home the message that Facebook as a platform and as a company needs to do more to curb the spread of hate speech. While their pullout has barely registered a dent in the social media giant's revenues, it shows a growing dissatisfaction with the way tech companies handle our increasingly digital social interactions and public discourses. To elaborate, Toggle reached out to another tech company that claims to do things a little differently. This week, Rakuten Viber CEO Djamel Agaoua answered our questions about the messaging platform cutting business ties with Facebook.

What led to Viber cutting ties with Facebook? What are main reasons behind this decision?

We basically reached the point where Facebook policy and values were not compatible with Viber. It is in light of the fact the CEO and founder of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg said at a point that Facebook is not the arbiter of truth, and any kind of public speech -- even violent or sometimes racist -- could be posted on Facebook and they didn't have any role in moderating them. Since the killing of George Floyd in the US, lot of public discussions were seen on Facebook, some of which were extremely violent and racist. All social networking platforms made the decision to moderate this kind of content. Facebook has a different policy -- they consider everybody to be free to post anything on their platform.

At Viber we have a vision that our social responsibilities include blocking content that can be too violent or too racist because it hurts people. We understand "Freedom of Expression" and we try to respect this principle, but there are some limits, especially when rhetoric is too violent and too hurtful for other people. At Viber we are a very diverse company - all colours and religions are represented in our employee base and they were hurt Facebook's decision. So we came to the point where we could not maintain any business relationship with Facebook and this is the decision we made about six weeks ago.

Could you give us specifics of the move taken by Viber?

There are three consequences to this decision. The first one is to remove Facebook Connect from Viber, meaning users that used Facebook credentials to

connect to Viber cannot do it anymore. The latest version of Viber on Android and IOS are now without Facebook Connect. We have decided to stop all advertising expenses on Facebook platforms indefinitely. The third one is related to Giphy, which Facebook acquired few months ago. We have decided to remove Giphy as a GIF content platform for Viber users and to replace it with other partners.

Considering Facebook's products and platforms like Messenger and WhatsApp have their fair share of users worldwide, how would you respond to any critic who might say Viber's support of #StopHateForProfit is also commercially motivated?

Well, obviously anything we say or do related to Facebook could be interpreted

chats on Viber, and this is not related to competition.

Facebook has been known to cooperate with governments on occasion – does Viber have a policy of assisting government agencies when it comes to users being charged criminally? Does that policy change from one country to the other?

We respect the legislation, the rules & laws of all the countries we operate in. We of course comply with all those regulations, because we are a public company and this is what we have to do. One thing that needs to be clear is the fact that every exchange on Viber platforms are private exchanges -- chats and calls are protected by end to end encryption, which means that not even Viber staff can access the contents of a chat or call. So when we are required by authorities in the framework

which is very important – the difference between private discussion and public discussions. At Viber we consider private discussions are purely private and they must be secured, safe and respected. They cannot be accessed by anyone, they cannot be analysed for any purpose, not even commercial purposes.

When we talk about public discussions, in Viber we have some communities that are unlimited groups (with) unlimited number of participants, which are done for public speeches/public discussions between people and communities of people or celebrities, politicians, brands etc. In those kinds of context, we consider any violent rhetoric, aggressive rhetoric, terrorist rhetoric or anything that could be targeting adults and are not appropriate for children in general, cannot stay on Viber. So we invest a lot of money and resources to analyse these content automatically, through artificial intelligence, and manually, through human beings, to check the content and either flag it or ban it. In some cases we had to ban entire communities of people because they were not respecting our policies. It is a never-ending effort that we need to do, because it's our role. We think we are part of society where we also have a role to protect the people that are using our platforms.

On another note, Viber has a sizeable user-base in Bangladesh and the app caters to the local market specifically, with last year's rollout of a full Bangla UI. Does Viber have any new features in the works for users in Bangladesh?

We really think that Viber must be seen and perceived as a second home. And when you think about your home, it's a place where you speak the language, where you like the colours, where you find people that you know and content that you like. We work hard to make sure that some countries — important ones, and Bangladesh is one of them— have access to features where users are able to localise, customise, personalise the Viber experience to the culture, to the country, to the colours of the country to the content expected for the country. This is why we have decided to add a new language option last year for Bangladesh.

