

The Monthly Newsmagazine for Women

September 1988, Price Rs. 20.00

SHIL

SHIL
MAN



***Giving Literature
it's Due –
Begum Saqiba
Rahimuddin***

***Faizaan Peerzada
The artist,
the puppeteer,
the man***

***Fashion Focus
Spectacular –
Bringing you a
hot update with
the latest styles***



SHE

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SEPTEMBER 1988 VOL. V. NO. 11 REGD. M-30



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SHE

BRIEFING

We Mourn Zia

We mourn with the nation the death of President General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq and share the grief of the bereaved family

It is always in times of tragedy and major crisis that our national feelings are the strongest. The nation in its short history has faced many grave situations and is once again standing at a crucial juncture. The illfated crash of the Lockheed C-130 which took the life of President General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq and its other prestigious passengers shocked not only the nation but the world at large. Grief has been the foremost emotion in the heart of every citizen. SHE too mourns with the nation and shares the sorrows of the bereaved family at the death of President Zia-ul-Haq especially the manner of it. It is a time of mourning but also a time when we as a nation have to practice the Quaid's motto of unity, faith and discipline as never before.

We at SHE regret the publication of certain short stories which appeared in our recent issues and which may have offended some of our readers. This month we have endeavoured to bring out our SHE Man Supplement. How successful we have been is for you to decide. Our Man of Substance is young, versatile and definitely at the helm of the art scene. The Innovators from Lahore highlight the potential and success of our men of tomorrow. Looking and feeling good is also important to every man these days. Body Sculpting tells you how you can attain the elusive. Also, finally literature is being given its due in the country and its patron is Begum Saqiba Rahimuddin who is the guiding force behind Qalam Qabila and our Woman of Substance for the month. Yet another thought provoking article is on the International Islamic University, whose aim is to provide an Islamic vision for those engaged in education.

Fashions this month swerve from the traditional to the very trendy. Fashion Focus highlights the ups and downs of the everchanging hem line and all that's very new. Being in tune with fashions is no longer a strictly woman's affair. Men today are just as fashion conscious as the women. For the modern man we have some exclusive fashions. Man About Town Shirt Tales keep you up to date with all that's new and trendy.

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NEWSMONTH

DESPATCHES, VIEWS, LIVE ISSUES, SCOOPS

ISSUES

Violence To Be Condemned

The sabotage of the President's plane shows the increasing violence in politics. It was only a few days before that the head of Tehrik Nifaz-e-Fiqah Jafria was killed in Peshawar and the late President had attended his Namaz-e-Janaza not knowing that violence which was knocking on the doors of political and religious leaders was soon going to claim his own life. No one knows from which quarter did the blow come from, but one thing is for sure, the blow was delivered by those who defeated in every tussle and outmanoeuvred in every arena were living out their lives in frustration. The killing of Zia ul Haq was an admission of defeat by his killers. Unable to defeat him by their intelligence they took refuge behind the age old barbaric ritual of removing opponents by force. For Zia ul Haq his death was a negation of everything that he stood for. Sudden, brutal and swift actions were never his style. He was a man who favoured status quo and who was known to indulge in long and sometimes never ending discussions on national issues. The Kalabagh dam, partyless elections and

many more issues were debated for years but a final decision though seemingly

cuss anything with any one and at times even agree to other's viewpoint without lift-



always around the corner was never reached. For Zia ul Haq the best way to deal with his opponents was to engage them in discussions. He was ready to dis-

ing a finger to put it into action. While the opponents discussed Zia ul Haq ruled. That was his style. Such sudden death to such a non violent man is all the more to

be condemned. I am sure all his genuine opponents would have been happier to see him defeated in the political field. Someone amongst them was not ready to take the risk. Zia ul Haq was known to favour Islamic laws that the educated women of the country thought violated their basic rights. The Shariat Ordinance opened the doors for the annulment of Hudood Ordinance giving men the right to have four wives without seeking consent from either. There were other points on which these women took out processions and voiced their protest against what they called the suppression of women's rights during his rule. These ladies now seem confident that their voice will be heard in the corridors of power and they will achieve their dream of equality with men. In the male dominated society of Pakistan the realisation of this dream will be an uphill task with or without Zia ul Haq. However with the passing away of Zia ul Haq it is thought that the end of a conservative middle class religious philosophy which dominated politics during his eleven years of rule, is here.

ZIA UL ISLAM ZUBERI

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course was taken up by child Psychology lectures which began with the conception of a child and worked through to his or her behaviour in the class. The emphasis was that 'its the parents that need to be corrected more often than the kids'. The teachers agreed heartily.

