

Magazine

Third National Rabindra Music Festival

Fresh Voices, Unconscious Style



lapsed into affected tones, her wit and verve make it a pleasure to listen to her. Veteran Syed Hassan Imam's "Balaka" was strong and captivating, his modulations sophisticated.

Among the singers, Flora Ahmed, Ikhtiar Omar, and Habibuddin Ahmed were greatly appreciated for solid, pleasing performances. Mita Huq, as usual, charmed the ear with her sweet tones in "Aaj shobaar rangey rang mishate hobey." Mita's voice is unusual, and she sings with understanding, the basis of any mature presentation of Tagore songs. The other showstopper was Moinuddin Nazir's folk-style "Bashonte ki shudhu" in his clear rich voice.

Salma Akbar sang a lively duet with her husband Sajed Akbar, and her solo "Dhoney janey achhi bhuley" deserves mention for a melodious voice and genuine effort.

Kishwar Kamal proved that hers is one of the most individual talents in the city. Her "Tumi aeto aalo jaaltecho"



seemed to fill the auditorium with a different, somehow wistful, interpretation. A young British artiste, Glen Armstrong, displayed an impeccable sense of tune and rhythm in his rendition of "Baaheiro pathey bbaanghi hiya."

Though better talent could be found in provincial towns the festival's effort to promote and bring together artistes of Tagore music is commendable. The audience was composed of a large variety of people, not an exclusive intellectual crowd. That kind of popular support is the lifeblood of any festival of this nature. Mixing young and promising talent with established veterans makes for a balanced and colourful programme, but some of the weaker performances should have been left alone. The festival cannot afford to lose the audience's support due to these weak links in an otherwise strong chain. Several prominent artistes on the list failed to show up at all.

Dedicating the finale to all the martyrs of the country — from the 1952 Language Movement to the 1990 uprising — was a gesture the organizers of the festival can be proud of.

— S. Bari

must develop such a craft. Other countries are contemplating developing their own version.

The most advanced form of aerospace plane is now on the drawing boards of British Aerospace. Without funding at home it is destined for the wastepaper bin unless backing can be found from another country, such as the Soviet.

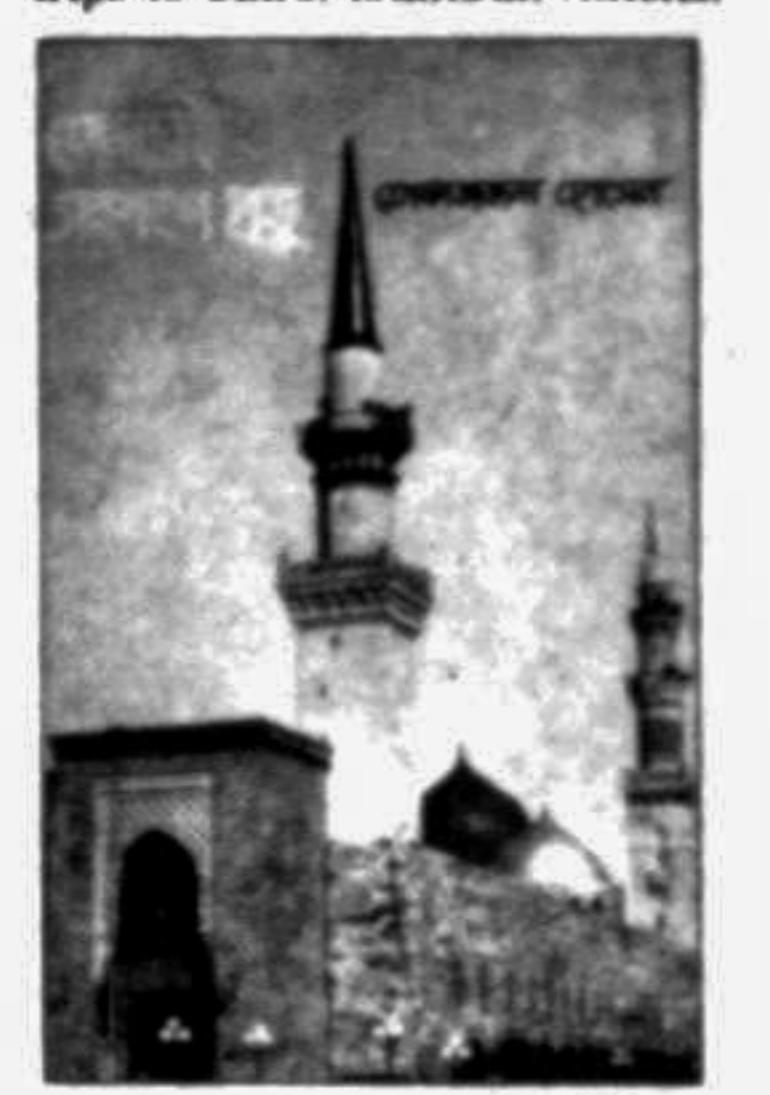
And a strong lobby is still backing manned spaceflight.

