

ART

Wrap Artists Parcel up Parliament

Francesca Buglioni writes from Berlin

After 23 years' campaigning, the husband-and-wife team known as Christo Javacheff have got permission to wrap Germany's best-known building. Yes — wrap it, in metallic fibre. Gemini News Service reports on an extraordinary work of art which has been designed not to last. (Unveiling of the veiled Reichstag building, 23 June)



Aerial view of the Reichstag

He has wrapped a bridge in Paris, a dockside in Cologne and a museum in Chicago and now Christo Javacheff expects four million people to see his biggest piece of packaging yet — Germany's former Parliament building. It has taken 24 years to secure the go-ahead for the wrapping of the Reichstag in thousands of square metres of metallic fabric. The Bulgarian-born artist and his French wife Jeanne-Claude who choose to be known as one person for the 10 million deutschmark project — have had to overcome the opposition of Chancellor Helmut Kohl and a parliamentary debate. Critics dismiss the project as a display of the artists' personal vanity and say it has no meaning. Detractors also argue that it will glorify a building that represents dark aspects of German history: its destruction by fire in 1933 was used by fascist party leader Adolf Hitler to justify a clampdown on the opposition. Christo, however, describes it "as a symbol of the meeting of East and West and the restoration of hope for the



Jeanne-Claude and Christo

return of a stable and long-lasting democracy. We are, if anything, wrapping German fear and German pride." The artists insist that the work will be visually exciting. The wrapping will stay on only from 23 June to 6 July — when more than 200,000 people a day are expected to flock to Berlin not to see Germany's best-known building. "A work of art for us is like all of the most beautiful human experience, it exists mainly in memory," says the artists. "The wrapping," says Jeanne-Claude, "will make 100 per cent of the people of Germany happy because whatever percentage — let's imagine 80 per cent — will be happy because they have seen the wrapped Reichstag, and the 20 per cent who were furious about it will be so happy when we unwrap it." The project is entirely self-financed by the couple through the worldwide sale of the preparatory drawings, models and lithographs. Wrapping up buildings like Christmas presents is not easy, but Christo and Jeanne-Claude have been doing it for

years. Born in 1935, Christo left his hometown, Sofia, to get away from the political and artistic constraints of communism. He settled in Paris as a poor portrait artist, and met Jeanne-Claude. He started wrapping objects in 1958 as his won form of artistic expression partly because he could not afford other more costly artists materials. Then he began to think bigger — wrapping trees, then large buildings and finally whole areas. In 1969 he parcelled up Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, and in 1985, the Pont Neuf bridge in Paris. Opposition to the Reichstag-wrapping proposal was only overcome with the accession of the first woman President of the Bundestag, Rita Sussmuth, who offered her support. The green light was given last February at the end of a parliamentary debate. The vote was 292 in favour, 223 against, 9 abstentions. Wrapping involves teamwork by a large staff, including weavers, cutters and sewers, as well as crews to erect

ENTERTAINMENT

TELEVISION

Arabian Nights: Alladdin and the Magic Lamp

MAGICIAN JUNGALO TRICKS ALLADDIN: Poor boy Alladdin now dressed in clothes for a prince is the talk of the town while he passes through the streets where he has worked as a labourer. His friends and foes look at him with admiration and envy. Alladdin's mother remembers her late husband and fails to find a reason as to why she send Alladdin away — even for a day when her instinct did not agree with a stranger.

At the same time evil magician Jungalo Jungla tricks Alladdin to go on the road which will lead to the hidden magic lamp. TABIZ TO ALLADDIN FOR PROTECTION: While passing through the desert, Jungalo Jungla dismisses the pleas of a thirsty Fakir. Alladdin not only stops to give him all the water that is left — knowing that the desert without water can be fatal.

The Fakir blesses him and gives him a Tabiz to wear which will protect him in all dangers. The evil Jungalo tries his best to convince Alladdin at the fraud of this saint man Fakir — Alladdin does not relent and wears the protection charm. The Fakir warns Alladdin that this man with him is evil. THE PHILOSOPHY OF A FAKIR: Finally evil Jungalo argues that if this poor and

dying man could not help and save himself, how can his charm be of any use. The saint Fakir replies that if a saint wants he can use all his powers for himself — but then he will not be a saint. A saint is one who only gives everything he has and does not take or keep anything for himself. Episode 23 on BTV today (Friday) at 8:30 pm.

