

TEENS and TWENTIES

The Two Brothers who are Rocking America

by Gemini Wahhaj

SOMETIME in the 90s David Letterman started his neighborhood show. David Letterman hosts a talk show, just like our beloved Oprah and Donahue, but unlike these two his show Late Night with David Letterman, features late at night. Also, unlike the other two shows, the Letterman show is very, very funny. Or so the Americans think.

So starting sometime in the 90s, Mr. Letterman would just pick up his mike and camera crew and run out into the streets outside his mid-town studio to harass his neighbors and other random people on the street. For example, he might stop a cab on 7th Avenue and start asking the driver some questions. Pretty soon, he got to know his neighbors very well, as did the millions of gaping-mouthed Americans who watch his show. Once he barged into a Sikh's pizza joint and the audience laughed a lot. So he kept coming back to harass this poor Sikh, thereby making him quite famous among his viewers.

One day in the Fall of 1993, Mr. Letterman walked into a small souvenir shop called Rock America, just up the street from his studio. The shop sold New York postcards, I Love New York T-shirts, mini-versions of the statue of Liberty, key chains depicting New York in various forms, and other odds and ends. The owners of the shop were Messrs. Sirajul Islam and

Mujibur Rahman. Mr. Letterman entered and started poking around. "What's this?" he asked. "What's that?" His viewers died laughing. Then he pretended he wanted to have a passport-size photograph of himself, and the owners obliged. "So what are your names?" Mr. Letterman asked. "My name is Sirajul Islam," said Sirajul Islam. "Wow, what was that again," Mr. Letterman asked, searching for some hidden humor. "My name is Sirajul Islam," came the answer again. Letterman made him say it again and again, and

each time the laughter was louder.

But suddenly something happened. The audience was no longer laughing at what David Letterman had to say. It was Sirajul Islam and Mujibur Rahman who were making them laugh! They could do or say anything, and it came out intensely funny. A happy Letterman called Mujibur Rahman to his studio to capitalise further on this unexpected find. Mujibur arrived with the requested passport size photograph. Letterman took the photograph and asked

him, "So where are you from?" "I am from Dhaka, Bangladesh," said Mujibur.

"Bangladesh?" said David Letterman. "Well now, if I put this photo in a fake Bangladeshi passport, I can just shunooze into Bangladesh."

When Mujibur got up to leave, he received a standing ovation from a houseful of Americans fearful from their own laughter.

The resourceful Letterman kept returning to the two Bangladeshi brothers (Sirajul and Mujibur are brothers). But this wasn't enough. He soon made them regular members of his team, and sent them on different assignments. The two finished their Tour America program last summer, in which they visited different States interviewing different people or looking at different sites, while the audience watched them back at the studio and laughed. Once they interviewed some basketball players.

"Excuse me, how tall are you?" Mujibur or Sirajul would ask.

"Seven foot."
"Oh, very good. I am five feet four." And then, moving on, "Excuse me, how tall are you?"

"Eight foot."
"Oh, very good. I am five feet four."

I was waiting for stand-by tickets to the Letterman show last summer, along with visitors from Minneapolis, Kansas,

Houston, and even Canada. About one hundred people line up everyday outside his studio from seven in the morning on the chance that they might get in to be part of the audience. One street bum had been waiting since two in the morning. Everyone wore the Letterman Tour America T-shirts featuring the happy faces of Sirajul Islam and Mujibur Rahman. And in a Fall issue of People's magazine, an opinion survey of all the hottest men in New York featured none other than our two brothers.

Some Bangladeshis living in the States are not very happy about the depiction of the two brothers. Several letters have threatened to sue Letterman for insulting Bangladesh. But others disagree. Sirajul and Mujibur have their own fans, who laugh when the brothers intend them to laugh, and clap when the brothers want them to. They buy coffee mugs with the brothers' faces painted on, and anything else that says Sirajul or Mujibur.

Sirajul and Mujibur are very genteel-looking middle-aged gentlemen. They can be seen mostly in their suits, speaking kindly with gushing fans. In the window of the shop hangs a huge picture of David Letterman shaking hands with the two brothers. And the celebrities themselves will stand outside on a good day, while polite fans wait in a long line along 7th avenue for just one shot with Mr. Rahman or Mr. Islam. The professional Mujibur Rahman poses with a fan, shakes hands, and then calls to the next one.