People are more versatile than machines and can react more quickly to unforeseen circumstances. Repairs can be performed in orbit with a manned crew, often making ingenious use of the limited tools and equipment available. Innumerable instances of direct intervention of astronauts has saved the scientific value of a mission.

The next generation of space shuttle will be more like an aircraft. It will take off from a runway, fly into space, then make a runway landing. If the US wants to stay at the forefront of space technology it

part is devoted to a short description of the ancient history of the country and sharia-and-sunna-based administrative system of the Saudi Kingdom.

The second part of the book begins with the author's short trips to Cairo, Istanbul, Athens,



Cuts Put Manned Space Station Plans in Jeopardy

A movement is growing among American scientists in favour of unmanned spaceflights. Unmanned probes, they argue, provide a cheaper option, and can go where no man will ever go.

Probes like Ulysses can fly over the Sun's poles in an orbit that will long remain too expensive for manned spaceflight. The European probe Giotto was sent through Halley's comet on a mission far too dangerous to risk human life.

A manned presence in space is expensive because crews need a life support system, food and unlike remote sensors, cannot work 24 hours a day. Extra payload mass is taken up by devices to ensure crew safety.

It is claimed greater scientific return could be obtained by launching a large number of unmanned satellites instead of one manned space shuttle.

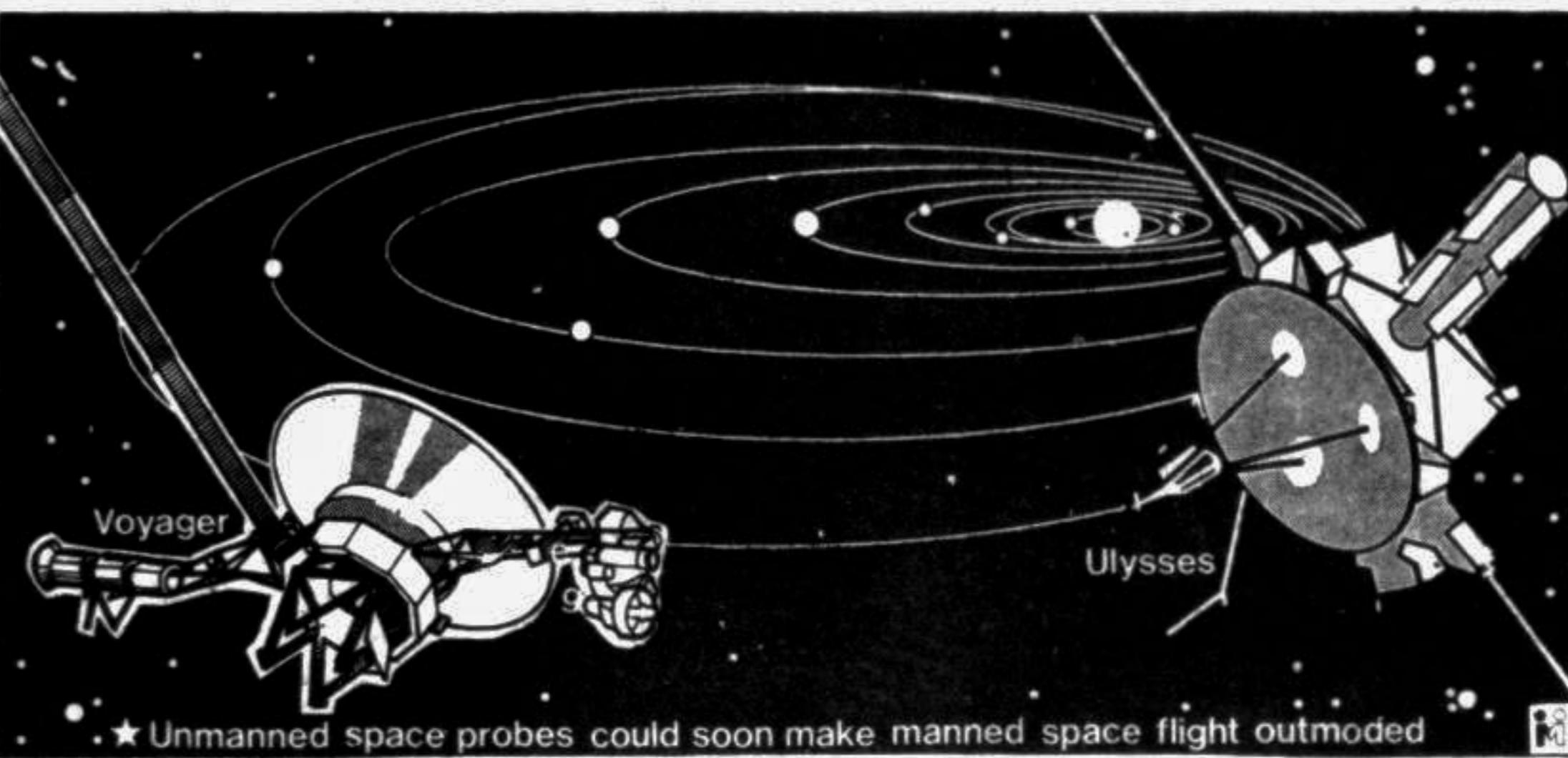
The argument is helped by the failure of the US Congress to approve the national Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) budget. The biggest cutbacks are in the manned spaceflight programme, with \$125 million chopped from the Space Shuttle and Operations programme alone.

