

THE LARGEST SELLING ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

# SHE

M A R C H 2 0 0 1

**Murder!**  
A father kills his  
three daughters

**Abortion**  
What the  
law says

**Top 20**  
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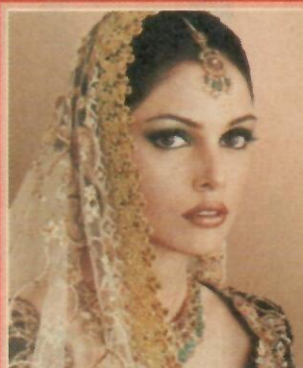
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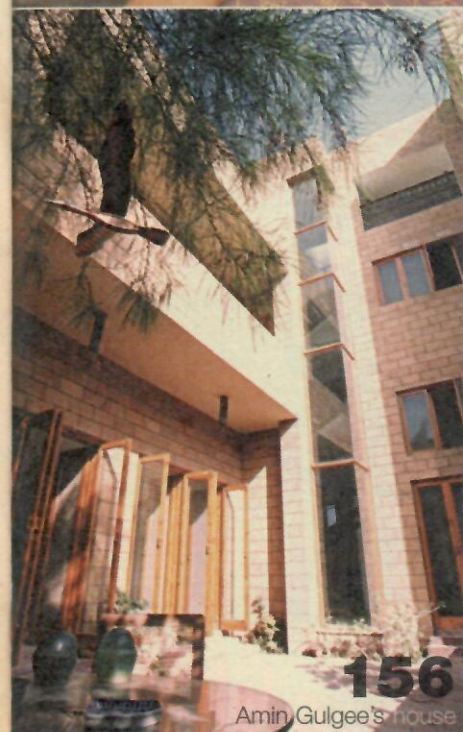


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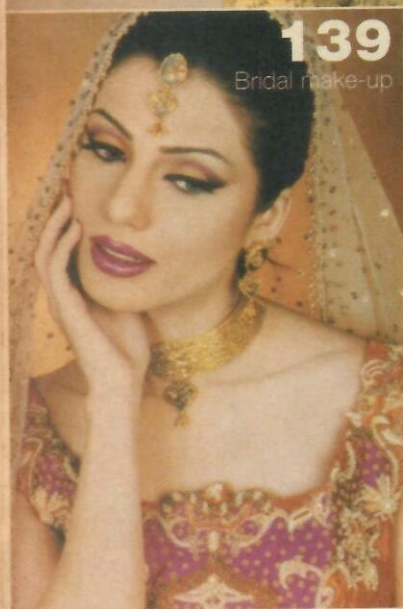
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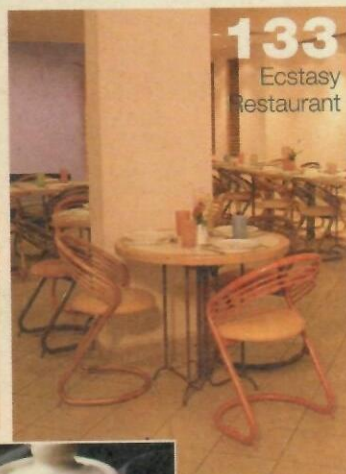
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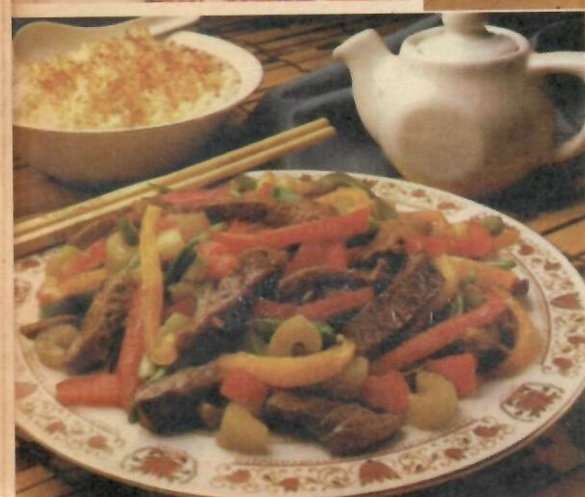
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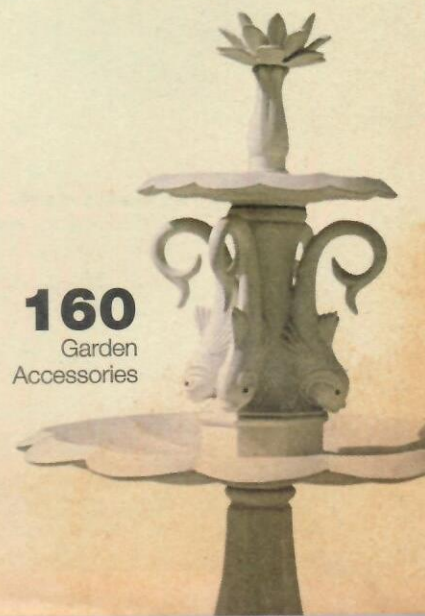
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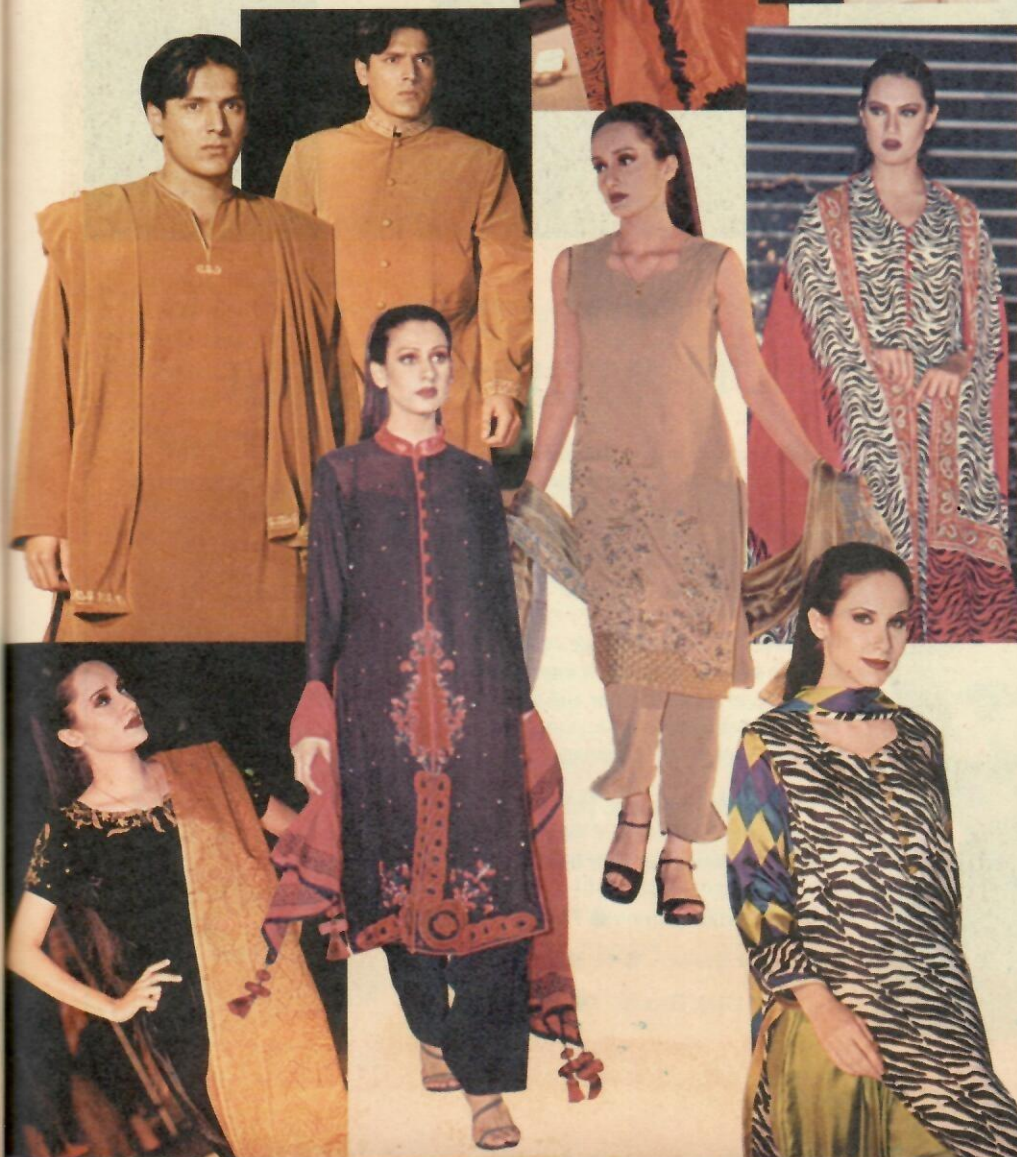
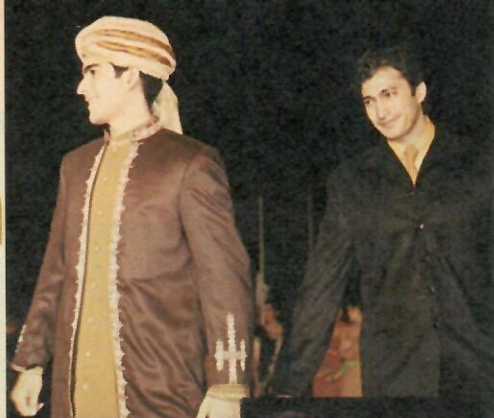


