

ART

# A Return to Harmony

The "Nadi-o-Nari's cinematographer William A Guth who had seen the metropolis, Dhaka, in sixties found his "image shattered" on his return to the city after thirty years. And as he experiences the visual serenity of A Muqtadir's canvas Guth conjures up the images of that lost serenity in his imagination. Muqtadir's 3rd solo painting show was recently held at La Galerie.

Individual figures in muted tones of brown seem to be organically linked to the earth, at one with the basic elements of life. Earth and sky, green vegetation and nourishing water; Here is man alone, humble in the order of life. But then, in one work A Muqtadir shows us a white glow radiating from a space within. Is it the spirit of our souls which can guide us to

yellow and white; a brown bird seeking light from its confining brown environment. White birds predominate in a number of works, in peaceful repose in browns and greens. And once again, a soulful figure appears, a white bird perched on his shoulder. Seeing a painting representing a street scene I was taken back by its sense of

calm unity, a perspective formed by soothing greys leading me towards swirling orange figures. I recalled my impression of chaos and dissonance as I had passed through city streets, wondering how the painter could see beyond what I had experienced. But then, I realized that I had overlooked my own vision as a cinematographer, moulding

light and shadow, tone and mood to meld with the essence of life experience portrayed on the screen. And in these paintings: A swirling mass of fish, or in a bold blue suggestion of waves and in another beautifully textured work suggesting fish. I saw a unity of inner light which seemed to come from beyond, in a rotating movement, radiance spun round in expanding arcs to finally reach out to carry me to a light beyond. To find peace? Perhaps. A Muqtadir's paintings show us that it is possible to look beyond aggravations of our chaotic world. For as with light, no matter how both light and our perceptions may be reflected and refracted, they ultimately return to a state of harmony.



expanding soap bubble, reaches out to encircle me. A group of figures travel through the seasons: From lush flowering trees to nourishing monsoon rains; from dry stark autumn to cool deep green dusk — seasons captured by changes in mood and colour. As players on nature's evolving stage, A Muqtadir harmonizes man in his natural element. This theme is seen in solitude as well. A series of indi-

another dimension? Suddenly, vibrant color opens my door to the sun. A yellow bird against a textured background of blue and pink hues introduces me to A Muqtadir's radiant colour palette. A glowing blue abstract, then a group of fish, although somewhat more subtle, use of colour to create specs of shimmering light. Bolder colour contrast is represented in a work of brown,



ENTERTAINMENT

## Viewing Video

by Lenin Gani

**P**AUL Hood (Harry Hamlin) has the difficult task of evaluating the Op Centre, a top US government think-tank. On Hood's first day as director, some rogue KGB agents get hold of a couple Russian nukes in the Ukraine and all hell breaks loose. The Americans fear the missiles are bound for a radical fundamentalist group and will be used against Israel. Hood, who was thought to be a novice, considering his last assignment was a management consult, proves he is equal to the demanding situation at hand.

Op Centre is yet another masterpiece from the one and only Tom Clancy. Director Roman Polanski certainly keeps the viewer on edge as to Kingstey's fate right until the end.

