Talking to the Enemy and Burying the Hatchet

EXT time a prominent international leader drops dead, look on he bright side: they might be given a "working funeral" at which contentious international issues are dealt with. The precedents are good.

At former United States President Dwight Eisenhower's funeral in 1969, President Richard Nixon's long conversations with France's President Charles de Gaulle led to troubleshooter Henry Kissinger's secret trips to Paris and the peace agreement which disentangled the US from Vietnam.

At British war leader Winston Churchill's funeral in 1965, an hourlong talk between de Gaulle and British Prime Minister Harold Wilson led to the French leader dropping his veto on British entry into the European Common market.

Before reunification, leaders of East and West Germany sometimes met - in some instances for the first time — at Soviet funerals.

At Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko's funeral, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had a private meeting with Mozambique's "Marxist" President, Samora Machel, which led to much closer ties between the two countries.

At the 1989 funeral of Japan's Emperor Hirohito — attended by 55 heads of state, 11 prime ministers and 14 representatives of royal fami lies — contacts were established between China and India which ended a 20-year diplomatic rift. Israel and Nigeria used the occasion to hold their first official talks since 1973. when many African countries severed relations with the Jewish state.

"Working funerals" — a phrase that seems to have been coined by Robert Carvel, political editor of the London Evening Standard feature in Talking to the Enemy, a book by G R Berridge, professor of International Politics at Britain's Leicester University.

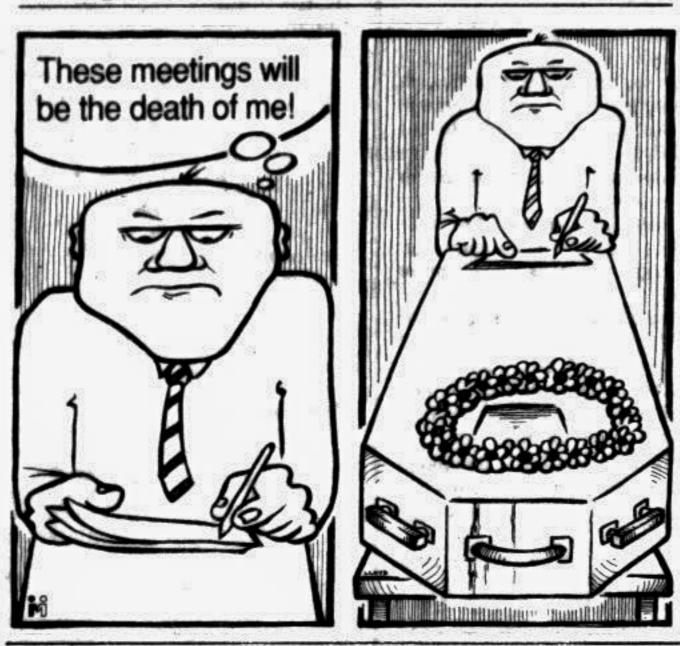
He points out that the popularity of funeral diplomacy has been made possible by improvements in the speed, comfort and safety of international air travel. As late as 1953 severe winter conditions prevented a Turkish mission from arriving in Moscow in time for Soviet leader Josef Stalin's funeral. Another important factor has

been the development of embalming and refrigeration techniques. This has meant that burial could be delayed to allow the orchestration of an important state occasion. The funeral of the Indian apostle

of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi, was held the day after his assassination in 1948. Winston Churchill's burial was delayed six days. Emperor Hirohito's funeral was six weeks after his death.

Yugoslavia's President Joseph Tito did not attend the 1970 funeral of Egyptian leader Gamel Abdel Nasser, though they had been friends Frank Nowikowski writes from Buenos Aires

Political enemies sometimes use funerals to meet and patch up their differences. Gemini News Service looks at how states which have severed diplomatic relations find ways of talking to each other.



Talking to the Enemy by GR Berridge Published by Macmillan, London at £35

and co-founders of the Non-aligned Movement, because it clashed with a visit to Belgrade by President Nixon, to which Tito attached great impor-

The receiving country may choose to interpret the level of foreign representation as a measure of its standing. Thus relations between Turkey and many Western states took a nosedive during the funeral of Turkey's President Turgut Ozal in

He had supported the US-led coalition against Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War and both former US President George Bush and ex-Premier Thatcher claimed him as a personal friend. But neither showed up at his funeral, nor did their successors, Bill Clinton or John Major, or even their foreign ministers. France sent its Foreign Trade

"None of this was overlooked in Turkey," writes Berridge.