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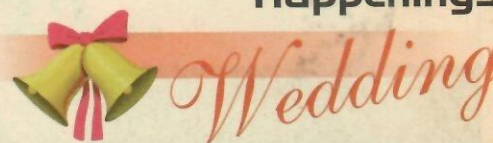
Garden  
Accessories

# A colourful launch

**A**froz Textile Mills recently inaugurated its modern, state of the art advanced processing and printing plant. The launch was an impressive and colourful ceremony with a fashion show presenting the latest collections of designers Aijazz Aslam, Farida Kureishi and Nousheen Haque, all of whom displayed their latest range of simple, formal and evening wear. Talking about his collection, Aijazz Aslam said "I have tried to play with colours and style in my latest range. You will find an interesting fusion of the east and the west in my collection here." The show, choreographed by Imran Kureishi, with hair and make up done by Tani of Depilex, was organized and coordinated by Afreen Baig.



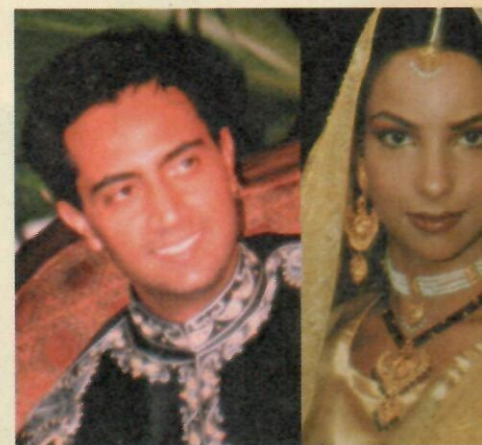
## Happenings



Andrea Francis, daughter of SHE's Office Assistant Mrs. Angeline Francis and Mr. Lawrence Francis, tied the knot with Lysander Fernandez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joachim Fernandes



Mr. and Mrs. Farhan begin their new life together



Subreen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wyne A. Garnett married Jibran, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nisar A. Khan.

● Jemima Khan has been selected as the best dressed celebrity at the Rover British Fashion awards in London. Jemima has been the focus of British media during the London Fashion Week and is being highly admired for making the eastern attire shalwar qameez, a wardrobe must for the London glitterati.



● Former US President Jimmy Carter received the US\$ 500,000 Sheikh Zayed International Prize for the Environment. The award was a recognition for his futuristic vision and subsequent work on poverty, human health, human settlements and peace that helped improve the environment.



● Eighteen-year-old Pakistani student, Taqi Jafri, has secured the highest marks in the whole world, in the 'A' Levels Physics examination, held by London University. Taqi has come out as a winner throughout his academic career. He has secured one of the most outstanding 'As' in his 'O' Levels examination and clinched the first position in the subjects of Physics and Chemistry in the whole of Asia. Taqi is an undergraduate in the United States after receiving the most prestigious Pakistan President Scholarship to study Physics in the USA.



● Asma Jahangir and Hina Jilani have received the first Millennium Peace prize. The award, which is sponsored by the United Nations Fund for Women and Alert International, is the first

of its kind to recognize women's integral role in peace negotiations and their commitment to sustaining families and communities during war. Asma and Hina were nominated for the award for dedicating their lives for the cause of defending women's and human rights.

● Dr. Farzana Mehmood, assistant professor of chemistry at Bahauddin Zakaria University, Multan, has been awarded the prestigious MOST award in Geneva, Switzerland. Professor Farzana, who has done her doctorate from King's College, London, received the US\$ 10,000 award after the committee termed her thesis one of the five best during the past five years.



● British sailor Ellen MacArthur, 24, is the youngest ever competitor to have completed Vendee Globe around-the-world single-handed yacht race. MacArthur started her 24,000 miles journey of the sea in November 2000. Battling against nature's harshest conditions in the form of icebergs and 60 foot waves, MacArthur was the second to complete the journey after the Frenchman Micheal Desjoyeaux who first crossed the line marking the end of the Vendee Globe race in France. During MacArthur's three months journey she was able to take only 20 minutes sleep a day, and had encountered several near-fatal accidents.



● Popular Bollywood actress Juhi Chawla gave birth to her first baby girl in Mumbai, India. Juhi, who is married to top Indian industrialist, Jay Mehta, says she will be working in films and for her production company Dreamz Unlimited even after the arrival of the baby.



● American singer and actress Dale Evans, popularly known as 'Cowgirl,' died, aged 88 years, in Los Angeles. Dale teamed up with her husband Roy Rogers in popular Westerns and the couple made 35 movies and co-wrote the song "Happy trails for you," which is still admired by her fans.

● Ace Hollywood director and producer, Stanley Kramer, passed away at the age of 87, in New York.



Kramer was famous for his message films and had produced some of the Hollywood's most celebrated movies including 'High Noon,' 'The Defiant One' and 'Judgment at Nuremberg.' Kramer attacked racism and the nuclear arms race in his movies, many of which have been Oscar winners.

# The war of survival

**The Communist leadership of China is in deep trouble with the spiritual movement Falun Gong, which has taken the whole nation by storm**



**Falun Gong practitioners protesting against the arrests of their fellows in China**

**T**he year 2001 will mark the 52nd anniversary of the Republic of China. From a country struggling to overcome economic downslides in the early years to one that the rest of the world looks up to, China has come a long way. As China crosses the ladder of development in the new millennium, it is again confronted with a problem more serious than the independence activities in Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang. The threat is called Falun Gong, a spiritual movement, which is an eclectic mix of Taoism, Buddhism and Qigong breathing exercises. The group, headed by the New York-based exiled leader Li Hongzhi and executed by a

number of overseas ministries, has 70 million followers in China and 30 million in the rest of the world. The practitioners of Falun Gong describe the movement as representing the pearls and gems of Chinese traditions that were lost during the recent turmoil in Chinese history.

While the group insists that it follow the principles of "truthfulness, goodness and forbearance," the Chinese government argues that things are not as simple as they appear to be. Terming the movement as an "evil cult," the government has already outlawed it, alleging that more than 1700 followers have died because of the eccentric Falun Gong practices. The group, on the other hand, has its own grievances against Beijing. According to Falun Gong, more than 100 followers have lost their lives and thousands are lying in prison camps and psychiatric hospitals owing to government atrocities during the past two years.

Falun Gong and its spiritual practices are creating problems for Beijing not only on the domestic level, but China is counter-pressures on the international front too. The issue threatens to become an early flash point in relations between China and the Bush government. A few days ago, the United States decried the assault on Falun Gong and called for the freeing of its members in prison. There exists a wide split in the Communist leadership of China regarding the appropriate way to deal with the movement, as many of the party members

themselves believe in Falun Gong.

For its part, Falun Gong continues to deny having any overarching political agenda. Still the group has taken to describing Chinese President Jiang Zemin as a "demon worshipper" infected with "mad power disease." On January 1st, 2001 the movement's mysterious master issued a curious scripture that appeared to allow violence in extreme cases when protesting against ill treatment. Later the same month, five believers, protesting against the government's attitude towards the practitioners, set themselves on fire. Though the Falun Gong leader strongly denies that those who carried out this act of self immolation belong to the movement, some practitioners suggest that the protesters were devotees, "We heeded a call from our master to strengthen our fight with evil." However Falun Gong's New York head distanced itself from the act asserting that the movement prohibits any form of killing.

While Beijing might have its own reasons to resist the movement, the fact is that Falun Gong is one of the strongest forces silently appearing on the forefront. In April 1999, the group achieved a remarkable feat, silently assembling 10,000 adherents in front of the Beijing leadership walled compound. Hundreds of people from around the world are joining the movement, adding to its strength with each passing day. There, however, seems to be an obvious discontent among the practitioners themselves as many of them feel out of touch with its exiled master and misguided by its overseas ministers. This tension within the group is a delight for the Chinese government which finds it a useful instrument in splitting the movement.