The manned Moon and Mars landing missions have been abandoned altogether and further savings come from abandonment of unmanned Mars probes that would have preceded a manned landing.

These missions may be reinstated in later years. However, the space station budget is slashed by \$551 million, bringing it down to \$1.9 billion and forcing NASA to redesign.

Freedom Space Station is an international project involving Japan, Canada and the European Space Agency so there

US scientists are divided over whether manned space flights should continue. Some say unmanned probes are not only much cheaper. They can also go where man can never go. The debate has hotted up with the decision by the US Congress to cut heavily the budget of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The cuts, report Gemini News Service, have major implications for the future of the Freedom Space Station and have led to the abandonment of plans to land a person on Mars. — By Geoffrey Hugh Lindop.



will be limits on how drastic the redesign will be. It may not be fully operational until the turn of the century — by which time the design will be 10 years out of date.

Congress has not approved the \$16 million funding for developing a space lifeboat for Freedom. Known as the Assured Crew Return Vehicle, it will be permanently docked to the station and provide a means of emergency evacuation.

NASA has two options. It could use some of its other funds to develop the space lifeboat or it could ensure a Union, Japan and Germany plan their own versions.

Despite the massive cutbacks, the manned space programme will still spend around \$6 billion in the year, leaving little cash for unmanned missions.

THE VIDEO SCENE

S.M. Mamoon

The news of the hour is definitely Gulf war and if you are interested to watch the real happenings, you better run to your nearest video library and ask for the video cassette: titled Gulf War (part 1 and 2). It's a five-hour cassette shown on the BBC TV. This documentary film shows the happenings of the first seven days of Gulf war, the power of Allied Forces, Saddam's arsenal, the planning of Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Well if you want to get away from the harsh realities of life you better take a nose dive in the world of Hindi movies because six new movies were released last week.

Top Ten (Hindi)

1. Hum—Stg. Amitabh Bachchan, Govinda, Kimi Katkar, Danny, A. Kher.

2. Saugandh—Mukesh Khanna, Pankaj Dheer, Rakhee, Rupa Ganguly.

3. Jeena Tere Galimain—Kavita Kapoor, Suraj, Tinnu Anand, Archana.

4. Patthar Ki Insaan (action)—Vinod Khanna, Jackie Shroff, Sri Devi, Poonam Dhillon.

5. Saaya (social drama)—Satrughan Sinha, Poonam Dhillon, Danny.

end I have to mention sadly, this is a topical commercial Hindi movie. Saugandh, Patthar Ki Insaan, Saaya end are also new releases and they have joined the hits chart.

Two new Pakistani dramas have arrived lately — Hawa Ki Bet (two parts) and Khaans (three parts).

If you are interested to watch movies with your children, you better borrow the hilarious Blackbeard Ghost, Walt Disney's Swiss Family

Robinson, In Search of the Castaways, Absent Minded Professor, My Dog the Thief and Home Alone.

The recently concluded Pakistan and West Indies one-day series is also available in the market for sports lovers.

6. Star Buzz-8 (video magazine program)

7. Deewane (romantic action)—Supriya Pathak, Anuradha Patel, Shekhar Sumon, Anupam Kher.

8. Aag Laga Do Savan Ko—Kuldeep, Nandini, Sargam, Ajit.

9. Khilaaf (romantic)—Chankay Pandey, Madhuri Dixit.

10. Aik Din Achanak (Directed by Mrinal Sen)—Shabana Azmi, Aparna Sen, Rupa Ganguly, Arjun Chakravarty.

Top Ten (English)

1. God Father (part-3)—Al Pacino, Andy Garcia (the movie is based on Mafia).

2. The Two Jakes (detective thriller)—Jack Nicholson (Second part of China Town).

3. The Rutantag Tapes (action thriller)—David Dukes, Susan Anspach.

4. 83-hours till Dawn (thriller)—Robert Urlich, Peter Erstraus.

5. Strong Medicine (part one and two)—Ben Cross, Patricia Duffy (Arthur Hally's thriller).

6. Crimes and Misdemeanors (drama)—Woody Allen, Mira Farrow, Alan Alda.

7. Psycho IV (horror)—Anthony Perkins.

8. Deaf Smith and Johnny Ears (western)—Anthony Quinn, Franco Nero.

9. State of Grace (action)—Sean Penn, Ed Harris.

10. The Bengali Night (drama based upon Calcutta life during the British period)—Shabana Azmi, Supriya Pathak, Utpal Dutta, Hugh Grant.

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