All About 'Addabazi' III "Addah is in our blood"

by Anam Mahmud

THE word 'gossip' evokes images of endless cups of teas, clouds of smoke from cigarettes, tireless talking and so on. The gossip of Hakim's courtyard was introduced at the beginning of the late seventies. The gossip at this spot adds speciality to the area of gossipology at DU. The gossip spot has been named by the name of the owner of the tea-stall, Hakim Miah.

The gossip gets life with a hot cup of tea under the kadam tree. The gossipers sit at the benches of wooden boxes covered with mats, but the main gossip-circle spreads

from this gossip-circle by Shazzad Hossein Joti.

Hakim's courtyard is a perfect place to demonstrate one's intelligent level. It can be regarded as the rendezvous spot for intelligentsia, rising journalists, poets, and authors.

Another distinguished gossip-circle roam around this courtyard. The super flops of politics, culture and literature gather together to take intoxicants (hemp & phensidyl). They are seen floating with dreams in the azure sky. They celebrate special occasion in their own style. Last year the

love your eyes" - these kind of phrases fill the air.

The most anticipated gossip goes on inside the TSC University going students, outsiders, Romeo's Juliet's, workers of different cultural organizations come over to this place for a warm badinage. Feasts to celebrate good results, birthdays or engagements are arranged at the cafeteria inside the TSC. Some enthusiastic sports-lovers stick like gum to the games room throughout the day enjoying either cream or table-tennis.

Various theatre groups, members of debating societies and poem-lovers gather in the green field of TSC to form a wonderful literary salon. The main function of such a literary salon is to chalk out programmes regarding 1st of Baishakh, 21st February, 16th December or 26th March. Bashir, Jayanta, Asaduzzaman Nur, Shafiq Kamal and Shafiq Rahman are seen at the rehearsals of various cultural programmes.

Other gossip-centres around TSC, include the front of DU (mainly regional & political), Rokya Hall (usually the lady admirers) and Sharwardi Uddayan Gate (gathering of drug addicts).

"Addah is in my blood", a regular fellow of TSC expressed. "I've learnt a lot from this addah," he also added. There is no end of gossip, but the gossip-circles have an infallible end of their own. The old gossipers give room to the new faces. The famous song of Manna De often creates nostalgia.

That gossip of coffee-house No longer prevail today Where did those golden days disappear?

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In The Land of Beethoven : The Best Musical Journey

by Asrarul Islam Chowdhury

IF the English alphabet starts with the letter 'A' then Western classical music must be respelled, starting with the letter 'B'. Yes, from the above excerpt of Chuck Berry, the reader may get the feeling that I am referring to Ludwig van Beethoven, the greatest composer to have graced human civilization. Indeed, no other composer, both since and after him, has enjoyed so much universal acknowledgement.

There is a fantastic resemblance with the birth and death dates of Ludwig van Beethoven to our two most glorious events, Victory Day and Independence Day respectively. History has it that this luminary was born on December 16, 1770 and died on March 26, 1827.

The genius of Beethoven is to be measured not only by his astonishing ability to improvise

and introduce the piano as a dominant instrument even after he became totally deaf by the age of only thirty, but also by that fact that Beethoven grew up in the era when already two other musical geniuses were dominating the world of classical music. These two prodigies were Haydn and Mozart. Indeed, the three foundation pillars of today's western classical music are the three names, Beethoven, Mozart and Bach.

The famous chronicler, Wilhelm von Lenz first divided Beethoven's musical career into three periods. He omitted his apprenticeship at Bonn. The first period starts with the completion of the Three Trios for Piano, Violin and Cello at 1794 and ends with the first public performance of the First Symphony and the Septet in

Roll Over Beethoven; Roll Over Beethoven; Dig those rhythmic blues. — Chuck Berry.

1800; the second period starts in 1801 with the Piano Sonata (Moonlight) and ends with the Piano Sonata in E Minor in 1814. The third and final period starts from 1814 to his death in 1827.