As the rift between Falun Gong and Beijing continues, the group's activities are spreading to other parts of Asia. Taiwan is most likely to be the second base for Falun Gong. With 10,000 members in the region, Taiwan could soon become the leading centre of Falun Gong outside China. This can only worsen its tense relationship with Beijing. Hong Kong also offers substantial potential for Falun Gong activities, as the region's separate legal system and autonomous government seem to offer protection from Beijing's witch hunt. Falun Gong followers held massive gathering in Hong Kong in January this year to publicize their plight. The Hong Kong government is under intense pressure from Beijing to prevent the group from gaining a strong foothold in the territory.

With all its negative and positive aspects, Falun Gong is a critical trial for China's Communist Party's resolve. As China struggles to burnish its image in its bid for the 2008 Olympics it has to be extremely careful, as the world is closely observing the steps it takes to resist the movement and control its impacts on its population.

Falun Gong followers engaged their regular breathing exercise in Sydney



# Murder most brutal

## The gruesome killing of three girls by their father

**O**n February 13, 20-day-old Alia entered the Forensic Medicine Department in a local medical college in Lahore. Two factors were amiss with her entry; first, only medical personnel have a reason to go to this department and second, Alia wasn't alone; her two elder sisters, Mehwish and Sahrish, were with her.

What is most surprising about their entry is that the betel-chewing, arm-pit scratching guard seated outside the gate did not bother to stop them. Usually he is so stern about admission rights that even beggars stay far away from his department but in this case, the three girls were calmly taken in. Rather than scream at them, the old man had taken one look at them and turned away, his eyes suddenly moist.

Curious, we step forward; the three girls are taken down the steps to the mortuary. They are gently placed on the tables and the attendants draw back. We come closer; Alia is easy to distinguish - with her perfectly formed hands and tiny fingernails, she is like all other babies, a true marvel of nature. Her elder sister has her arms stretched out, as if waiting to hold her baby sister. It is then that we realize something is wrong; the three girls haven't moved an inch since they were brought in.

We move to the other side and wish we hadn't, for there, in clear view, is a pool of blood - dried up and congealed, in thick little streams running down the three faces. Alia lies still; she has been shot dead by her father.

Why were 20-day-old Alia, three-and-a-half years old Mehwish, and one-and-a-half years old Sahrish brutally murdered? Here is the story their distraught mother, Kausar Bibi, told the police...

"I married Farmaish Ali, a Ghaseet Pur resident, about five years ago. I became pregnant some months later and one-and-a-half years after our marriage, gave birth to a baby girl. From the day I became pregnant, my husband began telling me how badly he wanted a son. I never thought he was serious about this and I used to answer his inquiries about 'do you think it is a son?' with 'whatever God thinks is better will happen.'

"When he was told about Mehwish's birth, my husband began insulting the mid-wife and refused to pick up his daughter. A few days later, it seemed as if he had accepted her birth and was no longer so antagonist towards her. Soon, he started talking about trying for a second child and how he was sure the next one was going to be a son.

"His attitude scared me and I tried talking to him about how we should wait before trying for another child and how there was no guarantee that the next one would be a son. But he was adamant and I had to give in. I started praying to Allah to give me a son this time. Two years after the first child, I gave birth to Sahrish, another healthy girl."

"This time my husband's attitude was much worse than before - he started blaming me for the fact that the baby was a girl and refused to even touch her. He wouldn't even come home after work and began staying out for long hours; he no longer seemed to be the man I had married.

"It took a year for his attitude to improve and by then, I

was pregnant again. This time, he made it clear that he would accept no child other than a son. Alas, for reasons only, He knows better, my third child was also a daughter. When he was told about Alia's birth, he became so angry that I thought he would kill her and me on the spot. Instead, he just cursed us and went out. From that day onwards, he refused to talk to me and even resorted to sleeping outside at night."

"Twenty days after her birth, Alia was sleeping with me on my bed and Mehwish and Sahrish were sleeping on the bed nearby. My husband was spending the night on a *charpai* in the courtyard next to our room. At around 4 o'clock in the morning, I was jolted awake by the sound of a gun being fired. I looked up and there in front of me was Farmaish, with a wild look on his face and a revolver in his hand. When I looked at the other bed, I saw my two daughters drawing their last breath. I started screaming and flung myself at him; he threw me down and threatened to kill me.

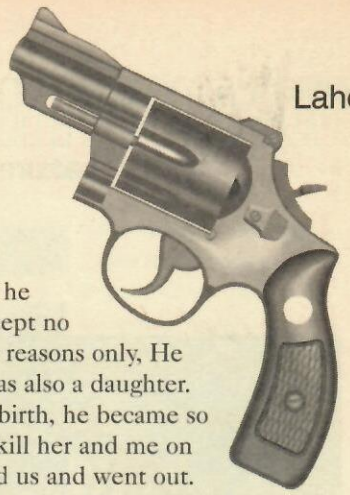
"His two brothers (Anayat and Sajjad) heard my screams and rushed into our room; they too tried to get him to hand over the revolver but he refused to listen. Threatening to kill all of us if we dared stop him, he took aim at Alia; I grabbed his hands and begged him to let her go but he just pushed me away and pulled the trigger. Alia screamed and then went limp; meanwhile, he rushed out of the room, threatening us that he would not hesitate to pull the trigger if we followed him. I now have no family left; for no fault of theirs, all my daughters have been killed by their father. I wish the police all the best in tracing him out and punishing him."

Surprisingly, in this case the husband's parents were not party to his crime. A weepy grandfather stated: "We always tried to get him to see reason but he just wouldn't listen; whether daughters or sons, they were all my grandchildren and very dear to me."

Though there is no known history of physical abuse on the part of the husband, the investigating officer voices his doubts about this, stating that in such cases it can nearly always be assumed that the husband was physically abusing his wife.

Will the police be able to find Farmaish? Will the deaths of these three girls be avenged? But most importantly, why...? Why did Alia get a bullet in her cortex? And whose fault is it... the father's for pulling the trigger? The society's for his mind set? The mother's for not taking a stand sooner? The grandparents' for not condemning their son? Or, as Farmaish Ali would say, is it Alia's, Sahrish's and Mehwish's fault for being born; in which case, it becomes God's fault for making girls in the first place. And why does someone not reveal the reality to Farmaish Ali - and millions of other such ignorant men - that it is the man, not the woman, who determines the sex of the baby. — **Ayesha Javed Akram**

*(This story has been pieced together with the help of statements made by Alia's paternal grandfather, the investigating officers, the relevant autopsy surgeons and the FIR lodged by the mother).*



# The truth is my story... A journey of self discovery



**M**oments of wondrous truths. Real life stories of winner women. Shared experiences. All this and much more became the cause for inviting women from every level of society to the National Media Watch Conference. A pre-programmed part of the International Women's day, the conference, besides inviting women from every walk of life as participants, brought together some of the country's bravest women. It were these women who became the points of

focal interest during the proceedings as they related the true stories of their life's journeys, talking about those special people, events or moments when enough had become enough and they realised that it was time to turn the tables. And they had actually succeeded. Coming from far and wide, the conference had women at the micro and the macro level, narrating experiences that had transformed their lives from unmotivated, oppressed, silent sufferers into role models. As role models they had then, in turn, significantly changed the lives of other women around them. General Manager, PTV Lahore Centre, Moneeza Hashmi opened the conference with the promise of her individual commitment to carrying the stories of these women across the country and even the world. Yasmin Hameed, Mansoorah Ahmed, Shahnaz Muzammil and Naheed Qasmi recited poems. During the second session of the conference, role models at the macro levels came forth with their sides of personal stories. Minister Shaheen Sardar Ali and Shaheen Attiqur Rehman, both significant in their circles, related personal accounts thereby showing everyone how even they who were at the highest rung of the ladder, had to face considerable discrimination in their journeys. The conference then ended on notes of increased vigour with poetess Bushra Ejaz reciting from her work.

## Birthday best... A tribute to Faiz

**N**inety years is a long, long time; but not if the person it relates to is somebody who had the charisma to be called a *people's* person in life, even as in his death. And poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz was a people's person and poet. What re-enforced the belief was the select audience and their rapt attention, as celebrating the poet's ninetieth birthday, Tina Sani, Tahira Syed and compere for the evening Shoaib Hashmi came together in happy company. PTV, while paying tribute to the late Faiz, arranged a live function at the *Shahi Hamam* next to the Wazir Khan mosque inside Delhi Darwaza. Faiz's poetry is superb. That is the least one can say, but the organizer's imagination had certainly added to the general ambiance by choosing such a historically and aesthetically apt venue. The entire '*Hamam*' precincts were bedecked in birthday finery as, for three music-bound hours, the select audience were mesmerised by the play of rhyme and reason in the company of instrumentals. Shoaib Hashmi displaying his customary wit, albeit on this occasion, with just the right amount of reverence, set the pace of the evening by giving a general resume of associations with the poet and reflecting on the merger of the *sufi* and the traditional faces of romanticism in his work. Next it was Tina Sani's turn. She sang with full-throated ease from her best compositions in Urdu and *Punjabi*, all of which had been composed along the years by music maestro Arshad Hussain. Tahira Syed rounded up the evening by singing one Faiz *ghazal*... incidentally, it was her one and only rendition of the poet and also one which had been her debut song on television.