Every afternoon heated discussions went on about how our Principal deals with a parent or how we deal with our Principals. Some of the trainees were old hands at teaching and wanted new ideas. A couple of them were fresh out of College looking for a vocation and some of them had been recently inducted into this pro-

fession and were finding it very difficult to handle little kids.

This final day was the day of presentations in pairs. Some of the items presented were highly creative and very well thought up. Others were funny but informative. A simple certificate giving ceremony marked the end of the course with the usual promises to keep in touch and lets have another course soon demands.

It had been a rewarding two weeks for those 25 young girls and also for their instructors who found them eager to learn and understand.

As one trainee put it, 'now, the next time I say' why



aren't you listening Saadia, what is the matter with you?

I will know what the matter is with her!!

A National Workshop on Women's Studies

Pressures of space prevented us from printing this piece earlier

A 5-day workshop concluded in Lahore talked about "introducing women's studies in Pakistani curricula". It had been organised by AURAT. This workshop drew participants from Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and experts from India.

Aurat is a NGO set up as an information and advisory service for women. It is attempting to develop alternative channels of information dissemination so as to encourage and promote a more humane environment for the participation of women in society. It has organised other workshops, carried out various researches and has published pamphlets, etc. This workshop was perhaps novel in its choice of the theme about trying to find a way of including women's studies in the Pakistani curricula.

The workshop began with discussions and sharing of ideas about women's studies and answering the question "Why women's studies?" A pertinent query as some participants were of the opinion that any issue on or about women is a non-issue altogether. Issues such as democracy, human rights, universal education are far more important and need more immediate priority.

Vina Mazumdar from India introduced the topic "Why women's studies", in which she briefly talked about women's contribution historically. She stated how centuries ago in agriculture,

pottery and textiles women were the pioneers in learning these skills in the sub-continent. She also stated how such myths as women are responsible for the sex of the child and the population explosion were baseless. In her opinion on a woman is protective and tender by nature and thus she is more concerned about the ecological threats of one's environment, about growing violence and break down of values in our society, about alienation and isolation of the family system. Last but not the least, she emphasized how a woman continues the cycle of life and thus women's studies are and must form a part of our educational curriculum. The whole purpose of women's studies was to raise the image of women and to make them aware of how to make their presence felt.

A discussion the following day was based on the analysis of school level text books, and the portrayal of women in the media such as advertising. It was pointed out how female models in advertisements were used for vulgar double meanings. Visuals showed women with wind blown hair selling air conditioners, stroking a man's cheek after he uses a certain shaving cream, a woman in a luxurious bedroom talks about paint, half veiled beautiful faces talk about bathroom tiles, etc. All in all the image of a woman as portrayed in our advertisements is based on

selling herself first and the product later.

Regarding text books it was discussed how the "Macho" role for men and boys is em-

phasized. Girls are shown as emotional, docile and sensitive. Dr. Indira Kulshreshtha read out some excerpts from a report published in India where certain recommendations had been made regarding women's studies. The report mentioned organising orientation programmes for women teachers and administrators regarding the status of women. Special courses have been designed which handle problems related to women and are being indoctrinated into the syllabi at various levels. Women's studies issue is 12 years old in India and today a lot of emphasis is being laid on teaching this subject. Dr. Surinder Jetley from Benares mentioned two reasons for this. Firstly, in her opinion, a lot of fuss, both verbal and in the media can be created about such issues. Women take out processions, make speeches and so after a lot of hullabaloo, women's studies was given some protection. Secondly she stated that important male politicians have supported them and a lot of pressure has been brought on the government of India. But of course, the attitudes of all men must change first and only then can such issues be made public.

From a further analysis of

present text books the following points emerged.

First any matter that is prejudicial or against women should be eliminated.

Secondly, more matter should be included which promoted harmony between the genders. Thematically the contents should be examined to balance, both male and female roles. Linguistically all utterances and figures which were derogatory to women should be removed. Care should be taken to select words and phrases which were not prejudiced against women. Through media, consciousness of women should be raised. Teacher's training materials should incorporate all these principles and teachers should be made aware of their role in promoting women's studies.

Further suggestions discussed were that a committee be formed that would write out some of these changes discussed and present them to the National Curriculum Body meeting in August which would review all text books. A brief of the workshop should be prepared and circulated to all extension centres in Pakistan to reach teachers everywhere.