Dark Justice: "The Specialist"

A case recently thrown out of Judge Nicholas "Nick" Marshall's (Bruce Abbott) court is mysterious enough to arouse his curiosity. Dr Chelsea Manning (Erin Gray), a certified sex therapist, specializes in treating wealthy men with impotency problems. If any of these men happen to collect valuable

art, Doctor Chelsea sees to it that they lose their collection — and also their lives. Posing as a man with a sexual problem, Nick gets more treatment than he bargained for from the beautiful Dr Chelsea. She seduces him almost immediately and, not wanting to reveal his true identity, he is forced to go

along with the performance. With the help of Moon (Dick O'Neill), Gibbs (Clayton Prince) and Kelly (Janet Gunn), Nick plans a phony art heist, taking the Doctor along to participate. Before Nick can set her up, however, she knocks him unconscious. Her escape is thwarted by Kelly. Thanks to their quick work, Dr Chelsea is turned over to the police and mil-

lions of dollars worth of stolen paintings are recovered. On Sunday (25-6-95) at 9:00 pm on BTV. Time Trax Darien (Dale Midkiff) pursues a Middle East arms deal who kidnaps a scientist and his flying invention from the future. On Wednesday (28-6-95) at 9:00 pm on BTV.

The Star Trek 25th Anniversary Special on Star Plus

As the original series of Star Trek draws to an end on STAR Plus, the channel has

scheduled a two-hour special celebrating Star Trek's 25th Anniversary; on Saturday,

June 24th at 8:30 pm. Hosted by William Shafner and Leonard Nimoy, it takes a

look at the Star Trek phenomenon, says a press release from Hong Kong. The show profiles the now late creator of STAR TREK Gene Roddenberry, and take a look at STAR TREK'S incredible impact on popular culture — Trekkies, fan clubs, conventions and more. Also, behind-the-scenes reports on the series and feature films, a report on how STAR TREK episodes offer pre-date presentday advances in science and technology, look at the social significance of the shows' episodes that tackled contemporary issues of war, racism, and drug abuse. The special also takes an insider's look at STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION including an exclusive start to finish look at the making of an episode from scripting make-up and shooting, and state of the art special effects



BOOKS

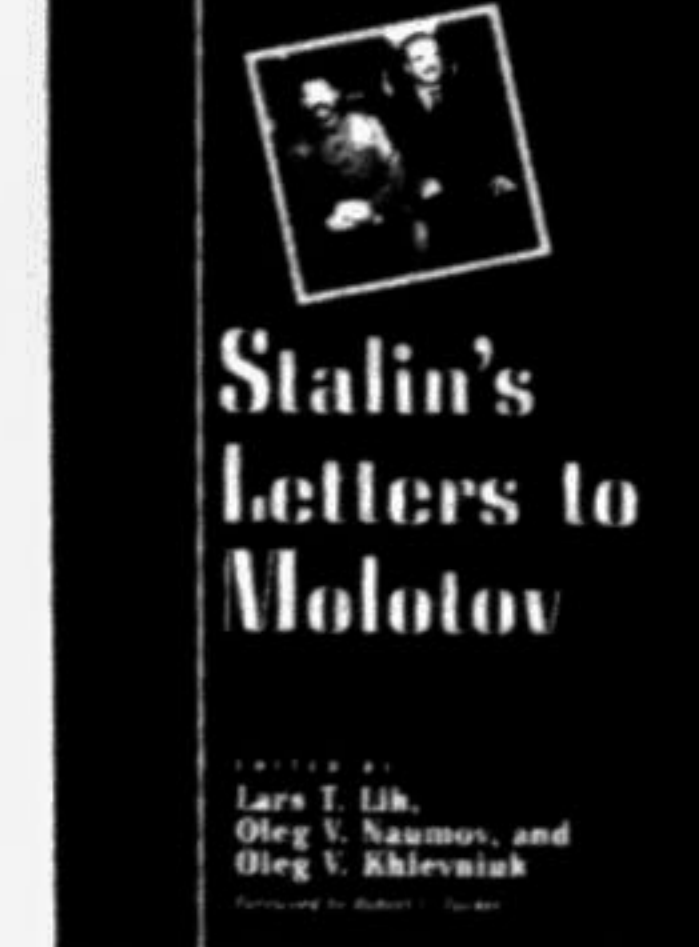
Book News by Ziaul Karim

STAY informed — prophesies the modern media — to be in tune with the time. No doubt we are living in an age that can hardly function well without references. In concord with the need, publishing houses all over the world are coming up with an array of titles very often. Last month two important reference titles hit the bookshelves — The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language and The Oxford Companion to the Second World War. Shortly after reaching the different sale-points The Encyclopedia has appealed specialists and general audience equally. With over 1000 pages and 250 photographs, line drawings and maps, and 1750 alphabetically arranged entries covering almost all aspects of the World War II, the Oxford Companion has already been considered as an important publication. The title has been compiled by over 140 distinguished international contributors.