## Threads in time

### Costume and Textiles



**G**uests were seated on the lawn facing the entrance to the Museum, may be some 200 in all. Punctual to the minute, the proceedings began - we learnt the Governor had



another appointment, so had to leave soon - Nasreen Askari, the Curator of the Museum, spoke of the generosity of several individuals who had loaned their valued collections for the present exhibition

while the National and Sindh Museums too had taken part. She said that an endowment fund was needed to be created of Rs. 20 million to cover the recurring expenses of the museum and urged philanthropists, industrialists and others to come forward and make this permanent museum a success. Anita Ghulam Ali, Sindh Education Minister, who also spoke briefly, accompanied the Governor and his wife on a guided tour around the exhibition before the official opening.

The Governor spoke for - 10 minutes, and promised to look into the request for funds and to see in what way the Government of Sindh could help.

The exhibition consists of a display of costumes, embroidered dresses, shawls, turbans, bed spreads, purses, hats, shoes etc. from all over Pakistan with exhibits from Sindh and Baluchistan in predominance. While the collections on display were interesting, one couldn't help but feel that there was insufficient representation of the many splendoured legacies in the world of costumes and textiles from the Northern areas, even Punjab with its brilliant khes, block prints and hand woven textiles seemed under represented.

For those of us fortunate enough to have seen many an exhibition of costumes and textiles over the past several years, or even privileged to have visited the homes and seen the treasures of private collectors - Shireen Feroz Nana, Neyyar Hassan, immediately spring to mind - the Mohatta show was somewhat of a disappointment.

## ... and action!

**T**he world of showbiz has always been full of glitz and glamour and people related to it find it hard to change track and leave it for good.

Remember Sangeeta's little sister Kavita who was quite a star on the big screen. It has been ages since she left tinsel town for good and settled abroad. But now she is back with a bang of course not in the good old *filmi duniya* but as a designer of artefacts and accessories.

Recently an evening was hosted at Pizza Express at The Point to introduce Kavita the designer and her beautifully crafted creations. The event was hosted by Rasikh Ismail, GM, Food Services and the honoured guests included Fatima Suriya Bajia, Salima Hashmi and Ustad Raees Khan.

Kavita took the guests on a tour of the artefacts that were on display at the Pizza Express restaurant and explained to them the intricacies

involved from designing to production. Most of the items are a blend of iron, steel and brass accessorised with crystals and wire mesh.

This event was organized with the help of Axis marketing a new company who provide consultancy on all image related areas. Axis is also responsible for officially launching 'Kavita' the label and the designer in Pakistan.



## (Mis)representing women

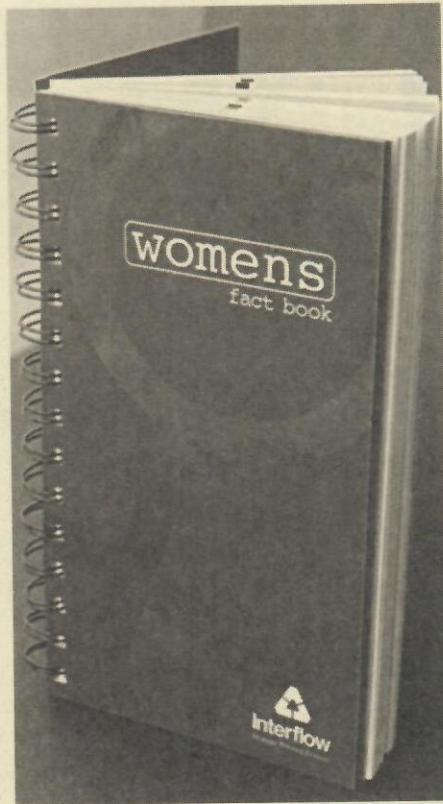
**W**omen in Pakistan have a stereotypical image. Their objective of coming in this world seems to be confined to certain definitions and expectations. The society expects a woman to be an obedient daughter, docile sister, submissive wife and humble mother. The sad part of the story is that little is being done by the educated segment of the society to change the image of women.

In its bid to bring forward the inner picture of the women of Pakistan, Interflow Communications has released 'Women's Fact Book.' This book gives the results of a survey conducted by Interflow Strategic Planning

Division in face-to-face interviews with 1000 women from seven urban and sub-urban cities. The book aims to give an insight to readers about women's needs, desires, demands, fears and her concerns. The book, however, is more of a guide to a marketer whose key advertising targets are women.

Although the book is a useful guide for those who see women in the light of brands and products, it reflects a poor image of Pakistani women whose main concern seems to be their marital life. The survey says that the majority of the women find their marriage days as the happiest moments of their lives and feel that the biggest accomplishment of their lives is having good relations with their husbands. A number of women feel that having a son is very important and believe that divorce is not only a very wrong step but also demonstrates the weakness of a woman. Most of them opine that a husband's trust defines freedom in life and regret disobeying their husbands.

Although 'Women's Fact Book' provides a good insight into the wants and desires of women, one however wonders how can only 1000 women represent what 50 per cent of the total population of the country feels. One can cite 1000 and even more women who have the opposite views and believe that life is far beyond obeying their husbands and spending life under their wings fearing divorce. A significant portion of the book comprises women's preferences in terms of brands and products; the book in itself reinforces the stereotypical image of Pakistani women.



## Freedom of expression

**T**o mark the importance of the freedom of the electronic media, Citizen Media Commission observe February 14 of each year as Electronic Media Freedom Day. The day is being observed by the commission since 1997, when the then-Caretaker Government of Pakistan, for the first time in the history of the country, promulgated Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 1997. The law defining the framework for the establishment and operation of independent and privately owned radio and TV channels, received little attention from the succeeding Government which made no effort to give this ordinance a permanent status.

With "Imminent changes: prospective challenges" as their theme, Citizen Media Commission organized a round table conference to mark the Electronic Media Freedom Day. Attended by prominent media specialists, scholars, editors, journalists and citizens, the round table endorsed measures to ensure meaningful reforms in electronic media. The measures highlighted the need to deepen the existing pluralism of opinions broadcast by the electronic media of the country. Emphasis was also laid on the importance to restructure Pakistan Television (PTV) and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) to enable them to carry out authentic and unbiased reporting. The Director General of PBC, Salim Gul Sheikh and the Managing Director of PTV, Yusuf Baig Mirza also made presentations to the round table on how radio and TV had used the existing media freedom and the key issues and plans for the future.

## Blacklisted

**R**ahat Fateh Ali Khan was scheduled to appear in a *mahfil-e-qawwali* for the Karwan-e-Hayat (A Voluntary Institute for Better Mental Health) one evening last month. A large number of people bought tickets at Rs. 500 each - and a big crowd came to hear him sing.

**But...**

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan was not there. He had telephoned in the morning to say he couldn't come for want of an airline seat. This was arranged for him. He still did not show up. Fortunately for the Karwan-e-Hayat Tina Sani gallantly agreed to sing in his place, but quite a number of people were disappointed at the absence of the *qawwal* and asked for their money to be reimbursed.

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan has still to return the Rs. 75,000 paid to him by the Karwan-e-Hayat.

# Enthusiastic Welcome to the launch of the Karavan Karachi Festival 2001



**K**aravan Karachi - Festival 2001 was officially launched at the Governor's House in Karachi late last month.

"Karavan Karachi is a celebration of the heritage of a city and of all those aspects which make it unique and great, and looks forward, in order to demonstrate the importance of this legacy, to the future of this city." Richard Hardwick's opening remarks at the launching ceremony.

September 2001 will be the special month for the staging of a series of events by Karavan Karachi, consisting of festivals on heritage, literary activities, music, theatre, film, arts, food (in five different locations), tourism, shopping, trees and parks, sea, sports, fashions, and even an IT and commerce festival. In addition, Karavan Karachi Festival will be branded as part of all activities taking place in the city during the year as a whole.

Every event in the city run by the major cultural centres in Karachi - British Council, Goethe Institute, Alliance etc - will carry the Festival logo.