Most of Beethoven's music of the first period has a resemblance with those of Haydn and Mozart. Nevertheless, in two arenas, Beethoven is exhibiting the first is the individual use of the crescendo leading to a sudden piano, while the second and arguably the more dominant, is his sense of improvisation; his ability to keep his audience guessing.

The major feature of the second period is that the basic harmony of Beethoven is simple much more than that of Mozart. The critical mark lies in his ability to relate this harmony to the basic pulse. This distinguished Beethoven from other composers as he was not in the habit to repeat himself.

The third period is stamped by increasing concen-

tration of musical philosophy with a blend of wider harmony and texture. Nevertheless, Beethoven did not lose the simplicity of his youth. The unique characteristic of his final works is not merely the cumulative growth of the range of variation from variation, but that within each variation itself. The works of this period exhibit such outstanding improvisation that they have not been surpassed in quality.

Beethoven's monumental genius lies in his achievement in elevating the dignity of instrumental music to its highest peak. After Beethoven, philosophers finally realized that "all arts aspire to the condition of music". It was Beethoven who brought into the limelight the piano as the foremost musical instrument. By the grace of his aggressive, heretic and even narcissistic character, and his genial ability to balance musical ideas and forces, he stamped his later works with his own intellectual charisma. Beethoven expanded both the size of the orchestra and the length of orchestral compositions. He thus paved the way for his successors in Schubert, Berlioz, Wagner, Brahms, Strauss and Tchaikovsky, the greatest

composers of the 18th century.

The mark of a genius lies not merely in one's ability to improvise, but in one's magnanimity to surpass one's own time dimension, i.e., generation. The virtuosos are the ones who are ahead of their own time. From this point of view, Beethoven is a genius in his own right. His two most dominating works that influenced later generation composers are the Fifth and Ninth Symphonies. Brahms' First and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphonies mark their tribute to this great maestro.

In a previous article, I mentioned in the case of Tchaikovsky that one has to go through his music in order to understand his magnanimity.

The same applies for Beethoven too. Beethoven the creator has to be felt from the heart, mind and soul. So, dear reader, why don't you have a try at 'digging the rhythmic blues' of undoubtedly the greatest maestro of all times, Ludwig van Beethoven? I am confident, your journey through 'the land of Beethoven' will not prove to be futile. After all, it is the best musical journey you can embark on.

How Strong is Your Sense of Intuition?

Did you know that I was going to ask this question?

1. Do you do well in guessing games?
2. Have you ever had a run of good luck when gambling?
3. Have you ever felt that a house was 'right' or 'happy' as soon as you saw it?
4. Have you ever felt that you wanted to know someone better after seeing them for no more than an instant?
5. Have you ever 'known' who was at the other end before picking up a ringing telephone?
6. Have you ever heard voices telling you what to do?
7. Do you believe in fate?
8. Do you ever know what people are going to say before they say it?
9. Have you ever had a bad dream which turned out to be true?
10. Have you ever known what was in a letter before opening it?
11. Do you ever complete people's sentences for them?
12. Have you ever thought about someone you haven't heard from and then, out of the blue had a postcard, phone or letter from them? Or met them suddenly and quite unexpectedly?
13. Did you inexplicably find yourself distrusting some people?
14. Do you pride yourself on being able to judge people fairly accurately on first appearances?
15. Have you experienced the phenomenon known as déjà vu?
16. Have you ever refused to get on a aeroplane because you're feared that it might crash?
17. Have you ever woken up in the night worrying about the health or safety of a friend or relative?
18. Do you dislike some people for no very good reason?
19. Do you ever see an item of clothing and feel that you must have it?
20. Do you believe there is any truth in the saying "Love at first sight."

Now check your score

You get one point for every 'yes' answer and no points for every 'no' answer. If you scored between 10 and 20, then you have an extremely powerful sense of intuition. You have unusual skills and you aren't afraid to follow your instincts. If you scored between 1 and 9, then you do have a strong sense of intuition but you may not always make the most of your natural skills. Get into the habit of allowing your sense of intuition to make decisions for you. With minor decisions learn to follow whatever thought springs first into your mind. If you have difficult problems to solve do something quite relaxing - take a walk or bath, for example - and allow thoughts and ideas to drift into your mind. You'll be surprised at the number of possible solutions and answers that will appear in your mind. Write down all these possible answers and then look through the list. You'll find that the best solutions will leap up at you. If you scored 0 on this questionnaire than you have not allowed your sense of intuition to develop at all. But you will have a sense of intuition hidden deep down in your mind. Try to get into the habit of allowing your instincts to take over. The chances are high that you'll soon find yourself enjoying all the advantages of a healthy and strong sense of intuition.