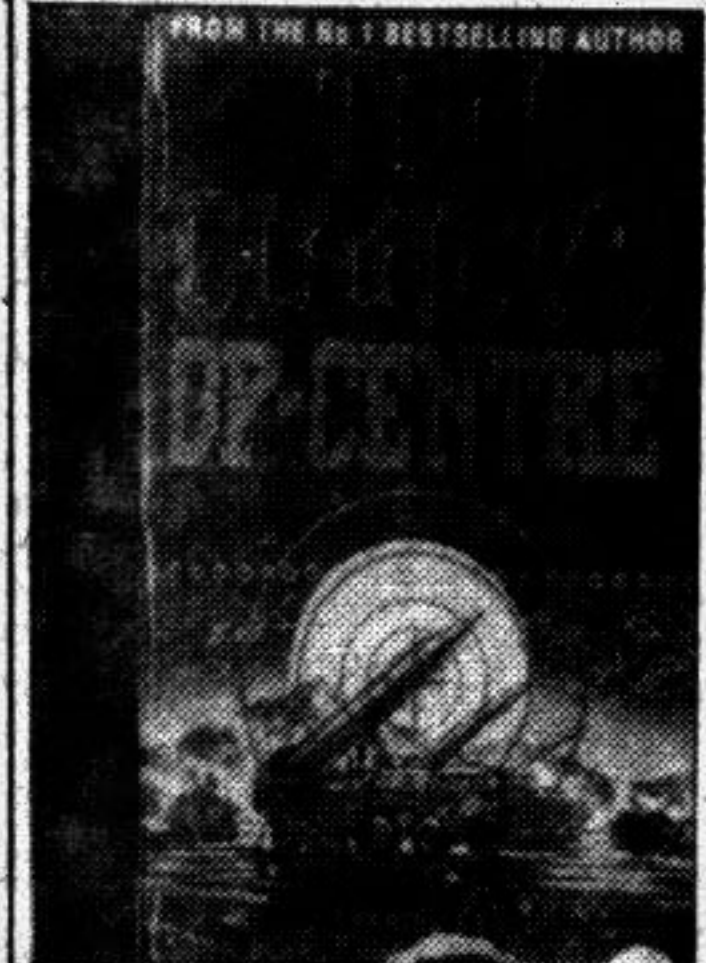
**D**EATH And The Maiden is set somewhere in a South American coun-

try after the overthrow of a military dictatorship. One night, quite by accident, Ben Kingsley arrives at Sigourney Weaver's house. Apparently, during 1977-80 when the country was under military rule, Weaver was among many political detainees tortured by Kingsley.

Recognising her guest for what he really was, Weaver hatches a plan to force a confession from Kingsley admitting his crimes.

Weaver's husband (Stuart Wilson), who has been appointed by the state to probe into the atrocities committed by the junta, is torn between his wife and Kingsley.

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ENGLISH		
NAME	TYPE	CAST
1. Kiss Of Death	(Act/Thriller)	David Caruso/Samuel Jackson/Nicholas Cage
2. Leviathan	(Thriller)	Peter Weller/Amanda Pays
3. Lost Films Of Laurel & Hardy	(Comedy)	
4. The Little Rascals		
5. Goofy Movie (Walt Disney production)	(Cartoon)	
6. Grid Runners	(Action)	Don 'Dragon' Wilson

HINDI		
NAME	TYPE	CAST
1. Roop Suhana	(Musical)	Juhi Chawla
2. Police Wala, Gunda	(Pol/Act)	Reena Roy/Mukesh Khanna
3. Raghuveer	(Action)	Sunil Shetty/Shiba. Shirodkar
4. Anokha Andaz	(Rom)	Manisha Koirala/Mukta
5. Janam Kundi		Jeetendra/Vinod. Khanna/ Reena Roy/Annu Agarwal

Source: Film Fair video and other clubs.

TELEVISION

## Arabian Nights: Story of Fisherman and the Genie

**Fisherman Frees the Genie:** After hearing the story of ungrateful Badshah Zoman, the genie promises to give so much wealth to the poor fisherman that his children will never experience poverty and starvation. On this promise the fisherman frees the genie from the bottle and true to his promise the transformed genie gives enormous wealth to the poor fisherman.

which had the world's most powerful genie. The possession of this lamp would make all his wealth look a pittance. He inquired from the imprisoned witch, genies, fairly — the whereabouts of this lamp. They all shook their heads in negation. Finally, a silver-chained

fairy, Sitara Shahnaz, locked one imprisoned in a mirror — on being tortured mercilessly to show the route to reach the magic lamp which has the greatest and most powerful Genie of the world residing in it. Episode 19 on BTV today (Friday) at 8:30 pm.

**Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely:** Sultan Shehryar is very impressed by Shehrazade's sense of ethics, morality and philosophy. He admires her analysis of power of the genie and power of Badshah Zoman and realises that absolute power can corrupt one's senses absolutely.