Yasmin Lari is the brain child behind the festival of Karachi. She heads a group of volunteers who will seek to celebrate Karachi's historical, architectural, social and economic heritage, focusing on the theme 'My Karachi.' Young people in particular, schools, colleges, universities and youth organisations, are especially being involved in the design

and implementation of the Festival events. City Tours will form an attractive and popular element of the programme, giving people the chance to get first hand impressions of all aspects of the city; its history and its diversity.

A special song has been developed for the festival, written and composed by Arshad Mahmud. This was sung by Junaid Jamshed and the choir of the Karachi High School on the occasion of the official opening. On the 22nd March, a spectacular concert, tied up with the Festival, starring Asia's number one group, Stereo Nation, and other leading stars will perform.

Over 600 historic buildings, identified by the Heritage Foundation, have been notified under the Sindh Cultural Heritage Act. In the first phase 60 buildings included in the Rahguzar (tour routes) in Karachi Travel Guide will be cleaned up by September 2001.

Starting from March 11, through to August 26, 2001, Sunday events are being planned around a different group of historic buildings. Each will be a mini street festival encompassing a host of activities.

For more information on Karavan Karachi Festival 2001, telephone Yasmin Lari at (9221) 5834215 or [heritage@pakistansearcher.com](mailto:heritage@pakistansearcher.com). For more information, Karachi website can be visited [www.pakistansearcher.com](http://www.pakistansearcher.com).



## Junooni Junoon



**T**he leading rock group, Junoon have finally released their new album *Ishq*. It features a youth anthem *Saqi-nama* composed by Salman Ahmad, sung by Ali Azmat and the lyrics of this song are taken from Allama Iqbal's poem.

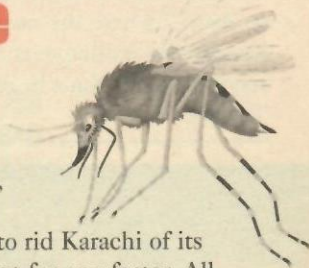
Watch out for the *Saqi-nama* video directed by Asim Raza which will be aired on all the television networks. The romantic ballad entitled *Shamein* written by Ali Azmat is worth listening too. So for all the fans of Junoon out there, the wait is over.

## Getting rid of mosquitoes the fastest way

**T**he Greener Karachi Trust, a body of enthusiastic Volunteers, in cooperation with the Karachi Municipal Corporation, are all set to rid Karachi of its mosquito menace. True? Yes; except for one factor. All Karachi's citizens must co-operate to make this plan a grand success.

Futehally Chemicals will shortly be putting a product on sale aptly known as a larvacide which will destroy the larvae of mosquitoes within a few minutes. This is made up of kerosene, an emulsifier and water, and will cost something like Rs 2 per litre; a few drops of this mixture poured into or over the drains, *nallahs*, garden tanks etc where the larvae are to be found. It is calculated that it will cost something like one-tenth (1/10th) of a *paisa* to destroy 10,000 larvae! Certainly financially well within Karachi's means!

Watch out for more information in this space in our forthcoming issues.



# Can we protect the wildlife of Kirthar National Park?

**K**irthar Park is a protected area of 308,733 hectares situated in Sindh province, 80 miles north of Karachi. Kirthar is home to the unique sub-species of Sindh ibex. In addition to being home to a variety of wildlife, Kirthar Park also serves as the watershed of the Hub River, which is an important source of drinking water for Karachi. Water from the Hub River is used by a large number of industries and of course in agriculture.

Among the many dangers faced by wild life, one is the shrinking of its habitat and its subsequent degradation. The population explosion has resulted in the clearing of forests, and jungle so that the land could be used for residential, industrial and agricultural purposes. The rampant usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides contaminates the food-chain while the agricultural run-off pollutes water bodies, thus also affecting the wildlife of any given area. Some of the wild life species, which have been eliminated or are under severe threat.

## Kirthar Park under oil exploration threat

Kirthar Park was again in the news, unfortunately for all the wrong reasons. The Sindh government has amended the Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance of 1972 to allow an oil refining company (with a Middle Eastern government as primary investor) to lay a pipeline across the 3,087 square kilometer park in the province's Dadu district. However, the deci-

sion was taken in the face of opposition from non-government organizations and conservation groups, comes on the heels of another controversy: a baseline study of the park by Australian experts being carried out at the instance of a foreign company to assess the feasibility of oil exploration in the vicinity of the Kirthar Park.

Further, the wording of the amendment is quite interesting since the law says that no blasting will be done in the process of laying the pipeline and that the project will take place on such terms and conditions, as it is necessary to conserve and preserve the national park. The question that comes to mind is: wouldn't the best way of conserving or preserving the national park be to simply not allow the pipeline to pass through it? The decision seems to have been made without taking the environmentalists, local residents, non-governmental organizations, or concerned citizens into confidence. One argument that the government must have considered is that a country like ours badly needs infrastructure development and that an important industrial input and energy source like oil must be made readily available to all parts of the country.

Surely, the proposed pipeline could take a route that would skirt round the park and not run through it.

## Highlights of Human Rights Commission Report

### Women

- More women became victims of 'honour' killings, including *karo kari* than ever before, while the rate of all forms of violence against women soared. Every second Pakistani woman is now believed to be a direct or indirect victim of violence.
- Pakistan's maternal mortality rate remained amongst the highest in the world.
- Gender disparity in education continued to widen.
- 500 women were estimated to have become victims of suicide.
- Over a half of those living below the poverty line are women.
- An Amendment in the Citizenship Act allowed the grant of nationality to the children of Pakistani mothers.
- 80 percent of women aged between 18 and 24 in Lahore were unaware of clauses contained in the *nikahnama*, including those offering them legal protection and rights.

### Crimes

- The rate of crime across the country remained high. The huge increase in the number of licensed arms almost certainly contributed to this trend.
- Crimes against women, including murder and rape, continued to climb. In the Punjab alone, the HRCF recorded on the basis of newspaper reports 315 honour killings. Other 861 women were murdered in the province and 620 became victims of rape.

- The sexual abuse of children seemed to be more rampant than expected. The issue of the smuggling of children to the Middle East for use as camel jockeys surfaced again.
- The rising suicide rate raised questions about treating such cases merely as an offence. According to one study, 158 cases of suicide were reported in Karachi alone during the year, with 109 men and 49 women have apparently taken their own lives. A study by the HRCF Task Force at Multan also recorded 81 cases of suicide in southern Punjab in the first six months of the year alone.

### Freedom of thought, conscience and belief

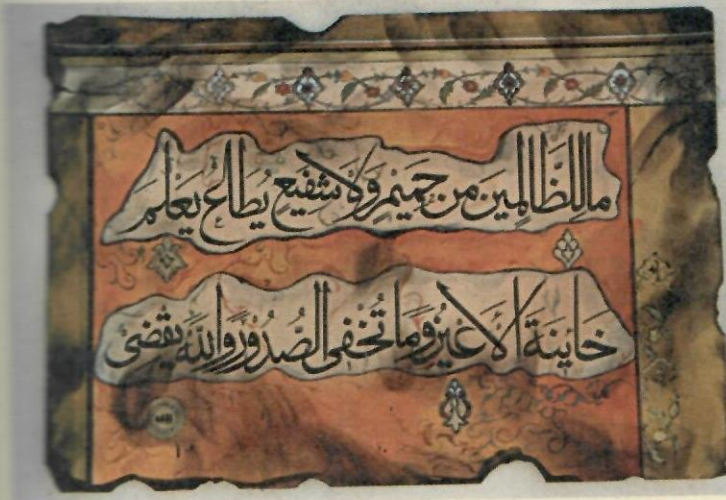
- A procedural amendment in the blasphemy law intended to check possible abuse of the legislation was withdrawn after protests by orthodox religious groups.
- The separate electorate system for minorities remained in place despite renewed calls from minority groups to do away with it.

### Freedom of expression

- Indications came of limited attempts to loosen the entrenched government hold on the electronic media.
- The federal cabinet decision to act against those making 'anti-state' remarks presented a new threat to free expression.
- A raid to check electricity consumption at the premises of the daily *Dawn* in Karachi was perceived by the publication as a case of direct intimidation.
- Two major newspapers in Karachi faced attacks on their premises resulting in death and grave damage.

# Young artists show their colours

Marjorie Husain



**C**alligraphy-art, rich interiors, contemporary miniatures, the planets; these were the subjects of art exhibitions seen in Karachi in the beginning of February. Masood A. Khan displayed a sequence of mixed media paintings based on architectural drawings at Zenaini. Transparent structures resembling perspex models incorporated areas highlighted with discreet touches of colour. The artist leads the viewer to sheltering interiors, often cosy domestic objects such as tea-cups or pots add symbolic norms to the comforting ambiance. Only fragile, transparent walls stand between the observer and the seemingly cloud-threatened skies. These are attractive pieces, appealing to the viewer on many levels.