The main objective of the exercise as one participant put it is "not to over do anything or demand a confrontation with men. We must proceed slowly, with caution, but be very clear of our goals that we want to achieve."



Is the biggest problem about the sexes working together simply a matter of curtailing smoking and swearing? Or are there serious problems like mental disparities. Read on, and discover the truth

Women Engineers

Women and screwdrivers are not usually found together. Particularly in Pakistan. But Pakistan Television, Lahore, has 16 real live women engineers who are qualified to do wiring, open up a TV or a radio AND put it back together in working order; they mix sound and vision; they edit, record and dub; they make sure that all the machines that produce the picture on your TV screen are doing the right thing at the right time. And of course, they can mend their own iron at home.

Cool, confident and professional Ms. SS, tiny, energetic and intense Ms. SK, and gentle, open and pretty Ms. ZS are definitely not women trying to be men. Yet with diplomas in Radio, TV and Electronics they work in a field which not just here, but all over the world is strongly dominated by men. To find out how it feels to break into this male domain and what problems they face as working women, 'SHE' spoke to three of PTVs women engineers, all acknowledged to be very good at their job. And just so the boys don't complain we are being unfair, 'SHE' also questioned some of their male colleagues along with their supervisor. The final word went to the Head of the Engineering Department.

From all their comments, it looks as if the basic problem is not whether women are as capable as men in this profession, but whether society (inside and outside the workplace) will ALLOW women to show their equal abilities. To put it another way: does giving women preference in certain issues mean discrimination against men? Or does it mean simply recognising the problems facing working women in our far from perfect society?

Question: What's the biggest problem about men and women working together?

Answer: Smoking and swearing.

Ms. SS "Oooof Allaaaaa-H! But you can't ask them to stop. And sometimes their language...although they really do try to control themselves. Lots of people say 'the atmosphere has gotten much better since you people came. 'But sometimes an abuse slips out and although they are a bit embarrassed, it's the poor women who get most embarrassed!'"

Mr. L "The biggest problem is that if a girl is sitting there, we can't talk freely -- after all one's got to chat a bit while one works...."

Mr. R "The producers can't swear as much now"

Ms. ZS "Many times producers have been affected -- they can't tell the actors exactly how they feel!"

QUESTION: Now seriously, what's the biggest problem about men and women working together?

Answer: The women think the men are given preference.

The men think the women are given preference.

Ms. SS "Duty hours are very long and there's no preference given to the girls that they don't have to do night duty. In the first couple of years they didn't give us night duty, but then the boys started complaining. Now that we're so many girls and there must be many poor boys who have some work to do in the evening, it's only fair we should share late duties. Now the boys think Well, they work with us and there's no difference, why should we give them any preference?"

Mr. P "There is a problem if you unexpectedly have to keep someone back if the work is taking longer. When the whole team's delayed then the women are too, but if just one engineer has to stay, then it's difficult to hold back the girls."



they got a whole batch of us girls together to send. I was again offered to go for training because of my excellent work, but I requested that they at least send one other girl with me. They've still not taken a decision"

Head "If you want to advance, you have to go for training and then you'll get more promotions. But the girls said 'Where will we sit? How can we stay alone?' They are missing opportunities."

Super "As it is throughout the country, if a girl helps us as a working woman that's all right. But when for example, I get a 90 minute tape, I can say to the guys 'pick it up'. But with the women I have to think twice. How will she lift this or that? Then there is discrimination in transfers and the boys say 'why don't they get transferred?'"

QUESTION: Are women technically as capable as men?

ANSWER: *The debate continues.*

Head "As yet, there are not any women who are definite-

Of Course !

CASSANDRA
BALCHIN

Super "Duties are a problem, especially the Friday morning 4 am shift (no wonder -- ed.) The guys have no transport problem."

Mr. L "Transport is provided to the girls if they are on late duty and live far away. But if a boy were to demand this, there'd be no question of it. . . They get preference in many things: they're dropped off first (by the PTV vans), given more holidays . . ."

Super "If a girl makes a mistake, we say 'It doesn't matter', but if a boy makes a mistake, we shout at him. Even other people around object if you shout at a girl".

Ms. SS "Anyone can make mistakes. The girls don't make more than the boys. In fact, the girls are more careful. A woman is more careful in all work."

Ms. ZS "It's never happened that if a girl makes a mistake they feel sorry for her and don't scold her . . . A lot of times they don't help us and may be because we're stuck up with so many other problems we feel they are actually CREATING problems for us rather than helping us."