**Dark Justice: "Forbes for the Defense"** Nick's (Ramy Zada) Night Watchmen are blamed for a series of vigilante killings committed by an insane public defender who lost her family to a criminal she had success-

fully defended. Sunday, 28-5-95 at 9:00 pm on BTV

Princess Shehrazade mentions the power of a magic lamp and magician who desired to own it.

**Channel [V] Shot Quick Gun Murugan** CHANNEL [V]'s image campaign The Legend of Quick Gun Murugan collected seven awards at last Saturday's 1995 Hong Kong 4A's Creative Awards — May 20, 1995.

**The Crystal Maze** Episode 18 on BTV today (Friday) at 9:05 am.

**Alladdin and the Magic Lamp:** Jingalo Jungla was a freightful magician residing in the jungle named Janam Pata Hora in Africa. He possessed unbelievable genies, ugly and freightful ghosts, beautiful flying fairies — but he was a stone-hearted man and all of them hated him.

The campaign was devised and executed out of CHANNEL [V]'s Bombay production unit by Shashanka Ghosh and Rajesh Devraj. The character had a huge impact in India where it gained an IAFFA award of excellence for the best commercial of the decade and its international appeal was proved when broadcast on the Northern beam with Mandarin subtitles.

The Legend of Quick Gun Murugan won Gold awards in the following categories: Special Judges' Award, Best Promotion Film/AV Presentation, Best Direction, Best Cinematography, Best English Copy and Silver awards for Best Soundtrack and Best Cinematography.

**The Magic Lamp:** One day magician Jingalo realized the existence of a magic lamp

deals, came to Mexico City in his mid-20s, to study business administration at the Autonomous University.

At the age of 29, Padre Jacques, who became a great favourite of Mexico City Cardinal Ernesto Corripio, was awarded two intriguing parishes — one in the eastern slums of the city and the other in Polanco, the cosmopolitan Fifth Avenue of the Mexican capital.

## When an Odour of Sanctity

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Salinas and Secretary of Agriculture Carlos Hank; alleged business partnerships with the son of Salinas' predecessor, Miguel De la Madrid; a \$80 million loan from the now-discredited Bank of International Credit and Commerce. Some saw even darker origins for Peniche's fortune. "Who knows where the money came from?" says one former accountant for Peniche's Pragma brokerage house in Mexico City. "One day the numbers would be red — the next they'd be black. Who was going to ask?" Peniche ascribed his amazing climb to a higher power — his "spiritual adviser," the French-born priest, 53-year-old Father Jacques Chârvierat. Padre Jacques, as he is universally known in Villahermosa, the hub of Peniche's

dealing, came to Mexico City in his mid-20s, to study business administration at the Autonomous University. At the age of 29, Padre Jacques, who became a great favourite of Mexico City Cardinal Ernesto Corripio, was awarded two intriguing parishes — one in the eastern slums of the city and the other in Polanco, the cosmopolitan Fifth Avenue of the Mexican capital. Moving in such circles allowed Padre Jacques to put the wealth of his well-off parishioners to work for his more impoverished constituents. Appealing to Mexico City's unselected mayor, Carlos Hank Gonzalez (later a Peniche business associate), the priest won potable water for slum-dwellers. He persuaded jewel-encrusted matrons to become "godmothers" to starving pri-

BOOKS

# A Compendium of the Past Guidelines for a Future

**Bangladesh: Past Two Decades and the Current Decade**  
Assimilating Past Experiences towards Shaping the Future  
Edited by Q K Ahmad  
Academic Publishers, Dhaka 520 Pages: Taka 500

**T**HIS is the latest title from the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP)'s publication division. Since its founding in 1980 as a research organisation in the nature of a think-tank, the BUP has been carrying out studies on all major aspects, bearing on the dynamics of sustainable development, particularly in the Bangladesh context.



The book under review, published in association with Academic Publishers, is a compilation of articles presented at a week-long national seminar organised by the BUP. The subjects dealt with are economic management, employment and poverty alleviation, environment, politics, agriculture, industry, constitution and the legal system, culture, urbanization, population, health, education, journalism and the media, science and technology, foreign trade, women and progress, administration, and foreign policy. The authors are all distinguished persons in their own spheres of learning and development activity.