Attendance can be interpreted as an olive branch to the receiving state, as in the example of Thatcher's attendance at the funeral of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, or Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's attendance at the funeral of Saudi Arabia's King Khalid.

Conversely, non-attendance can be a deliberate snub, as was the British government's refusal to attend the funeral of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini or even to publicly express sympathy with the people of Iran.

Working funerals can also provide occasions for world leaders to get to know one another. British Liberal Party leader David Steel recalls attending President Tito's funeral in Belgrade where he observed the

newly-installed Thatcher glad-handing those present ("I'm Margaret Thatcher, so pleased to meet you"). Being without any aides in this distinguished gathering, she gave the distinct and understandable impression of not knowing who everybody was. Among those she met with happy incomprehension was Yasser Funerals are not Berridge's only

concern. He looks at a range of secret contacts between hostile parties, often through unconventional means. such as Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation and between Britain and Sinn Fein, political wing of the Irish Republican Army, the guerrilla group fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

States may lack diplomatic links for a number of reasons, such as the United States' refusal to recognise the communist authorities on mainland China, Arab states' refusal to recognise Israel, and the refusal of most African countries to recognise South Africa's apartheid government.

Diplomatic relations may be severed to signal disapproval of another nation's behaviour, as when 13 Arab states cut ties with Egypt after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. Nine African states broke off relations with London in 1965 for its failure to suppress the unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) by Rhodesian

Britain broke off relations with Libya in 1984 after a man firing from a window in the Libyan "People's Bureau" in London killed a policewoman. In 1986 Britain broke off relations with Syria because of its involvement in helping Nizard Hindawi turn his pregnant British girlfriend into an unwitting "suicide bomber" on an El Al flight from Heathrow air-

Severing diplomatic relations can be cheap, since what is being severed is often just thin air. For instance, the Congo did not have an accredited office or official in Britain when it broke off relations over Rhodesia's

The state responsible for the breach is expected to take the initiative in restoring relations, and it may fear losing face in doing so. Saudi Arabia broke off relations with Britain in 1956 over the Suez invasion and did not restore them until 1962.

Egypt was ready to restore relations with Britain and the US a year after severing them over the 1967 Israeli war but was unable to do so until 1974.

Among methods of communication available to states that lack diplomatic relations is the use of third countries as intermediaries. whether as simple messengers between the parties or as active participants in negotiations. Algeria was a passive mediator between the West and Iran over hostage negotiations, for example.

Trade missions — in effect, disguised embassies - may be used as diplomatic fronts, a favourite tactic of Israel and by apartheid South

Countries wishing to maintain diplomatic links with Taiwan without upsetting communist China do so through trade missions. For example, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada is staffed by a senior diplomat of ambassadorial rank. Australia has a similar arrangement.

There are indications that Britain and Argentina are secretly talking to each other about the Falkland Islands, over which they went to war in 1982. Both parties deny holding such talks.

One giveaway: President Carlos Menem's often repeated assertion that "the Malvinas (the Argentine name for the Falklands) will be Argentine by diplomatic means by the year 2000."

This has recently been amended to "soon after the year 2000," indicating slower progress than Buenos Aires would like.

FRANK NOWIKOWSKI is a British freelance journalist based in Buenos Aires.

most acclaimed composers of today.

An outline of the musical career of

over 150 composers and an

assessment of their contribution to

opera, is followed by entries on more

than 450 operas, providing details of

the cast, discussion of the

background and sources of the work,

a synopsis of the plot and a musical

analysis directing the listener to

highlights and points of interest.