Mr. L "There's a mahaal ka masla. Some girls refuse to work with one or another producer. But if you look at them as an employee, you shouldn't refuse. But morally we say if they don't want to, if they don't have an understanding with a particular producer, we don't force them. We say Okay, I'll do it instead of her!"

Ms. ZS "There is discrimination in specialist training. I wanted to advance my skills. But when there was a course on something I was very interested in, I got left behind because I was a woman. They didn't allow me to go because they said there would only be men coming from all the other stations."

Ms. SS "The problem is that society and our families are such that it is difficult for us to go abroad for training. I have been to Islamabad for a course, but only when-

ly better than the boys. BUT the idea was that girls are better in operation. Running the machines rather than fixing them, both of which jobs come under engineering -- ed.) Whatever operational work you give them, it's first class. As yet in maintenance"

Ms. SS "We must have done something right because in the beginning they only took four girls and put them on a five-month probationary period. We were real guinea pigs. But they not only kept us, they took on more girls! In the beginning perhaps they thought girls can't do all types of work. But now they've found out that really we can do everything."

Ms. ZS "In the beginning they never trusted us and they'd always stand on our heads -- because all of this work is very sensitive to mistakes. Now they trust us and see that we have not wasted their time. They should give us women more challenging work."

Ms. SK "Men feel women cannot work like they do. We feel we can. I was promoted after being here 2 1/2 - 3 years and there are some people who haven't been promoted after even 10 years. But when we have proved it, why don't they accept it! They still regard us as a risk."

Ms. ZS "In operational work we are considered all-rounders. I think they're happy with us -- that's why we've been promoted!"

Mr. P "The promotion they received was based on reality...."

Head "They should take more interest in maintenance."

Ms. ZS "In maintenance we women have not been given full opportunities Boys perhaps have more opportunities for practice and experience outside the station -- they mend people's TVs, work at a friend's or their own shop. The investment needed, social conditions and household responsibilities mean girls can't do that. Their families are obviously going to feel 'What's this? She

goes to the office and then when she gets home she's again off with a screwdriver!"

Mr. L "Only ten percent work on the side and even the 90% who don't are technically better than the girls. On the technical side boys' brains work better, not only in electronics, but in every technical field."

Ms. SK "As for maintenance, if they attach us to an Ustad and guide us, we will also learn."

Mr. P "Whatever work you give them, they do it. Who knows about the work they're not given!"

QUESTION: Who do the bosses prefer?

ANSWER: *Whoever they can get more work out of.*

Ms. SS "The major difference is that the girls are always to be found in their places, but the boys go off to get cigarettes and so on. . . ."

Head "In fact now the men have become easier to find!"
Mr. R "Some of the girls are not as intelligent as the others and lack confidence and are bound to make mistakes. If there is a tough bit of work, they sit back. The few who can work, REALLY work."

Mr. L "Engineering work needs lots of running around and the girls can't do that. There's lots of little odd jobs -- change the light bulb, fix this or fix that, carry this tape. The girls want to stick to one section and one task."

Super "Girls quieter? No! Some are noisy, do politics . . . they do have more problems."

Head "If you do get stern, they start crying. Then what do you say to them! It's the little, little problems like this which matter more. Secondly, when they get married it's a problem -- holidays, holidays, then maternity leave, then the children's problems begin, they want morning duty, they want evening duty . . . For the boys there's none of this. None are willing to do night duty. But I say to them 'TV works at night . . .'. They should have known they'd have to work in the evenings. No, there's not been much improvement since they came in 1980. Some have definitely improved, but they still cry a lot and are always asking for holidays. There's no discipline problem; though, some do answer back!"

QUESTION: Does the Head of Department ever think of saying to one of the women engineers 'Go and sit at home -- your place is not here . . .'?"

ANSWER: *Yes, he has thought of it but never SAID it.*

QUESTION: How on earth did they get into this field in the first place?

ANSWER: *Girls like science too, you know.*

Ms. SS "After my F.Sc., I knew I wanted to do further studies. Then I read in the newspaper there was to be a course in electronics for girls and I felt it would be useful because in the house there's lots of little things which electrical knowledge would help me with. I thought, 'Maybe if I learn it myself, things will be easier. My family wanted me to do medicine, but I'm too afraid of blood. Everyone said 'You do a B.A.' but everyone at home did science and I felt why should I get left behind! In the beginning we were a little afraid when we had to open up TVs because of the high voltage. Of course we all got little shocks here and there, but the rest was so enjoyable and interesting -- it was something new. I don't think I

How did family and friends react? Once you start mending people's TVs, they stop asking silly questions.



intended to work. Then the Principal of our diploma college suggested I join as an instructor, but I wasn't that keen on teaching. One of our teachers worked at PTV, we had seen the office and met the people there, so I applied for a job."