We will do more by adding local content providers, for instance news providers are coming soon. We are working on a payment solution with a local partner to send money to each other. In the future in Bangladesh, just like in other countries, we will provide for brands and some local services the ability to create and deliver services within Viber. We are looking at chatbots, so that banks and telecom services or insurance or an E-commerce company can provide their services through Viber.



this way but we used to work with Facebook on these topics and despite the fact we are competing. We have a long history at Viber of taking very clear positions around these topics. When the US administration decided to impose travel bans for seven weeks on a list of countries, we immediately decided to make all calls from US to those countries —and vice versa— free, because there were people stuck in airports who couldn't get in or get out and couldn't reach their families. This is just one example among many that shows Viber's values are not tactical moves that we make upon considering the situation. For the last ten years, we have shown our attachment to those values, our attachment to diversity, our attachment to privacy and security of the

of legal operations, such as a subpoena from legal court of justice, we deliver information we can deliver within the limits of our architecture -- the content of chats are not something we have access to. Respecting the rules and laws of the countries where you operate is obviously something that we have to do -- there are a couple of countries in the world where the rule of law does not allow Viber to operate, and we have decided not to operate in those countries.

How would you personally define free-speech? As a messaging platform, how does Viber approach censorship and self-expression, or strike a balance between the two?

It's a very important question and very difficult one to answer. There is one aspect



Rise of the robots in pandemic Japan

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Japan has a long fascination for evaluating the potential of robots or their features. The pandemic has increased the demand for robots more than ever before in Japan as robots can be contactless alternatives for assisting COVID-19 patients, delivering essentials, disinfecting places, and even for replacing students in graduation ceremonies. Take a look at these Japanese startups coming with new robotic features to fight the COVID-19 war.



Helping frontline workers

Japan has started using hotels to house COVID-19 patients whose symptoms are too mild to get hospitalized, but it can be dangerous if people become careless. To lighten the burden on the medical staff, Softbank's Pepper robots have been deployed in the hotels rented by the government. Pepper, the famous humanoid robot, is now all ready to help frontline

workers wearing a white surgical mask. It greets and reminds the patients who are kept in isolation to check the temperature on time and delivers recorded warm messages for the patients who are mentally devastated due to the situation. Meanwhile, Whiz, a cleaning robot, is on a mission to reduce infection risks by cleaning the risky areas for non-COVID-19 people, trying to ensure a safe environment. The robots are minimising the chance of getting exposed to coronavirus for the medical workers. They can now use their potential in more complex cases.

Graduation ceremony amid a pandemic

Can coronavirus put a halt to a graduation ceremony, considered to be the most important event for every student? Yes,

but no. Students of Business Breakthrough (BBT) University found a unique way to attend their graduation ceremony without violating the lockdown. The 'Newme' robots by ANA Holdings wearing graduation caps and gowns with tablets on their faces replaced the students in BBT's graduation ceremony this year. Students showed their faces on the tablets using Zoom and controlled the robots via their laptops. They were able to receive their certificates in a public place and have their graduation pictures while practising social distancing through these avatar robots.

The human contactless disinfection process

An unprecedented population decline has boosted robot development in Japan. Mira Robotics developed 'Ugo' to reinforce the shrinking labour force. But due to the persisting COVID-19 threat, it has come up with a new feature that is a hand attachment. It uses UV rays to kill viruses on doorknobs. Ugo can also do the cleaning of the unpleasant and infectious places such as toilets and rooms used by COVID-19 patients'.

The surfaces of public places are more likely to be responsible to spread communicable diseases and viruses. So what about creating a high-tech railway station with cleaning robots to minimise human contact diseases? This is what East Japan Railway Co. is planning to do. They are on the way to appoint the cleaning robots, developed by Nippon Signal Co. and Cyberdyne Inc. to disinfect the

station surfaces, for example, benches and handrails without the assistance of human staff. 'Clinabo CL02', the autonomous cleaning robot has three-dimensional cameras and sensors to complete this cleaning job. The robots were on a trial run and they have proved their expertise in cleaning life-threatening viruses. However, it may take some time to develop these robots. The company has no plan to introduce the robots until March 2025.