Extensive entries are dedicated to

the most prolific major composers,

such as Mozart, Verdi, Wagner,

Handel and Donizatti. The Guide has

been co-edited by Amanda Holden,

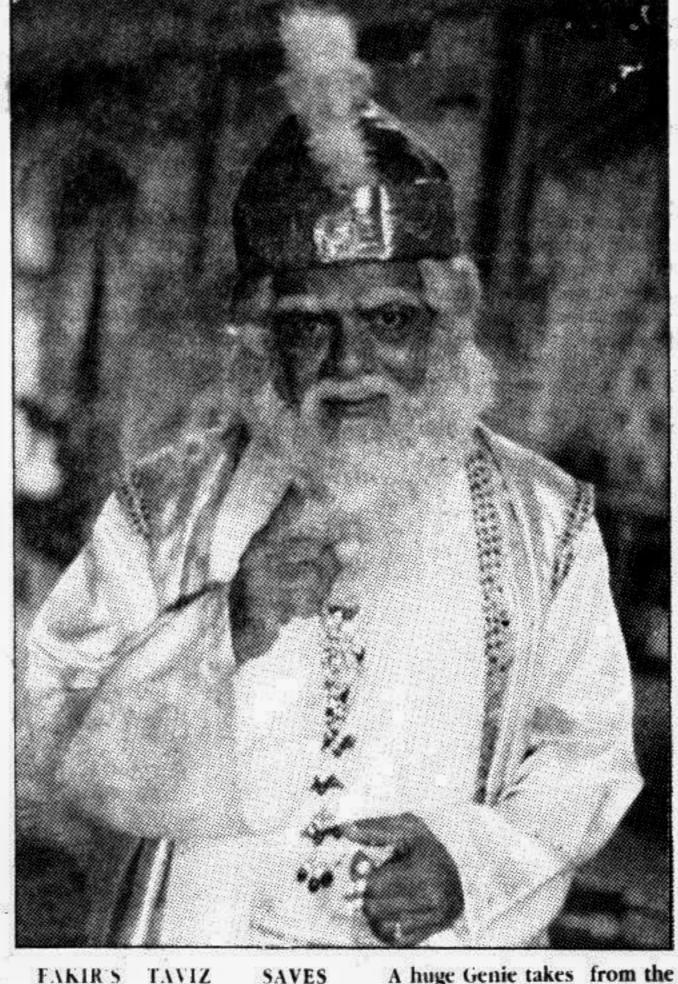
Nicholas Kenyon and Stephen Walsh.

And the preface is written by Sir Colin

ENTERTAINMENT

TELEVISION

Arabian Nights: Alladdin and the Magic Lamp



SAVES FAKIR'S TAVIZ ALLADDIN: Locked in the dark and cold cave without Food, Alladdin remembers the Fakir's saying and prays to Allah the Almighty with the Taviz given to him by the thirsty Fakir. Miraculously the mouth of the cave opens and Alladdin escapes only with the magic lamp leaving all the wealth behind. He reaches home to his mother - who has not eaten or slept from the time he has left home. Exhausted tired and frightened Alladdin faints in his mother's arms.

ALLADDIN TO SELL THE MAGIC LAMP: In order to get food immediately Alladdin decides to sell the old lamp he has picked from the

His mother advices him to clean the lamp so that it can fetch a better

MAGIC LAMP - ABODE OF 'QAYAMAT' GIN': On rubbing the lamp three times — smoke starts emitting from the magic lamp -Alladdin and his poor mother hug each other in fright and amazement.

emitting smoke. The Genie is very richly dressed with gold ornament and has two large horns. Alladdin's mother faints on seeing

this beastly creature. Alladdin curses his destiny and gets ready to confront the Genie. But to his shock, the gentle Genie bows in respect and addresses Alladdin as "master." He begs his master to order anything he wants: Hungry and poor Alladdin asks him food and money. Alladdin brings his mother back to senses and explains that the lamp contains the king of all Ginies named "Qayamat Gin" and this was the reason why the clever and evil uncle wanted this

ALLADDIN FREES THE SLAVE MASOOM BAIG: As per Alladdin's request the Genie brings the loveliest food in silver plates and thousands of gold coins for Alladdin and his After the sumptuous meal

Alladdin goes straight to the shop of clever Mizaan and frees the slave

Masoom Baig by paying his slavery

medicine and clothes to the poor and

dues in gold coins. He gives thousands of gold coins to the freed slave to distribute food,

Episode 26 on BTV today (Friday) at 8:30 pm

Crystal Maze

Episode 25 on BTV today

down-trodden. (Friday) at 9:05 am Dark Justice: "Instant Replay"

UDGE Nicholas "Nick" Marshall (Bruce Abbott) and his loyal friend Kelly (Janet Gunn) Theck into a hotel with a bad reputation. They pose as lovers in order to expose the hotel's blackmailing proprietor, Lionel Baker (Michael Halsey). Baker is notorious for videotaping the clients who make love in each of his hotel rooms. Before Nick and Kelly can expose his schemes, Baker is shot to death.