Letters to Molotov contains more than 85 top secret letters from Stalin to his friend and confidant Viacheslav Molotov written between 1925-1936. Edited by Lars T Lih, Oleg V Naumov, and Oleg V Khlevniuk, and translated from the Russian by Catherine A Fitzpatrick, the letters will throw light on the way Stalin controlled the government and will constitute a unique record of his thinking — personal and political. Robert C Tucker has written the foreword. The most controversial organisation in — American public life — the Communist Party of the United States of America — has been brought under, for the first time, critical examination in "The Secret World..." Harvey Klehr and John Earl Haynes have co-authored with Fridrikh Igorevich Firsov in "The Secret..." to give a picture of the origins and development of the American Communist Party. The Russian documents used in the title have been translated by Timothy D Ser-gay.

AFTER the publication of Communist Manifesto in 1848 the history of mankind was never the same again. Ever since, the communism as a concept and in practice has undergone many changes and in recent years has faced altogether a different challenge that raised the question of its own existence. But whatever the questions or challenges are, the concept 'communism' never lost the attention of intellectuals and more so a new set of Maxists are emerging to explain the crisis in communism. So the concept is as alive as it was 147 years ago. The Yale University Press' new series that was launched last month under the title The Annals of Communism reiterates the relevance of the concept.

Philip Kerr HE fuses scientific themes with philosophical concepts. He has not repeated himself in his career. Philip Kerr not only writes high concept novels, his recent novel earned him the second largest film rights deal concluded with any British novelist — Paramount Pictures offered 100,000 dollars. Polygram bought it for one million dollars and Mysterious Press paid 500,000 dollars for US rights. Gndron, Kerr's new, appeared in book market this month. In Gndron Kerr imagines the office of near future — an office in which every function is controlled by a smart computer. The office, situated in Los Angeles, is a flagship building of the Yu Corporation — a Chinese multinational electronics company and run by Abraham the computer. He controls the heating and the lighting, supervises security, cleans the windows, lavatories and the swimming pool. He plays the



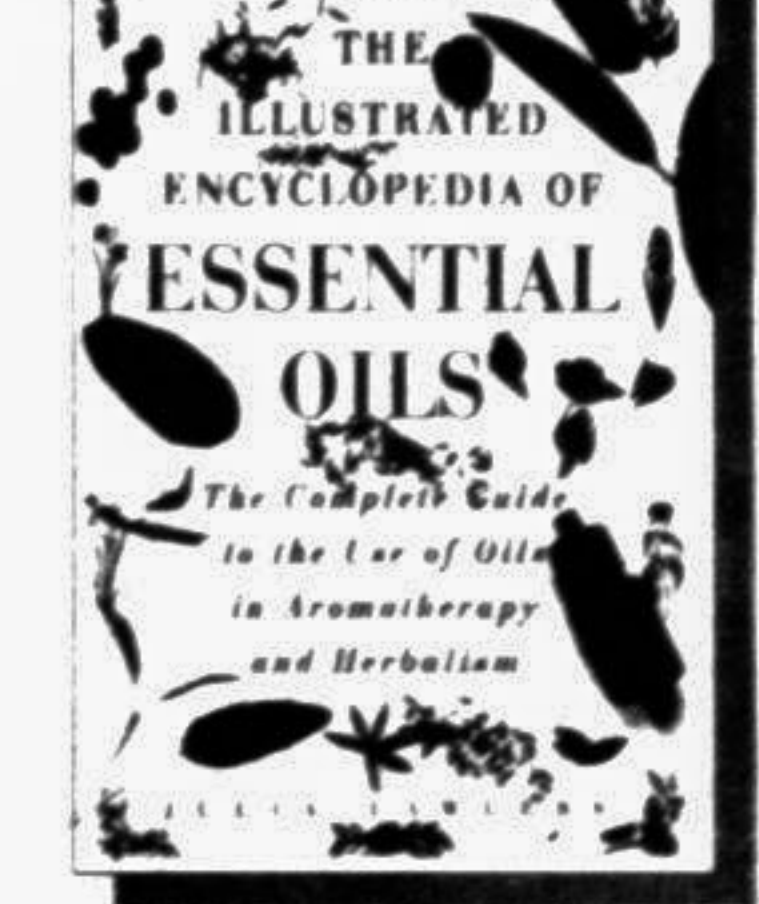
The first two titles in the series are 'Stalin's Letters to Molotov' and 'The Secret World of American Communism'...