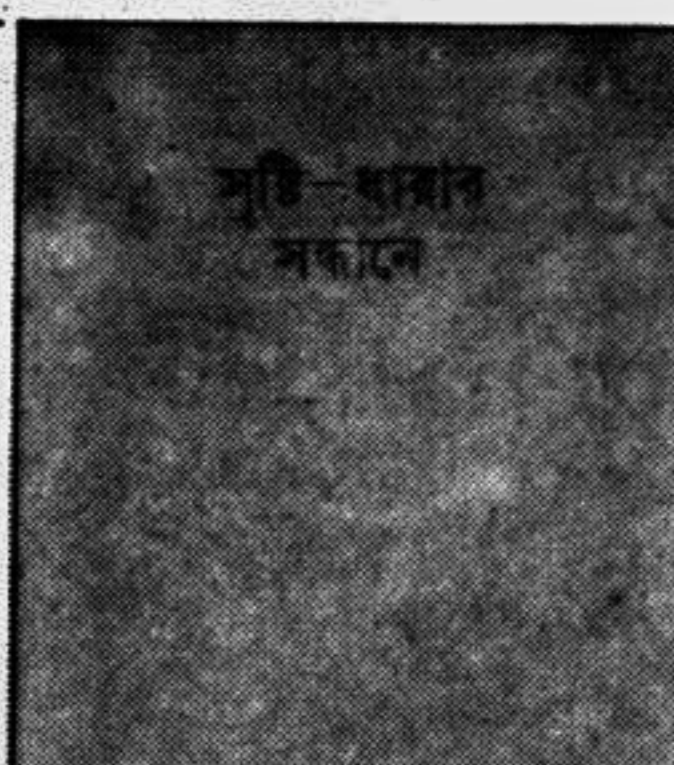
past two decades have been reviewed with a view to suggesting guidelines and options for attainment of the national objective of socio-economic development. This linkage, backward and forward, has turned what is a compilation between two covers into a book proper; the pieces have come together to form one whole, a characteristic which is of the essence of any book worth its name. The editor, Dr Q K Ahmad, by thoughtfully including English and Bangla executive summaries of the deliberations that took place in the different sessions of the seminar, has reinforced this essential feature which makes for the organic quality of a book.

"Bangladesh: Past Two Decades and the Current Decade" is the kind of book which should be read and re-read by all who are concerned with different aspects of nation-building in various capacities — from policy formulation to implementation. If one were to put one's finger on the drift of the ideas that interpenetrate the articles in the book and the proceedings of the national seminar where these were presented, one can do no better than quote from the English summary: "Empowerment of the people is the key to poverty alleviation, removal of inequalities, establishment of the rule of law and the evolution of a genuine democracy. Power will not only emanate from the people, they must also retain and apply power within a democratic framework. The essential prerequisites for creating such a dispensation are education, training and organization/work-based programmes of action. The country belongs to the people, and the people must be in a position to exercise their legitimate rights and have the capability to contribute to the task of nation building." There may be a certain gravity of tone about the passage excerpted, and it is in the fitness of things that it should be so, but between the lines there is also the cadence of hope, or at least of all hope not being lost. This book seeks to point the way to that hoped for consummation. Paraphrasing Thomas Paine, we do have it in our power to build Bangladesh anew.

# Cosmos and Life: Attempting a Deeper Insight

**Sristi Dharar Sandhane (In Quest for the Trend in Creation)**  
by Mahmud Haider  
Published by Usha Prokashan, Dhaka.  
Pages-81. Price - Tk 50=-

**C**OSMOLOGY, creation of life on earth and its gradual evolution which has been undergoing 'transitional process' since the very beginning, have all along stirred man's area of thought, continuously adding new dimensions to the study in the field. Recent startling discoveries in these areas have not only added greatly to human knowledge but also changed his overall outlook regarding the universe.