In his courtroom, Nick hears the testimony of various people who were in the hotel the night of the murder. The chief suspect is a young

man named Billy Stafford (Daniel Quinn). Stafford wanted Baker dead because he felt Baker was responsible for the death of his prostitute sister. discovers the real killer, a once Governor Jason "Jake" Green

Baker to hide the fact that Green also killed Stafford's sister. Later, filled with guilty, green kills himself

On Sunday (16-7-95) at 9:00 pm on BTV.

Time Trax: "Perfect Pair": Burkey and videotaped their gun ARIEN Lambert (Dale Midk-

iff) reunites with his former partner, Mace Warfield (Paul Ganus), who has travelled back in time to apprehend Eli Tartareen (Richard Bradford), a corrupt police commander from the future whom Mach testified against. Tartareen is currently a police captain in Great Plains City, commanding his own small army of police officers. Mace, known for his unorthodox

methods, insists that they arrest Tartareen immediately. Darien realizes that a public arrest would be extremely dangerous, so he devises a

Darien and Mace travel to Great Plains City and pose as investigators with Internal Affairs to gain entrance into the police department's Personnel Bureau. Selma (Elizabeth Alexander), Darien's holographic computer companion, searches the records and discovers the files of Jim Burkey (Nick Carrafa), a suspended police officer whose records indicate that he spoke out against Tartareen.

They visit Burkey, a "rookie" cop who accused Tartareen of planning the assassination of the Chief of Police. Before Burkey can reveal any more information, the room explodes with automatic gunfire. Burkey is shot dead and Darien and Mace flee outside where they have a shoot-out with Tartareen's men. Unbeknownst to Darien and Mace, Tartareen recorded their conversation with

After hearing much testimony, Nick trusted colleague and friend, Lt. (Michael Goodwin). When confronted with the truth, Green openly confesses that he killed

Tartareen's men escape in an unmarked car and Darien and Mace return to their hotel room where Selma provides Darien with holographic floor plans of the police station. Impatient, mace secretly leaves the hotel and goes to the police station. Unfortunately, Mace is immediately captured and interrogated by Tartareen's men. Unable to recognize Darien on the videotape, Tartareen demands to know the identity of Mace's partner.

> Tartareen's men beat him. Meanwhile, Darien discovers Mace's absence and tracks him to the police station. Selma appears as a sexy holographic image and distracts the desk officer, which allows Darien to enter the building unnoticed. Selma locates Mace in a high security area. Unable to get past the guards, Darien crawls through the circulation vents and surprises Tartareen by dropping out of the ceiling vent. A fight ensues and Darien finally sends Tartareen back to the future with his MPPT gun.

Mace refuses to cooperate and

Darien and Mace agree that reuniting as partners was fine this one time but neither wants to continue their partnership because they are so different.

On Wednesday (19-7-95) at 9:00 pm on BTV.





A scene from Campus on Zee TV

Is Music Television decimating cultures

Press Service takes a look at this youth

culture phenomenon.

FW YORK: When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, the inside joke among MTV executive was that it was thanks to them that the Cold War barrier had come down since, coincidentally, the music channel had just started broadcasting in East Germany.

In jest though the comments were. Music Television officials as well as critics of the station acknowledge that MTV's broadcasting has an influence on the culture in the increasing number of countries where it is received. An influence that goes bevond the sphere of music alone.

"The idea that MTV fans take only a superficial pleasure from their viewing, rejecting any ideology carried by the text, seems to be contradicted by the channel's success as a marketing tool," says noted media critic David Tetzlaf.

"In addition to being the universally acknowledged saviour of the record industry. MTV has also sold scads of clothing, cosmetics, movie tickets and what not. Among MTV officials, reluctant to

speak of "a political agenda", the buzz word is "pro-social responsibilities", Said one: "In Eastern European countries during the collapse of the communist regimes, we were getting calls from governments offering to give us a channel, because MTV was such a symbol of freedom, of being cool and progressive." An example of government affili

ation with the commercial broadcast occurred in 1993 when the Londonbased broadcast of MTV Europe was invited into Lithuania "as part of moves toward democracy and a freer flow of information". A mission statement in the MTV

corporate offices reads: "Because it believes in rock and roll, MTV today is television's most powerful source MTV with his own Channel V, MTV of freedom, liberation, personal creativity, unbridled fun and hope for a radically better future. MTV keeps you plugged in." With as many satellite broadcasts

as there are continents, MTV is truly a transnational, youth-culture phenomena, beaming to almost all corners of viewing to an initial 18 countries from the globe. its Singaporean base and stands to Though bumped from its STAR TV increase MTVs viewership from 250

Asia will redouble its efforts in the reing Australia as the sole remaining "unplugged" continent. gion with two new versions of the programme this spring. A Mandarin version of MTV Asia will begin broadcasting this month, followed by the launch of a second version in English.