Compiled by Mohammed Ruhul Hasan Moonir

Where Humanity Counts More than Beauty

by Nahid & Nishat Hussain

TO become Miss World one does not need to be exceptionally beautiful. Love, humanity and care for people is the key to success.

The year 1994, saw for the first time a representative from Bangladesh participate in the Miss World Beauty Pageant.



(2) With Nelson Mandela — photo credit — Bichitra

Eighty-seven contestants represented their respective countries in the Miss World Beauty Pageant which was held on 19 November in the magnificent Sun City in South Africa.

Anika Taher, a twenty-two year old beauty from Chittagong was the lucky one to win the title 'Miss Bangladesh 1994' competition which was held in Manchester. Anika is currently a second year BA student. In the Miss World 1994 Beauty Pageant Anika came as far as 12th in the third round

of the contests. In her one month stay in South Africa, she had faced many stages of the contest, participated in humanitarian activities and also had the opportunity to meet Nelson Mandela, President of

South Africa. After arriving in Sun City Anika was received by the Miss World committee members. She had to stay with all the other contestants in a five star hotel. As time flew Anika got to know about her fellow contestants.

From time to time the contestants had to take part in various programs on which they were awarded points. Their behaviour, composure, lifestyle was carefully noticed by the judges and subsequently these were second. These eighty-seven contestants were divided into groups of five,

everyone to visit Bangladesh. Among all the participants Miss India, Aishwarya Rai, was her best friend. Anika understood Hindi and the latter Bengali which made it easy for them to communicate with each other. She could not be as friendly with most of the girls



(1) With Miss World Aishwarya Ray — photo credit — Bichitra

and under privileged children. Here the girls had opportunity to help, clothe and feed these poor homeless children. This was an experience not to be forgotten, for these ladies because this can give more satisfaction than just wearing the 'Miss World' crown.

Anika tried to represent Bangladesh in various perspectives. She wore a Jamdani sari which is the national dress for women in Bangladesh. Many of the contestants preferred her sari and some also expressed interest in taking it! Many shared a keen interest to visit Bangladesh. Anika had invited

University News

JU

Compiled by: Anam Mahmud

Shakat Kabir Dipu, a student of English Department, has become a victim of the long run friction between the aliens and non-aliens groups of JCD. Terrorism struck the lovely green island called Jahangirnagar University again when he was murdered by the local group of JCD.

The lakes of JU have been beautified at the arrival of the visiting birds of winter. This time the migratory birds are large in numbers than ever before, as if, it is the protest of nature against the terrorism in the campus.

Jahangirnagar theatre has successfully celebrated a colourful programme on the occasion of its 13th birthday. Several dramas had been performed on the amphitheatre of JU on this occasion.

Among the performed dramas, 'Ababahika' and 'Barnachar' of Jahangirnagar theatre, 'Nur-ul-Din or Sarajbon' of dramatics department on banner of Sathirtha, 'Janani Biragana' and 'Ganarai' of Samaj Sanskrit Cultural group were noticeable. 'Bhapa Pitha', made of

rolled up rice and molasses, is probably the 'hottest' item of the campus at this moment. It succeeded to create a great sensation among the hundreds of students who rush to 'Suparitala' every evening. There are very few who can ignore the beckoning by the land of the 'Pitha'.

The classes of the new first year have just begun. The universal-Romeos, with the mentality of 'try again & again', are at this moment tremendously busy with the procedures of hooking up with the so called 'chikies' (beautiful girls).

The transport system of JU has probably created most controversy than anything else. Recently a new rule has been established saying no one is allowed to book a seat for himself without an identity card. Casanovas (those who keep seats for the girls) face a serious problem as now they fail to keep seats for their girlfriends.

The construction of the new hall for women has just been completed. It is yet to be named. It seems that the hall will be named after the name of either 'Pritilata Sen' or 'Jahanara Imam'.

Courtesy — Bichitra