An exhibition of paintings at the Jamil Naqsh Museum, with a display of the artist's drawings at the adjoining Momart Gallery, attracted a wide and appreciative audience. Exquisitely drawn 'Angels' and and and watercolour rendered 'Pigeons' testified to Naqsh's rare genius in creating infinite variety from a single source.

Eighty museum paintings represented prime examples of Naqsh's life's work including the intensely moving 'Mother and Child'



Clockwise from top:  
Artwork by Uzma Sultan, Aamir Malik, Masood A. Khan,  
Jamil Naqsh and Mussarat Arif



# Rashid Arshad

## An artist concerned with issues

**O**n a visit from the States, Rashid Arshad whose exhibition of calligraphy-art pieces was shown at the Chawkandi Art recently, declared himself impressed by the Karachi art scene. In Lahore, he said, all art activity seemed to be centered on the National College of Art. One factor that disturbed Rashid greatly is what he describes as a complete disregard for the chemical components of paint. He talked about the paintings of Pakistan's early artists, Shakir Ali and Sadequain, canvases damaged beyond repair. He feels art students should be taught more about the various media. He is a caring man, a teacher whose students revere him.

Arshad's exhibition drew a warm response from the artist's many friends in Karachi, including the well known artists who were his students from the Central Institute of Arts and Crafts in the '70s. He settled in the USA in 1976, was a popular figure at the C.I.A.C., initially as a teacher until 1970, when he became the Principal of the school. That year, Ali Imam left the school to establish the Indus Gallery; it was a time of enormous art expansion in Karachi. In the following five years, Arshad took great satisfaction in monitoring the progress of his students; he considers it an extremely productive time. He remained in office until '75, after which he settled in America. There he made a successful career as a graphic designer with a well known publishing house. During the early years, Arshad had been a well known artist in Pakistan's art circles, holding solo exhibitions of his work and participating in several important group displays. One of the country's most devoted calligraphy-art exponents, he rendered cal-



ligraphy in a painterly way long before the trends set in.

A classic tradition, calligraphy has inspired several modern artists with linear concerns. An example used often is that of Klee, who said the line was "like a script which wants to become visible". In Pakistan, several artists employ the flowing, rhythmic lines as elements of design, assimilating script on to rich surfaces. Arshad joins the company of Shakir Ali, Sadequain, Hanif Ramay, Jamil Naqsh, Zahoorul Akhlaq and Ahmed Khan, all of whom have brought their own interpretation to a cultural legacy.

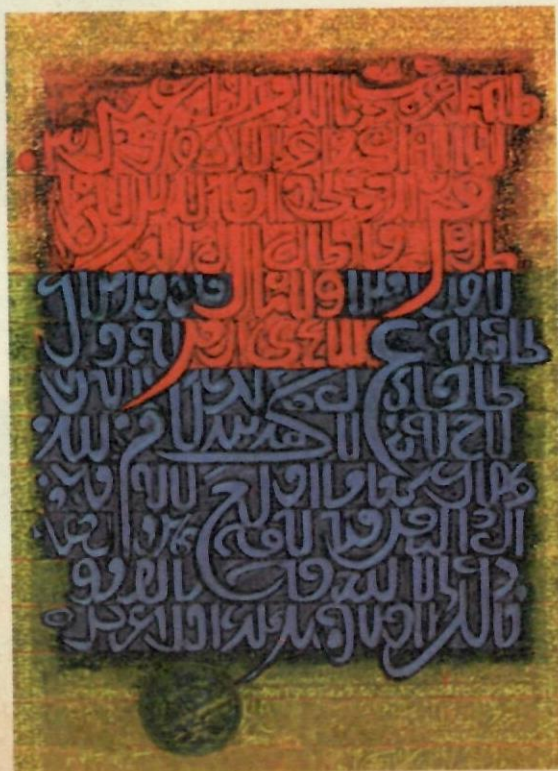
Arshad's work is elegant, capturing the viewer's imagination with dramatic colour contrasts, black and gold, red and blue, emerald green, black and cream. Incorporated are the blues of Hala and Multan, referring to the art and craft traditions of these areas. Enjoying the cool, smooth texture of his medium, Arshad intersperses brush strokes with dancing lines made by

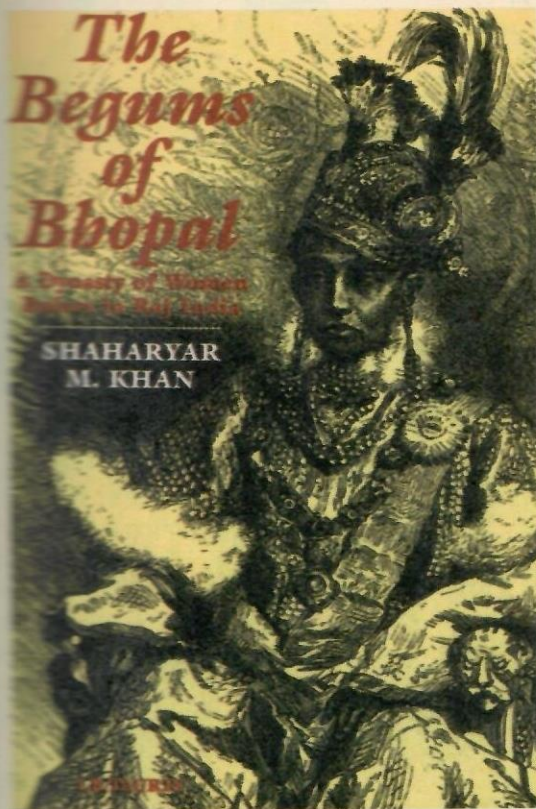


paint-dipped fingers. The calligraphic curves and lines create myriad patterns, tapering off and re-emerging from textured backgrounds. A circular form, or 'seal' runs through his oeuvre like a leitmotif, a symbol of important manuscripts, or as the artist explains them, 'farmans of history'.

He started his art training at an important time in the country's art development. Arshad joined the Mayo School of Art, Lahore, in 1958 and graduated from the National College of Art, in 1960. He remains in touch with Mr. Sponenburgh, his old Principal, and with Mary Lewis, now a well known sculptor in the States. As a young artist, he explained, he painted semi figurative landscapes but was eventually to find his métier in a more gestural expression. As we explore the movement in Arshad's paintings, he talks of music, refers to himself as the 'conductor' orchestrating the tempo of ebb and flow. Colour is important, effects heightened by the use of oils and acrylics; surfaces are layered, textures often contrasting with smooth colour planes. After '76, there were a series of exhibitions in the USA.

Maintaining links with Pakistan, he continued to exhibit work in major cities and kept in touch with other artists. Now that Arshad is retired, he relishes the idea of spending more time on painting. Returning to the subject of chemistry and paint, he explained it is an issue he intends to make the focus of workshops he will conduct in art schools in Pakistan at a future date. He has come the full circle now, imparting knowledge to a new generation of art students. ♦





**THE BEGUMS OF BHOPAL**  
**A Dynasty of Women Rulers in**  
**Raj India**

by **Shaharyar M. Khan**  
Published by I. B. Taurus  
Price: Rs. 1,495

When the author's mother berated him for her inability due to advancing age to complete her memoirs, the author's conscience was awakened. He examined her manuscript which was then in an early stage of writing, and realized that she was in fact telling two stories. The first was the story behind the royal family of Bhopal, and the other was her own odyssey from being the princess of Bhopal with royal privileges, to being a commoner in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The author relates how his mother presented him with old manuscript, books and maps of Bhopal, and encouraged him to honour their ancestors by writing their story. The author spent many hours of painstaking research at the India Library in London (which houses many original papers on the Subcontinent) as well as site visits to ruined forts in Bhopal, which now forms part of Madhya Pradesh, India.

# THE BEGUM'S STORY

Jeeva Haroun

Bhopal geographically sits in the middle of India, astride the Vindhya Mountains. Charming, the author says that the Tropic of Capricorn runs through Bhopal. Being on a higher level than the plains, it has a temperate climate. It has fertile soil and the native Bhills (remnants of the Dravidian people pushed South by the Aryans) are pleasant and mild mannered.

The Bhopal dynasty was founded around 1705 by Dost Mohammad Khan, an adventurer who originated from Afghanistan being born to a noble family in Tirah of the Orakzai tribe. How a headstrong youth of Pathan descent received Emperor Aurangzeb's generosity for his valour and daring on the field of battle, and was then rewarded with his own principality of Bhopal is a fascinating tale. There is much swash-buckling panache in the life of the founder of the Bhopal dynasty.