While MTV United States is received via satellite and cable across North America, MTV Latino is targeted at the wealthier Latin American

launch MTV South Africa in 1996, leav-

The programme will provide MTV countries. The exception is Portugese-speaking Brazil, which is served by its own uniquely designed broadcast, MTV Brazil. million to more than 500 million. The

MTV Europe is delivered via Astra satellite across the continents while network has also announced plans to

Music Television: Culture Unplugged MTV Japan caters exclusively to the progressive youth of that country who are jaded by materialism.

worldwide, or is it a vibrant new art-form "We do realize we have a responfor the 21st century? Craig Hobbs of Inter sibility to our audience not just to entertain them, but to provide them with messages that can have a positive impact in their lives," says

The idiom "pro-social" became a summation of the MTV ideology during the US 1992 presidential election campaign when MTV organised voter registration drives.

Says Vincent: "We helped to register hundreds of new voters in 1992. London-based Frances Naylor former director of production of MTV Asia and current executive producer for VH-1, MTVs newly born sister targeted at the 25-40 age group disclaims any direct support of an ideology and views any political influence MTV Asia might carry as inci-

"(MTV) is a reflection of postmodern culture, and it's hopefully a somewhat leading edge reflection of it, but we wouldn't preach. I think that there are things we find important to our audience, and I think we have a certain social responsibility but there are limits beyond which you would not go."

STAR TV representative Rajiv Desai believes that MTV can have an enormous impact on changing the value system in a country like India, where there has been vocal opposition from activists to global satellite broadcasts and music television as wiping out cultural diversity.

effect will be to encourage demands among ordinary Indians for a government and economy that can deliver greater prosperity than the present, debt-bound socialist economy has been able to do."

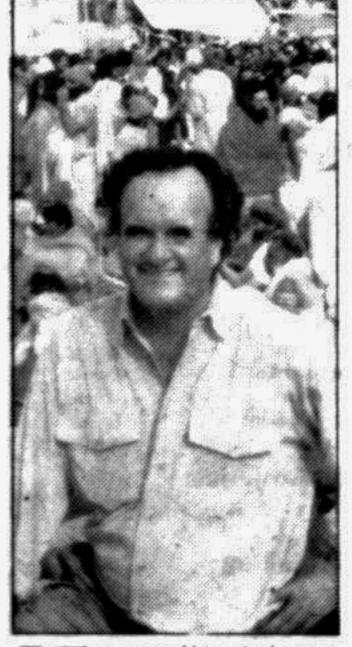
But Desai says: "The immediate

A spokesman of the Indian government, while agreeing with Desai that stations such as MTV can have a large influence on a country's culture, was less optimistic about the channel bringing "prosperity".

"Our own social ethos, our cultural values, we would not like them to be subverted. Satellite TV is giving poor people dreams which cannot be fulfilled. It can create social tensions,"

Booknews by Ziaul Karim

Mark Tully Comes up with Yet Another Book on India Beethoven, Verdi and Wagner, to the



name and his voice became synonymous with a country he Lhad made his home. For years he is interpreting to the outside world the country that is remarkably resistant to reportage. Born in Calcutta and educated in England he was the BBC Chief of Bureau in Delhi for more than twenty years. He is

Mark Tully. And India is the country. His new book "The Heart of India' is due in October this year. All

আৰম্ভ ব্যৱস

Tully's previous books on India Amritsar : Mrs Gandhi's Last Battle . "From Raj to Rajiv", and "No Full Stops in India".

THE publisher of Liz Rigbey's first novel challenging readers to guess the end. Rigbey's "Total Eclipse". appeared in May, has been descrided as being written 'as if Daphne du Maurier met Scott Turow".