piano — Mozart in the style of Mitsuko Uchida, Schubert a la Murray Perahia, he also steals data from rival companies. When Abraham takes it into his head to wipe out all the humans in the building he has plenty of resources at his disposal. Kerr in an interview says, "the story (Gridiron) reflects my paranoia about office life. I'm a full time writer now, but I'm terrified at the thought that I might end up working in an office again." Kerr on different occasions has made interesting and bizarre comments. In his introduction to The Penguin Book of Lies he wrote "fiction, might be considered to be the safest profession for a liar."



PUFFINBooks, to mark the 50th anniversary of Anne Frank's death, publishes two new titles — Anne Frank: Beyond the Diary and Dear Anne Frank... Beyond the Diary is a photographic remembrance and "Dear..." is a section of letters to Anne written by children today.

THE leading alternative health publisher Element has been producing interesting titles for quite some time. Element's two important forthcoming titles are The Complete Family Guide to Homeopathy and The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Essential Oils. "Homeopathy" is due in September and "Oil" in October.



Viewing Video

by Lenin Gani

FROM the producers of Top Gun and Days Of Thunder comes Crimson Tide. Crimson Tide is basically an undersea action/thriller set aboard a US N-class submarine. Captain of the USS Alabama is Frank Ramsay (Gene Hackman) a wily, hard-nosed character who doesn't take lip from anybody even his second-in-command Lieut Commander Ron Hunter (Denzel Washington). During a Russian civil war a group of rabid nationalists seizes a missile base, US forces go on full alert and the Alabama is dispatched to put the base out of commission otherwise the world probably faces the apocalypse. But when an enemy torpedo knocks out the electrical system and interrupts an urgent incoming message that could reverse the order, Ramsay and Hunter are confronted by the \$98,000 question — whether to carry out the mission or not. When Ramsay insists on launching the nukes anyway Hunter disagrees and decides to commandeer the sub. For a while we supposed to

play 'name the captain game' as both men take turns to gain control before arriving at the bizarre climax when both men sit down and converse for three minutes while waiting for somebody else to tell them what to do. Bruce Willis is back in Die Hard With A Vengeance as John McClane the tough New York cop with a penchant for finding trouble. This time McClane takes on villainous Jeremy Irons. Evil genius Irons wants to destroy the Big Apple and taunts and teases McClane to find his carefully placed devices located in the city while he makes off with lots of gold. Although McClane has Samuel L Jackson as a partner who provides the comic relief it's McClane who has to save the day. Expect Die Hard 3 to be hyperactive action: Speed upon speed.

life situation as one can get but a word of caution for those sensitive viewers at times they may find the language is very offensive.



Table with 3 columns: NAME, TYPE, CAST. Lists movies like Crimson Tide, Fresh, Crime Story, Ulzana's Raid, Crazy Safari.



Baul Mohin Shah

Continued from page 9 mous poet Nazrul Islam, and even went to Calcutta with him, before he returned to his home ground and to his first wife Suruj Banu, who by this time was ready to accept life with him. "I always had this spiritual soul-searching feeling bottled up inside me, and before I left for Calcutta for the second time I became a follower of a Pir (pious man). After his death and my return, I sought further enlightenment from Kaka guru, Dewan Rashid, to find my way by contemplation and absorption to the deity such theories and philosophies of life," he explains. The followers and shadhaks of Lolon, like Muniruddin Shaheb, Darbesh Mongol Shah, also taught him. Exactly like a moth transforming into a butterfly, the metamorphosis of Mohiuddin Ahmed into baul Mohin Shah took place. At this crucial point he found by his side, Joshna Begum, a mind similar to his and they got married in 1951. But this was only a temporary fulfilment. By 1961 his second wife died, and he lost all his material belongings to the violent Padma. He roamed from village to village to quench the desire burning inside. In

the process he became closer to the man he is now. His admirers and fans loved him more and called him Mon Mohin. People of West Bengal called him Mohin Shah. This extraordinary man for whom there is no existence other than his passion for Lalon, and his songs, wrote about two thousand songs. These numbers are not only baul songs but also consist folk songs, Murshidi, Bhatiali, Gazi etc. "I even wrote country songs and talked about our language and liberation in many of my numbers," he says with a smile, recalling an incident which led to these creations. "I was in Dhaka at a friend's place in February '52. I was quite bored at that time as my friend left for work in the mornings. So I decided to spend my mornings at Ramna park. One day I met my old friend Jasimuddin there. He asked me to compose him a song on the Bangla language that night: I was totally in the dark about the movement then, but was nevertheless very happy to run his errand. Finally when it was completed he asked me to ride a cart and sing this song to the people of Dhaka. It was February 18 and (unwittingly) I got beaten up by police for