Dost Mohammad Khan was in turn succeeded by Mamola Bai. This is theoretically not a 'reign' since she was in fact regent during the infancy of her son. We then have the famous Siege of Bhopal and the first contact between the British and the Bhopal royal family. It is interesting to note that the Begums of Bhopal ruled an area of India in their own right and their ability to rule was recognized and given effect to by the British. Not surprisingly, the British favoured the princely state of Bhopal and its rulers were awarded a 19-gun salute whenever they stepped out of their princely estate. By comparison, kings and queens of sovereign nations received a 21-gun salute at the time. This close rapport meant that in the Indian Mutiny of 1857, the Begum of Bhopal sided with the British and was not

removed from the throne when the British put down the rebellion. Oddly enough, the last Moghul Emperor (Bahadur Shah Zafar) was exiled to Rangoon, Burma. The Begum of Bhopal's influence on the British is evident in that she was able to have the Jama Masjid, Delhi reopened on her insistence after the British had closed it down indefinitely in 1857, as a source of the dissatisfaction which culminated in the Indian Mutiny.

In all, there were four Begums of Bhopal who kept the house of Bhopal in splendour for over 200 years. By 1924, when Sultan Jahan Begum was in decline, the house of Bhopal was beset by succession disputes, which were even referred to King George V of England for resolution. From being in control of their own dynasty, one sees the British as having the final say on who has the right to rule. Undoubtedly, the rule of Sikandar Begum is regarded as the golden age of Bhopal. One also admires the shrewdness of Shahjehan Begum in surviving plots and counterplots against her reign.

The book is a treasury of material on the British Raj. It is an affectionate recounting by a prince of the house of Bhopal of his family history, accordingly one should not expect family skeleton to be exhumed and exposed for public scrutiny. This is not a salacious tale as one might expect from the pen of Dominic Lepierre (*Freedom At Midnight*).

There is plenty of humour and diplomacy, which is not surprising since the author has devoted 40 years of his life to representing Pakistan abroad. In fact, he wittily remarks that this book, which took him six years to write, has taught him more about statecraft than a lifetime in Pakistan's Foreign Service.

If one wanted a three word sum up, one would have to say the book is a tour-de-force. ♦



# 20 KARATS

They are enterprising, dynamic, progressive, and above all, they are all down-to-earth. They are some of the most successful business women of Pakistan, having made a mark in what have always been considered man's domain. Most are pioneers in their fields while others have taken over their spouse's or father's concerns. Imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, it is a remarkable success for these women that others have set up similar businesses, modelling themselves on the patterns of these eminent business women of Pakistan.

Text and Coordination  
Shehla K. Fatah

have made him suspicious that she was with another man. This may be the reason why he threatened to barge into her apartment. In the past, too, Salman has not been averse to getting violent with his beau. He had a similar showdown with Somy Ali before he walked out on her for suspecting her of disloyalty.

It is said that her parents no more talk about her personal life as they have no say in her matters. When contacted to get their version of the story, Ash's father politely replied, 'Our personal life is very restless. We are suffering a domestic crisis at the moment. We don't have any peace of mind and it won't be possible to talk about anything right now. Maybe later, when we have overcome all this, we'll be able to talk about it.'

The latest on this love story is that it has ruffled a few more feathers. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a Hindu fundamentalist group has allegedly carried what could be termed as a defamatory article against Salman Khan, thereby warning Aishwarya against having an

affair with him. The article allegedly lists out 'flaws' in Salman, calling him an alcoholic and listing his criminal activities, including his involvement in the infamous black buck killing in Rajasthan during the shooting of *Hum Saath Saath Hain*. The article also alleges Salman's nexus with the underworld and his fits of fury!

It is said to warn Aishwarya of the perils of having an affair with the infamous actor and also alleges that Ash's father tried to have Salman off her back by having Bal Thackeray, the Shiv Sena chief intervene, but apparently decided against it when they heard that Salman shares a great rapport with the chief's daughter-in-law, Smita Thackeray, a film producer.

In addition, the article alleges that Ash's father refused to come on record for that particular article fearing retaliation on Salman's part! Incidentally, a Mumbai tabloid had recently carried a front-page story on how Ash's family is afraid of Salman and how shocked the family is at Ash's decision to carry on

with him, despite his reputation.

What's evident in this whole story is that at some level, Salman feels for Aishwarya what he hasn't felt for any other woman. Ash, on her part, is making it obvious in her own dignified manner that though she may not want to talk about this relationship in print, for all purposes, Salman has (like she cries out to her mother in the film *Hum dil de chuke sanam* in which Salman Khan was her co-star) touched her soul! One suspects that when she delivered that scene, there was no acting involved.

All said and done, what still remains the point to ponder is whether this beautiful woman, who won the title of Miss World on the strength of her intelligence more than her ensnaring beauty, let her heart rule her head and turn a blind eye to all the damage that Salman is causing not only to her career but to her once-peaceful life. But then, as they say, 'Love is blind.' And this couple is not just in love, they're 'madly' so. Will this love story have a fairy tale ending? Only Ash can tell. ♦



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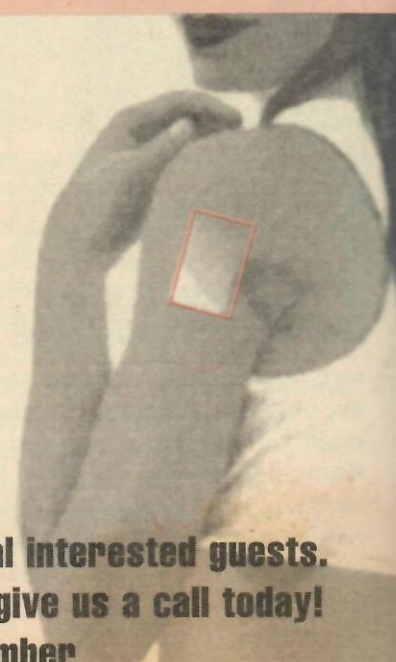
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# Marina Khan

## Changing Tracks

The bubbly and vivacious Saniya of *Tanhaiyan* fame is now a serious director... Marina Khan has come a long way since her 'Pink Panther' days.

Uzma Mazhar

**T**he process of getting in touch with a celebrity for an interview can be a difficult task. The endless telephone calls one has to make in order to get an appointment, the run of the mill answers '*Ji woh ghar pe nahin hai*' are now a standard attitude that journalists have to put up with. However, Marina isn't the typical celebrity. Upon meeting her, all the notions of being a celebrity who carry a chip on their shoulders were dismissed as she came across as a very friendly and warm person.

Marina Khan was born on December 26, 1962, in Peshawar, to an English mother and a Pakistani father who served in the Pakistan Air Force.

True to her star sign, Capricorn, Marina is a lively, humorous, romantic, committed and sensitive person, with a special love for cats and dogs.

Marina remembers her childhood as a wonderful time, "My father was in the forces so we practically had to shift base every two years; each time there was a

new school and environment. The real friends that I made during my school days were when I got into class eight. I don't have what you call 'childhood friends'. The thing with so much shifting around is that one never develops any deep association for any institute. Otherwise, I enjoyed the process of packing, going to a new home, decorating my new room and all. It was fun but I am sure my parents got fed up with all the shifting.

My brother, Zarak Khan, was not around as he was sent to a boarding school to ensure he had steady schooling. I guess I did feel lonely; despite the fact that we fought a lot, it was wonderful when he used to come home."

### On her plays

Marina's career in acting started with a long play, *Rashid Minhas* and then came the hit serial, *Tanhaiyan*, which gave her recognition and the nick name Pink Panther. Since then, she has worked in a number of plays - *Ehsas*, *Dhoop kinaray*, *Nijaat*, *Farar*, *Tum se*

*kahna tha*, *Khali haath* and a serial in India, *Tanha*, written by Haseena Mann which was recently aired again on Star Plus. She has also been involved in theatre with Yasmin Ismail and Rahat Kazmi. Now Marina has ventured into direction with her directorial debut *Tim hi to ho*. She also runs a production company FAT CAT Production.

So how did Marina enter this field? "My friend, Kehkashan Awan was working in a serial, *Jungle*, and I used to go with her to the studios just to see what it was all about. The assistant director Shehzad Khalil (who produced and directed *Rashid Minhas*) had met me and I think at that point he was looking for a new face and asked me if I had ever acted or had thought about it. I replied that I had acted once in a while in school and college. I also told him that Urdu was my weak point. He was quite fine with it and named five people who have problems with speaking in Urdu! He managed to convince me. After that came *Tanhaiyan*, which was also Shehzad Khalil's production.