Ms. SK "I did my Matric in Science but I didn't get enough marks to do medicine. Then I started going to F.A. classes but didn't understand a word of it all and left halfway. Then my brother read about the Lytton Road Polytechnic and I joined there. But one learns more and more quickly from practical experience."

Ms. ZS "By chance I read about the new course in the newspaper. I had done my F.A. but I think because we were the first batch there were no problems in my switching. Otherwise I would have done my graduation. At home my sister was doing a B.Sc. and she helped me a lot so it wasn't so difficult for me."

QUESTION: How did family and friends react?

ANSWER: *Once you start mending people's TVs, they stop asking silly questions.*

Ms. SS "My mother was so against it. 'What's this? You're going to start wiring people's houses?' But now they're happy about it. At least I can now mend the iron myself and after getting my diploma, the TVs not been touched by anyone else for repairs! When I said I was going to work at PTV, everyone said 'With Gents?' I mean girls do usually go into teaching . . . but one of my teachers was a tenant of my uncle and he was able to calm everyone down.

"I went to stay with my brother in Karachi. His TV was dreadful and when he got it repaired, the colours came out very dull. When I complained to him, he said 'For God's sake, don't touch it. You'll make it even worse!' Then he went out and I asked my nephew for a screwdriver and thank God it came out really well!"

Ms. ZS "My family didn't at all think badly of the idea. It's something new, they said, and liked the idea."

QUESTION: And what about husbands?

Ms. SK "My husband says 'Leave, leave!', He's not happy because the pirs have forbidden him to let me work. First the pirs were happy; they thought I'd give them something. My husband gives all his pay to them. Their children are growing up on my husband's pay whereas no one is thinking about me and my kids. If I give a share to them and my husband also gives, where will my kids be?"

Ms. SS "Oh No, I'd NEVER marry one of the PTV boys! I'll have to look after the house and this and that. Now I think, I'm having such a good time -- I've seen others and realise we're enjoying ourselves!"

How do engineering and mothering mix?

It's a matter of split second timing

Ms. ZS "These days everybody is trying that both husband and wife should work so as to make ends meet. It would be easier to marry a PTV boy because then the whole problem of our strange duty hours would not be difficult for him to understand or for in-laws to understand."

QUESTION: How do engineering and mothering mix?
ANSWER *It's a matter of split second timing.*

Ms. SK "I worked at PTV Islamabad for one and a half years. I just had one child then. It was very easy. The house was just round the corner and between 1 and 2 pm I would dash home, fix lunch, rush back in time for the Asian newsfeed. If I was a second late because of the kid, a colleague would tape it for me. But in Lahore I live miles away. There's always somebody to look after them because we live with my parents. But for my baby girl (7 months old) it's a big problem. I did get three months maternity leave though."

QUESTION: How did it feel to be one of PTV's first women engineers?
ANSWER: *Strangel*

"In the beginning it felt so strange to sit with so many men. They were forever standing up for us! But later one got used to it. There is a difference between men and women, but they now treat us like colleagues."

Ms. ZS "Initially, it felt like they were not very pleased that we'd come and they felt rather restricted. But some people encouraged us. At first we were really unhappy, but slowly we consolidated our position and learnt our work. We tried to learn everything so that they couldn't say the girls don't know anything!"

QUESTION: What's it like to work at PTV?
ANSWER: *You take the rough with the smooth.*

Ms. SS "There's such a rush and such a crowd, loads of machines, we're all working on different machines -- you're afraid sometimes that the whole thing is going to fall on top of you. Then we women don't have anywhere to pray -- we have to find a place behind the machines! We should have some sort of room for ourselves. There's a one-hour break but we say that it would be better if they didn't give us this break -- we'd get to go home quicker because there's no place for us to relax. There are now sixteen of us. But all the facilities and allowances are good."

Ms. SK "The equipment here's good -- it's almost all imported. We get on well with our colleagues. "To tell the truth, the salary's good for our level of education and otherwise, it's a good, decent place to work. The worst thing is when people's behaviour is bad. Then you really get disheartened and think 'Why on earth are we here?' You always have to work on holidays. Families do complain and ask 'What sort of a job is this that even on holidays you have to work!' My sister was getting married and I was unable to really participate."