my act. Somehow I escaped their clutches and left Dhaka. On the day following February 21, listening to the news I realized what I did without understanding deed properly. Thus I started writing songs about my country and its wars. Mohin Shah, with his vast knowledge and experience, was never actually 'on air' in television or in any radio programme. He never really got any publicity, neither did he opt for it. Once in 1948 I was called to sing a song in Radio Pakistan. I sang a Lolon number which was recorded. The next day I was told to sing the same tune, but with different lyrics. I declined such a thoughtless offer and left," he recalls. A similar walkout, but on different grounds, took place ten years ago in Khulna Betar station. However he was telecast in a BTV programme by Abbasi and recorded for Transcription by Apple Mahamud. And a book with 105 of his songs called Mohin Shah's Padaboli was published by Bangla Academy, edited by Dr Abul Ahsan Chowdhury. Almost a centurian, this man is a living history, his memory is an unread book. Still strong as an youth, and run by much stronger passion, Mohin Shah sings high pitched numbers, dances to his tunes and steals any show

he is in. "Every other gaen (singer) comes off the stage just after singing two or three numbers, but I am on stage even after my fifth or sixth number," he smiles, happy at the thought that people want him. But every era demands changes, time will flow, bringing about alterations. "To keep pace with time, songs will change. The original Lolon tunes no longer exist, instead of Lalon's harmonious single tone songs of Dadratal (a special rhythm) with the mixture of instruments like sarinda, dotara made these songs lose their indigenous traits and formats," says Mohin Shah who witnessed throughout the century the minor and detailed changes that took place in Lalon's music. Followers of Lalon like Khoda Baksh of Horiarghat, Amulyo Shah, Dashi Fakir Ali gave new rhythms to the original numbers some 60, 70 years ago. These were practised by Bihal Shah, Kanai Shah, Mohendra Goswami who sincerely attempted to maintain the new style. But later Mokshed Ali, Shah Kupti converted these tunes adapting more to modern styles and Mohin Shah worked on these trends bringing rhythms like Pabali, Bhatiali, Thumri, Chura, Ramprosad into Lalon and Baul songs.

The Zee Horror Show: Raat Episode: TC: 25.06.95 (2200). Dr. Paul is a great scientist. He dies in a macabre accident. The authorities put his bungalow and laboratory on auction. Suddenly it is discovered that his wife is alive. A friend of Dr. Paul stops the auction. He informs Dr. Paul's wife and asks her to accompany him to the bungalow, but she refuses. She tells him that a beast had killed a passerby, ruined a girl and escaped and the Police followed him to the bungalow. Dr. Paul... And then... Andaz: Episode: 41 TC: 23.06.95 (2200), 26.06.95 (0030). Rajpal gives Kapoor handsome reward for his services on his retirement. Kapoor accompanies Rajpal to the airport. Rajpal witnesses murder and lodges a police complaint. When Kapoor reaches home, he hears that his son has been arrested for the murder. He asks Rajpal not to identify the killer by Rajpa says that he will have to reveal the truth. Urmila meets Kapoor and tells him that she will save his son but he must reveal the name of the lawyer Hasratein. Episode: 13 TC: 27.06.95 (2200), 28.06.95 (0030). Madhavi forbids Savi to wear skirts and instructs her to wear only sarees. Uma is pregnant and Vishal advises her to abort the child. "In a way I have also damaged the originality but the again in order to keep the essence alive, the songs alive adapting to the changes and demands of time was the best thing. Out of popular demand I did this. Classical tunes were overriden and beaten up to be easy to sing rhythmic tune to which people could dance and at the same time hum to. "Nowadays followers who really understand and believe in the philosophy have decreased in number. There are more and more students who don't understand the depth of what they are singing, yet still practice," he says. The regional dialect of every individual is another problem. The lyrics altered by such tongues and the songs make no sense. Like kak which in Bangla means deaf, sung as kana which mean blind. So when kana's 'don't hear', it indeed becomes problem! This high-spirited baul thinks that the present trend of worship through songs, or devotion in his cult, will be restored in time. "In my opinion this baul meela was organised by baul mince people and they are one glorified movement. If this happens more frequently in the capital, then baul literature and culture will surely see new horizons."