# Do I have the right...?

**What does the Pakistani legal system say about abortion? An update.**

**Ayesha Javed Akram**

It was one of the many stories in an issue of Time magazine printed the year before last. An unmarried girl gives birth to a child, wraps the child in tissue paper and throws him in the dustbin - all done with the help of the child's father. Two hours after disposing of their child, the couple walks into a dance hall.

Somehow, the fact that they went to a dance afterwards strikes as even worse than the actual killing. It is incidents like these that make one question the wisdom of not legalizing abortion. While abortion remains an unauthorized procedure in a large number of Islamic countries, it has been made legal in some European countries but the legalization is hardly as simple as one would suppose. Till the year 2000, abortion on request was only available in Japan and the Soviet Union while at the other extreme, there are countries like Singapore and Tunisia where in order to curb population growth, the laws regarding abortion have been made unnecessarily flexible. Then of course there is the sole example of China, where the government has made abortion compulsory by law as part of its 'one child for a couple' policy.

The circumstances under which women resort to this measure is a different topic altogether; for now, the issue SHE wishes to address are the conditions under which Pakistan's legislature allows women to take this step.

Section 338 in the Pakistan Penal Code specifically deals with this issue. Part A of this section called *Isgat-e-Hamal*, deals with abortions conducted before the child's organs have been formed, that is, before the eighth week of pregnancy. If this abortion is undertaken for any reason excepting the following, the two parties are eligible for punishment.

The permissible reasons are:

- 1) Abortion performed in good faith to save the life of the mother.
- 2) Abortion performed to provide necessary treatment to the mother.

The punishment for this crime depends on whether the abortion was conducted with the consent of the woman or not. If the woman's consent was obtained prior to the abortion, then both the person who conducted the abortion (usually a doctor or a mid-wife) and the woman who agreed to it are subject to three years of imprisonment each. If the woman's consent was not received, then the doctor alone is liable to ten years of imprisonment. And if during the procedure, any hurt is caused to the woman or if she dies, the doctor will also be liable to punishment for such hurt or death as the case may be.

Part B of this section or *Isgat-e-Janin* deals with abortion conducted after the child's limbs and organs have been formed. Again, if the abortion is conducted for a reason other than the two reasons - in good faith for saving the life of the woman or as part of the treatment the woman is undergoing - then the concerned parties are liable for punishment. The degree of punishment depends on the condition of the child at birth.

The guilty parties are liable to:

- 1) One twentieth of *diyyat* if the child is born dead.
- 2) Full *diyyat* if the child is born alive but dies as a result of any act of the offender.

And/or imprisonment up to seven years.

*Diyyat* is a term used in legal proceedings which has a monetary value of 30, 630 grams of silver (approximately one

lakh, seventy thousand, six hundred and ten rupees). With *Isqat-i-Janin* again, any hurt caused to the mother during the procedure will merit separate punishment.

The main point of contention in these sections is the use of the term 'good faith'. Salman Shaukat (LLB graduate from Pakistan Law College) comments: "If such a case was to be brought to court, as a lawyer I would point out how not terminating the pregnancy would have led to emotional anguish and hence severe decline in the mother's mental health status. As should be obvious from the above two laws, all that the Pakistan Legislature is concerned about is damage to the mother and the only circumstances in which the law permits abortion is when there is potential danger to the mother's health. Proving either physical or mental harm to the mother then is the only loophole allowed by the law."

A study of the Pakistan Legal Digests and the Annual Law Digests for the years 1999 and 2000, lead to some startling revelations. It turns out that in 1999 and 2000 there were no recorded cases of abortion at any of the High Courts in Pakistan. Salman Shaukat comments that it is highly unlikely that such cases are even reported at the district level.

Nomaan Akram, Barrister-at-law at Raja Mohammed Akram and Co, agrees with Salman and feels it is easy to explain why such cases are not reported. "When both the perpetrator of the crime and the recipient of the crime are benefiting, who will report the case?" he asks before going on to elaborate further on this issue. "If a woman was to come to me and state that her fetus has been diagnosed with Down's Syndrome which is why she wishes to abort it, I would strongly advise her against it for both sections pertaining to this issue are very clear on the point that for no reason other than 'medical risk to the mother' is an abortion legal."

How then do so many get away with abortion? To find out the answer, we contacted Dr. Ahmed Awab (House Officer at Mayo Hospital, Lahore) who claims that a major reason for the lack of reported cases could be the brilliant camouflage medical science offers to the procedure of abortion. "Practically, abortions can be divided into first trimester abortions (performed within the first three months of pregnancy), second trimester abortions (performed within the mid three months of pregnancy) and third trimester abortions (performed during the last three months of pregnancy).

As a rule, second and third trimester abortions are not performed because they present great potential harm to the mother. As far as first trimester abortions are concerned, the

usual method for this is a DNC - Dilator and Curettage technique. DNCs are fairly common procedures and are performed for a hundred and one reasons amongst which are abnormal bleeding from the uterus, suspected cancer of the uterus, etc. So, a doctor who may wish to conceal the fact that he is performing an abortion, can simply list his patient as a DNC patient and no one will ever know that in the mass he is scraping off the uterus, the beginnings of a fetus are also present.

On the other hand, a patient could conceal her pregnancy and go to the doctor with the simple complaint of uterine bleeding. Theoretically, in the tests that are performed prior to DNC, a pregnancy test is also included and in cases where the pregnancy test is positive, a DNC becomes illegal. But in government hospitals since pregnancy testing is an expensive procedure, doctors usually don't press for it, which is why it becomes easy for the patient to conceal her pregnancy. In such a case, the doctor would routinely scrape excess tissue from

the uterine wall and will be unaware that a zygote is also being scraped off.

The main problem is that DNC being an easy procedure can even be performed by *dais* and mid-wives and at a lot of illegal clinics that have suddenly sprung up. At places like Safia Clinic, it is not doctors but mid-wives who perform the abortion.

Why second and third trimester abortions are rare isn't just because the mother is at great risk during the procedure; the main problem is that since it is a complicated procedure, it requires some skill and cannot be performed by a mid-wife or any non-medical personnel for that matter.

This is why abortion clinics nearly never offer late-term abortions. The answer to the question as to whether our legislature allows the parents to abort an abnormal fetus or an illegitimate child or to commit abortion as a means of family planning is now clear. Technically, the Pakistan courts allow parents none of the above freedoms. But then, as the doctor explained, if the pregnancy is in the early stages, a simple procedure can resolve the issue. Should you get caught - and the odds of this happening are one in a million - a good lawyer will play up on the hidden flaws in the law and save your

skin.

The only way to regulate this system is to educate more people for not only are many not aware of the stand our religion and our courts take on this matter, most don't even know of the options, other than abortion, available for an unwanted child. It is sad that in the midst of orphanages like the Edhi orphanage and the SOS, many young lives are still being denied the chance of life. ♦

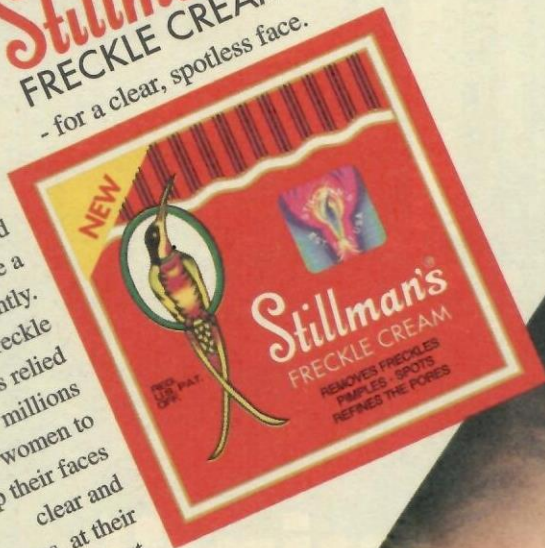
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Clean, sparkling marble floor styled by Amin's mother. Walls beautifully decorated with his father's masterpieces

# A mastermind's abode

Shehla K. Fatah

Photography: Shamy! Khuhro



**From outside, the plain brick building looks like another school structure, but inside is the spacious, well illuminated Amin Gulgee gallery, the first art gallery of its kind where artists will have an opportunity to display their creative skills at no cost or commission. But what is more attractive is the house that Amin has made on the upper levels of the gallery, a totally uncluttered living space that reflects the personality of the artist.**

**I** am not much of a house wife," candidly admits Amin Gulgee, as he enthusiastically talks about the studio apartment into which he has recently moved in. There might not be many flower vases, lamps or decorative items to adorn the place, but Amin has surely designed a very artistic and, at the same time, very practical house to live in. Conceptualized in a way as to make maximum

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