QUESTION: Do PTV's women engineers relax by watching TV at home?
ANSWER: *Not on your life!*

Ms. SS "I used to be a real TV fan. Now I can't bear to watch TV. I only watch a programme to see if I've made some mistakes. If anyone puts on the TV, I beg them to turn it down! There's not much time left at the end of the day. I usually play with my nephew or read some electronics book."

Ms. SS "I'm so fed up with TV by the time I get home that that I can't even LOOK at it. And then there's housework to be done "

QUESTION: What is your advice to girls who want to become PTV engineers?
ANSWER: *Go for it!*

Ms. SK "Whatever a girl's background -- poor or rich -- she MUST have a skill. You never know what's going to happen in life as I found out."

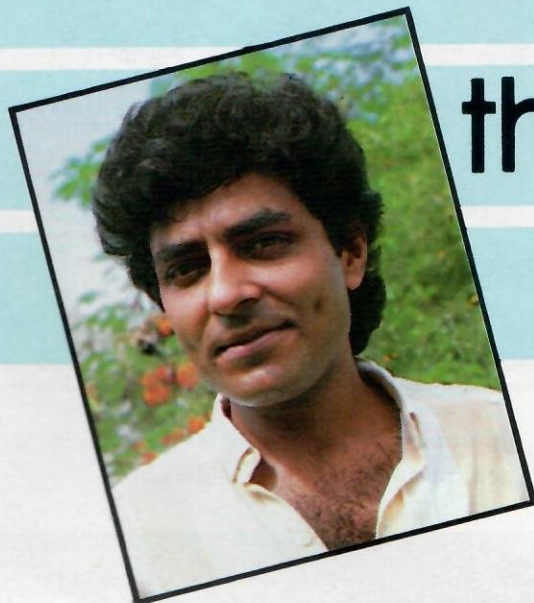
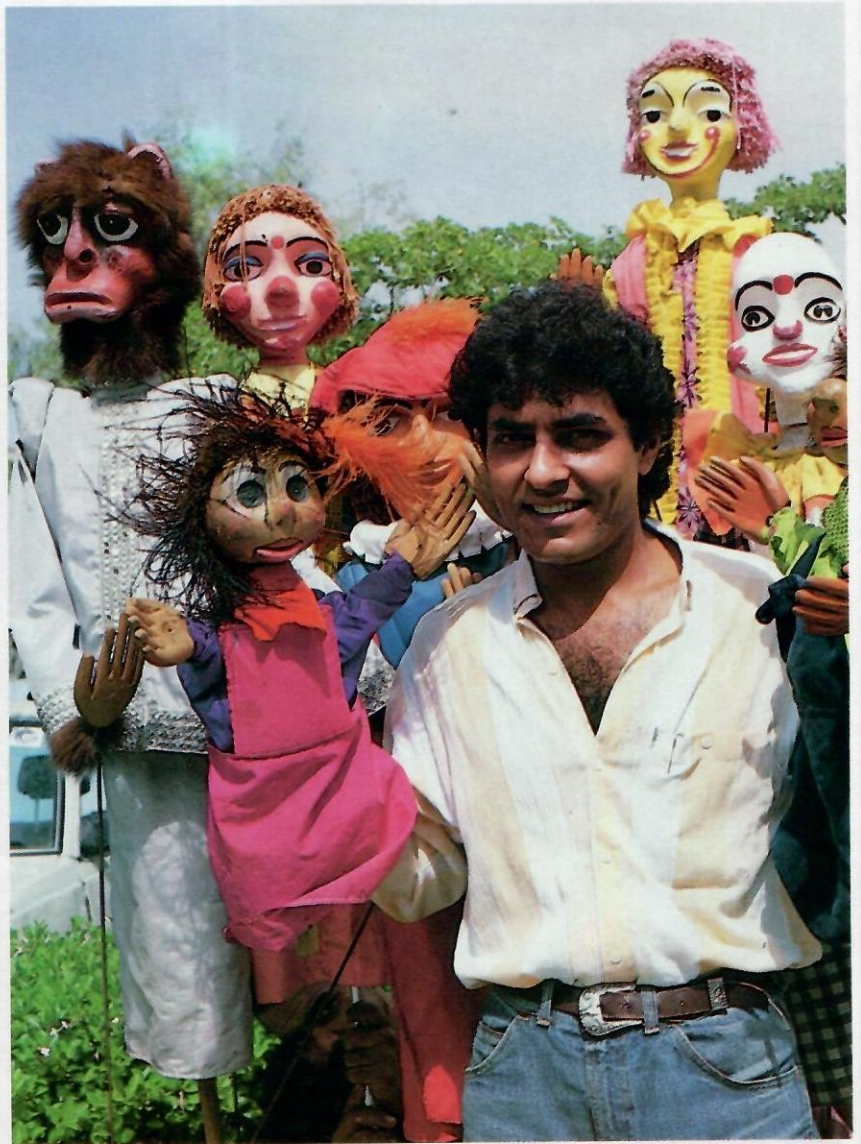
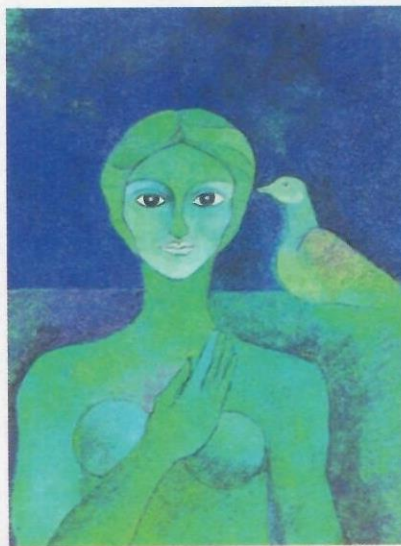
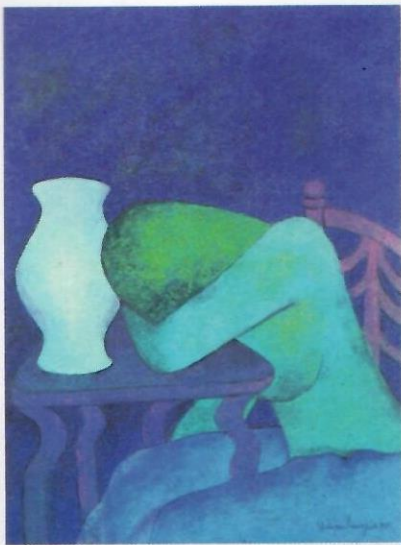
Ms. ZS "It's not THAT bad, but it's not THAT great either. It depends on you -- if you have self-confidence it's okay. If you're timid and there were some among us like that, then it takes time to adjust in these conditions. There's a new problem that now many women have qualified from the Polytechnic and are becoming instructors there. Therefore the girls have no experience of men before they start work here."