Delivery services by self-driving robots

ZMP Inc. is all ready to start a trial run of the DeliRo autonomous robot to deliver food near the Shinagawa train station. The urge to have contactless delivery services has led to ZMP and other autonomous robot firms to explore this independent robotic feature. Customers will need to place the order using a tablet, make a cashless payment, and the robot will deliver the food within a designated test area for now. DeliRo with its 1-meter height can carry 50 kilograms payloads and uses its advanced self-driving technology for the home delivery service. This autonomous robot can travel a maximum 6 kilometres per hour. The firms collaborating with the government are trying to create a safe traffic framework for these autonomous robots as the existing legal framework does not have proper instructions for these self-driving robots. People are already excited to try the human contactless delivery service that can ensure social distancing and reduce the pressure on the declining labour force.

What makes The Prisoner of Azkaban best in the movie franchise?

NAHALY NAFISA KHAN

We were supposed to have a Harry Potter-themed issue for this week, honouring the Hogwarts Express arrival day on September 1. When that didn't happen, I was persistent enough to have the last page for some "moderate" amount of fangirling for my most favourite Harry Potter film ever. The bossman had to give in.

There are many reasons why I would choose "Prisoner of Azkaban" as my favourite Harry Potter Book (If I absolutely have to, that is). Apart from the emotions involved with the marauders' backstory, the book takes a matured step towards the rest of the series. It changes the tone of the series by shifting from the bedtime story vibe of the first two books to a more serious one, making the readers grow with the story as well. "He-who-must-not-named" has no presence in this story whatsoever, yet the story deals with the crises of betrayal and revelation.

But the most interesting theme that this book is centred around has to be the change that comes along as the main characters start to enter adolescence. And this central theme is brilliantly portrayed in the movie adaptation. Today we talk about what an extraordinary piece of cinematic brilliance "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" is.

The art of adaptation

Director Alfonso Cuarón is the maker of many internationally acclaimed films, including "A Little Princess", "Y Tu Mama Tambien", "Children of Men", "Gravity" and the very recent "Roma". But what is the one thing that he did with Prisoner of Azkaban? He made it stand out on its own among the other movies of the series. How? By taking up his own aesthetic approach in dealing with the



story. The film doesn't follow everything that is in the book, and while it often gets uncomfortable for the readers to not have everything according to the book, that really isn't the case with this one. Cuarón and his co-writer Steve Kloves ensure that very well. And with that, Cuarón draws a fine distinction between the language of a literary work and that of a film.

Setting the tone: Visuals, colour palettes and music

The film successfully captures the essence of the book, that is the focal theme of change associated with the characters entering adolescence and a darker reality of what awaits them in the future. Cuarón introduces a darker colour palette in this film, drawing a stark contrast between the previous two films directed by Chris Columbus with the mainstream and traditional bright toning. The visuals become grim from cheerful, representing

the dark energy associated with the presence of the dementors around.

Cuarón also plays a bit with the geography of Hogwarts, making it more humane and connecting the audiences more with the wizarding universe. The special effects depicting the magical creatures (For example the absolutely gorgeous Hippogriff) fit well with this setting as well. He switched up the visuals to fit well with the narrative without giving much away from the story, and that surely set a precedence for the next films of the franchise. John William's music fits beautifully with the narrative. The background score titled "A window to the past" gives me all the marauders' feels till this day.

Breaking the template: Newer techniques

Cuarón breaks the template followed by the first two films, introducing new

techniques previously unseen in the franchise. He uses his signature "Long takes with no cuts" creating an element of suspense in multiple sequences and then drops the focus on one particular aspect to stress on the gravity of the moment. The most significant examples of these have to be the scenes where Lupin bonds with Harry, the leaky cauldron scene and the great hall scene that includes Dumbledore and Snape. The transitions are beautifully done, intertwining suspense with comic relief.

Another aspect of the technical expertise that Cuarón shows in the film is the point-of-view shots that make you feel closer to Harry Potter as the central character of the story. The camera keeps moving with Harry, which creates a sense of unease and tension. He is also shown isolated from his best friends on multiple occasions, indicating how the future is going to be for Harry.

Time travel: Tricky business

Time travel is a difficult concept to pull off convincingly in any story, and most of the time is associated with sci-fi stories. Cuarón somehow managed to add a fresh and unique feeling the time travel bit. The presence of the giant clock throughout the film cleverly keeps indicating towards this subplot without overshadowing the story of Azkaban, and yet it is endlessly compelling no matter how many times you've seen the film.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban remains my favourite film of the franchise even after all these years. Why? Because "Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times when one only remembers to turn on the light", and this film surely makes me remember to turn on the light. Every time.

us on f /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

স্যান্ডালিনা
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

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