Out of curiosity to have a deeper insight of universal mystery, mingled with humanistic outlook and fascination to poetry, Mahmud Haider has presented us his "Sristi Dharar Sandhane". Besides discussing the problems concerning the cosmology, evolution and destiny of man and the universe, the writer has highlighted the great message of religion in epitome form and included Bangla renderings of four poems of Tennyson. At the end, the writer has annexed a science fiction written in English. The items have been discussed under the three parts of the book.

readers of cosmology. It is a brief but comprehensive discussion encompassing latest findings and speculations in cosmology. Here the writer has tried to represent complex theories like pulsating universe and infinity of dimensions in a lucid and readable language for common readers. However, the details of his statements, as M Shamsur All asserts in the preface of the book, are not in all cases fully consistent with the theories of cosmology and origin of life on earth. In spite of this, the writer's query and attempt to find the answers deserve appreciation.

The first part entitled 'Bishwa Barta' (the message of the universe) deals with the ancient philosophy-oriented science versus the modern science based on experimental and observational proofs, the story of creation, a brief chronological depiction of origin and development of human civilisation and highlight on space-bubble. The short piece on space-bubble has of special interest to enthusiastic

the second part entitled 'Manabata' (humanity) includes

three pieces, namely, i) Human mind and consciousness, ii) Humanism and iii) Human rights. Human mind and consciousness' has been discussed in the light of spiritual outlook with reference to biological and psychological aspects. In 'humanity' and 'human rights', the writer has tried to convey the basic teachings of religion from humanistic viewpoint. While too much inclination to the outward difference in customs and fanaticism in the name of religion make man detached from the internal spirit of the message of scriptures, genuine faith in God is reflected not in rituals, but in the service of the creation, striving for acquiring knowledge and widening of outlook towards humanity and nature. The third part of the book under discussion includes Bangla versions of four poems of great English mystic poet Tennyson, whose poetry tends to manifest divine ecstasy. All of the four translated poems, as the writer has observed, revolve on a central idea, that is, flow of river (here river symbolises life) and its merging with the vast ocean, intrinsically the ultimate goal of which is communion with God. At the end, the writer has added a science fiction entitled "Beyond this World", written in English. It is an amusing story, which the writer says may draw the attention of common readers and make them get greater interest in the first part of the book. The contents of the book, although apparently detached from one another they may seem to be, reveal to us the inquisitive as well as philanthropic mind of the writer.

was justified by the Gospel and Canon Law The priest was a guest at the Bishop's home on several occasions. "But he hasn't come this year," Bishop Ochoa says a little sadly. One reason Padre Jacques has failed to put in an appearance is the collapse of Peniche's empire. In July 1994 the Secretary of Finance ordered an audit of the Cre-

And then, squinting out of the window at his spiring church across the plaza, the Bishop wistfully observes: "The great cathedrals of Europe were built on the bad consciences of the rich. Mine isn't even finished yet."

## Ruminations from Rome

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English country churchyard. On a sunny day, sitting on the low walls of the cimitero with Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale" lying open on my lap, the hum of Rome's traffic in the distance, and gazing at the cats basking on the fallen pillars near the Pyramid that towers over the graveyard, I can even bear to think about the room on Piazza Spagna. On a bright spring day like today, the steps of the Piazza will be thronged with masses

of Azaleas and lively with the crowds of people. At the foot of the steps will gurgle the witty Fountain of the Boat. I find it symbolic that Keats' window faced not one of the more eloquent and vibrant fountains of Rome splashing and spraying an ebullience of water, but this quiet, yet original marble barge whose structural disadvantage, the ingenuity of its designer turned into a thing of beauty. This part of the Piazza lacked the adequate water pressure for a more flashy, conventional

fontain. Instead we have the intelligently conceived fontana in the shape of a leaky boat, forever floundering in its little pool of water! So in the Piazza we have the eternally sinking boat kept from ever going under by man's craft; and in the room above, I imagine a dying soul taking flight into immortality on the wings of his art. Away! Away! for I will fly to thee. Not chartered by Bacchus and his pards. But on the viewless wings of Poesy.

Reviewed by: **Md. Mahub Hassan**