Mr. L "She should consider herself an engineer and not a woman. To a certain extent, she should consider herself as a man."

Head "Very few women engineers can rise to the senior ranks. But I suppose it IS possible. It's their own fault -- the limitations they have put on themselves. The Government has spent huge amounts of money on their education and if they're working, they're at least justifying this outlay. Any girl who studies should serve; she should not waste her education sitting at home. My advice is Keep your mind open, accept all types of engineering work, think of yourself as an Engineer."

Ms. ZS ". . . I think of myself as an engineer . . ."

SHE-MAN



The artist
the puppeteer
the man

FAIZAAN

A multifaceted man with a surge of creative energy seeking an outlet with such determination that success has no choice but to bow down before him, describes Faizaan Peerzada.

With Faizaan art is a way of life. Today, not only is he the youngest international artist of Pakistan but one to have received much acclaim both at home and abroad for his work. But the going for this modern expression-

istic painter hasn't been altogether smooth. In an exclusive interview with 'SHE' Faizaan speaks of himself in depth as an artist, a puppeteer and a man. Since childhood art has always been in and around Faizaan. It was at the age of sixteen that he had his first one man show. "I was discouraged by the two art galleries which existed then in Karachi because of my age and it was a foreign agency that I had to turn to". Martin Blend who was then the cultural director of the USIS and the PACC seeing Faizaan's potential gave him a 3 volume show in which Faizaan exhibited 500 of his framed paintings. On the first day of the exhibition this young artist was shying away from the crowds, but on retrospect he feels that even at that age he had a lot of content in his paintings. "Today," says Faizaan, "I have tremendous skill and talk more of technical analysis but at that time I had so much to say."

Faizaan claims to be a self groomed man both intellectually and otherwise. Right after high school this creatively motivated young man joined the National College of Arts but his experiences at this renowned institution forced him to leave within a year, "I found the NCA to be a disappointment", he says, "when I joined the institution I already had a portfolio and quite a lot of designing experience as well as dreams . . . I did not want to make the outlines of a box all day, or do a still life the way some one else perceived it with my vision having nothing to do with it. . . . Many Faizaan feels might contradict him.