"Total Eclipse" was bought for large sums by publishers in the UK, 18. Europe and Japan. Orion, publisher of the novel, is spending 100000 pounds on promoting the book. The first print run is 50000

The novel, like Hitcheock's Vertigo, is a mystery story set in California. It shares with the film a disturbing, almost hallucinatory atmosphere and a hypnotic pacing. In the 1980s Rigbey was the pre-

senter and producer of the TV

magazine "The Archers" and now she

is what might be called a troubleshooter of soap operas, giving advice to opera-makers around the world. She has worked in Africa and Afghanistan, where the dramas are funded by aid agencies and used as

educational vehicles. An episode of an Afghanistan soap might, for example, include advice on how to the stories in the title are set in Uttar

arising great interests among the

readers. This would be a new addition

to our literary world and deserves ap-

his life as an investigative journalist.

So, it is very much likely that no hap-

penings of national importance

would escape his eyes. And it didn't.

reading and provides fodder for

thought. His inner eyes examined the

events pertaining to the pre-libera-

tion and post-liberation period in a

of Noni Prokashani and has been

The book is a second publication

Each of his writing is worth-

Abdur Rahim had spent most of

Shupravat Bangladesh: A Handy

Annal of Historic Events

ups by noted journalist Abdur Rahim the historic... events is capable of

HUPRAVAT Bangladesh" covering the historic events from

(Good Morning Bangladesh) 1952-54, 1968-69, 1971-75 and

is a compilation of write-thereafter. His in-depth analysis of

preciation.

lucid manner.

priced at Tk. 150.

Reviewed by

Iftekhar Husain

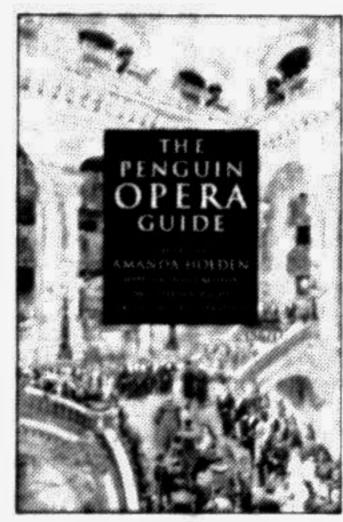
"My thesis is that all audiences are the same," Rigbey says. "They respond to the same things. What I say to the programme makers is that we have to use their culture and their stories to bring out this response".



Liz Rigbey

While writing the novel she was making frequent visits to Moscow to work on what is described as the first Russian soap opera. She met the man who was to become her husband, an American of Russian parentage, who has a daughter - with whom she gets along fine.

GOOD news for opera lovers, "The Penguin Opera Guide" is to hit the bookstore in October this year. This new reference work draws on the expertise of over seventy international contributions to present the major composers and works of four centuries of opera's



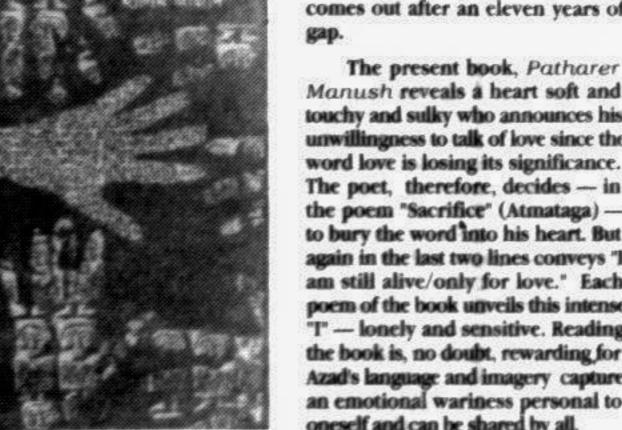
New Book of Poems (Bengali)



("Man of Stone") is his third bookof poems. His previous ones are "Near a Strange Door" (Adbhut Darojar Kachha) and "Demolish the Brutal Wall" (Bhangha Dao Narokiya Deal). The recent one comes out after an eleven years of The present book, Patharer

an emotional wariness personal to oneself and can be shared by all.

history, from Peri's Dafue through Monterverdi, Handel, Mozart,



touchy and sulky who announces his unwillingness to talk of love since the word love is losing its significance. The poet, therefore, decides - in the poem "Sacrifice" (Atmataga) to bury the word into his heart. But gain in the last two lines conveys "I am still alive/only for love." Each poem of the book unveils this intense "I" - lonely and sensitive. Reading the book is, no doubt, rewarding for

Azad's language and imagery capture satellite channel to Asia in 1993 when Rupert Murdoch decided to replace