He graduated privately with his major interest always in aesthetics. When Faizaan's plans to study art abroad didn't materialize he took himself on a self educating programme to England visiting museums and galleries, attending lectures and meeting contemporary artists, the world was Faizaan's institute. Faizaan feels that art has a much closer link with a person's inner system. It is not a skill that one can acquire at any stage in one's life. "I always knew deep down that an institute would not make me a painter. It is basically a natural outcome". And today, Faizaan is definitely a renowned artist. At this age

he has been able to go and show his work at the best capitals in Europe and America, that to not at suburban galleries or Bays water street but at galleries which get listed in tourist guides.

To begin on the subject of Faizaan's work as an artist we quote him from an interview done quite a few years ago. "The artist of former times were bent on producing masterpieces and on achieving perfect harmony. To them that idea was primary. To me the idea matters less than the way it is arrived at. This brings me face to face with various ideas and their infinite variations "Working presently with pastels, oil pastels and blade on paper Faizaan feels that in today's art a lot of expression is through application of pigment. He is presently concentrating more on technique, creating and developing lyrics through pigment application and says that, "my work should not be perceived on face value but should be analysed by a different eye and mind with emphasis on the application of pigment which he feels has the same intellect as a strong content. Giving paintings strong titles and themes to exhibitions to Faizaan is a farce, "we are not story tellers", he adds. Faizaan very strongly feels that unless you become full time in the art profession you cannot be committed. "It is a complete profession and one of the most respected. Why must the artists do another job? he asks adding that it goes to show a lack of faith in their own trade and their abilities."

Painting is a major aspect of Faizaan's creative career but not the only one. He is a multiple person who would hate to remain under one experience. "I want to be introduced as an artist, but I would hate it if I left just a legend of my paintings (if you can call them that he adds modestly as an after thought!) behind. A very important facet of his career apart from being an artist is the fact that Faizaan is a trained and skilled puppeteer. Puppets came into his life at a very early age, though at that time he was unaware of the role they were to play later in his life.

'Giving paintings strong titles and themes to exhibitions is a farce'



PEERZADA

NIGHAT GAYA

Puppetry is a skill which without learning one cannot acquire. Faizaan got his training from the John Wright Institute, London, and also has experience with working puppets for a British Company called Movingstage Company of England.

Today Faizaan has mastered the art of puppetry-giving it his own stamp -- to such an extent that he feels that the Rafi Peer theatre Workshop can teach even the Europeans because they have their own style and pattern to sell. The puppets have also given Faizaan a sense of achievement as an artist. Moving sculpture has always been a major interest of Faizaan's. Being an artist he could conceive the characters, and sketch them which left him with the matter of executing them and that he did, 825 of them! It is not just the number that boggles the mind but the skill and thought behind making so many different characters.

"We worked against a lot of odds to start with," explains Faizaan, "We had to work with rough scripts, rough recordings and dummy puppets. It wasn't England where you spent a 100,000 £ sterling on a show, rehearsed it for 8-9 month and ran the show for 2-3 years. Here we had to have a new programme ready on the 30 of every month". Else Faizaan adds that the few thousand people who had seen our show would have ruined our reputation in a population of 80 million by saying 'they are only repeating themselves, there's nothing new'!

Today, the Rafi Peer theatre workshop's contribution in the field of puppetry is the biggest in the country. From

the very young to the very old can go for their puppet show and remain spell bound throughout the performance. Even in the remotest corners of the country people have heard about the Peerzadas and their puppets.

Faizaan the man is at once reticent. Beneath the charming worldly exterior is a sensitive artist who has learnt to survive in a materialistic environment, striking a balance between aesthetics and economics. Proud of his parentage he is a true son of the soil who gave up the opportunity of living in New York and becoming a thundering success for he had dreams to fulfill in his own country. As for success he says, you can have it anywhere in the world as long as you are committed and determined and that this versatile man definitely is. Apart from being an artist and a puppeteer Faizaan is also a set designer and a lighting expert. How can one man do justice to so much? Well, Faizaan can, for hasn't he proved himself as an artist and a puppeteer. As for set designing and lighting his work record proves that he's definitely with it.

Apart from being a talented man professionally Faizaan is a man totally besotted. The artist in Faizaan dreamt of true love and on finding it Faizaan the man is standing on the cross road of his personal life. Speaking about the anonymous lady he says, "she is one human being who can bring about a major change in my life."

Faizaan is the son of a legend but today has won recognition for himself due to his own merits. Whether he too will become a legend in his own right is for time to tell.



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