

# TEENs and TWENTIES

Salman Shah

## Abrupt fall of a star

by Towheed Feroze

**R**EMEMBER the charismatic young lad who made his first celluloid appearance in the film 'Keramat theke keramat'?

Who knew then that this young enterprising, charming, resourceful fellow would one day prove himself to be the most up-to-date actor of our country. Up-to-date he was in fashion, demeanour. (Not to forget that most of our cine stars can't seem to give up the weird combination of white shoes and shiny red troupers and shiny

yellow shirts.) You guys were probably guessed by now that I am referring to no other than Salman Shah — often regarded by many as the lone star in our film industry.

Our film industry had in the past been always jeered upon:

Bangladeshi films were considered absolute trash and educated middle class kept a safe distance from most cinema halls. As a matter of fact Bengali films were then strictly for the entertainment of the people belonging to lower strata of society. However a few years back a sudden change was noticed.

This change was initiated by the film 'Keyamat Theke Keyamat'. Million of young boys and girls from educated families thronged the cinema halls. This film thus started a new era in Bangladeshi film arena. This new wave had some new faces. And among them the most promising was Salman Shah.

In less than 3 years Salman reached the pinnacle of success, and success was accompanied by sky high popularity. This popularity was definitely justified. Salman Shah added a new dimension to our decaying film world. When our film industry was on the verge of an early demise Salman infused new life into it and subsequently contributed to its rejuvenation. Salman appeared as the messiah and salvaged sonic world pride of our celluloid lost. Salman was not just a film actor.

He soon grew to be an idol of the Bengali teenagers. Through his films he tried to pass positive messages to our young generation. But how unfortunate how shocking — that Salman is no longer here to grace our film world with his genius. His sudden and not to mention untimely death has created a void in the world of entertainment.

Just when our film industry was on its way to development — the death of Salman Shah came as a rude obstacle. Centering around him our celluloid world had tremendous ambition in him the Bengalees found their own Shahrukh Khan, Akshay Kumar, Bobby Deol. In no aspects was he inferior to his Bollywood counter-

parts.

As a matter of fact he was quite superior. (This refers to his acting skills, as some Bollywood stars are hopeless when it comes to acting.) We found a gem in Salman but now we have lost this gem, and what a way to lose him. We have lost him in such a ghastly way. What frustration worked behind his melancholic demise.

What drove him to the edge that he had to choose self immolation, we know that he had to face a lot of trouble to cope with the FDC people. No wonder! How can an educated, emancipated fellow like him tolerate idiotic, illogical things which have come to become symbols of FDC. Was it failure to cope with the lunatics that drove him to choose such an act? Or was it his conjugal problems? Was he suffering from an incurable disease or was he just bored with life? The correct answer — we shall never get as — he has taken it to his grave.

But couldn't he have disclosed his problems? So many millions of fans would have solved his problems. Salman — you are so selfish. You have left us bewildered, confused, shattered. Failing to accept his death three girls committed suicide. What an irreparable loss of human lives.

Salman's death has put our film-world in disarray. Salman is Salman. There can be no substitute. That win some smirk, that elegant posture, that impeccable acting — all there are lost forever. What we have now are his memories and his films. It is no longer amongst us. But he will live through his films. They have immortalized Salman.

But time goes on. Salman is no more, but we can only hope that one day another lad will come through — guide our line world in the right direction. But to all those prosecution actors. "Don't leave us like the way

actor what he did. Bangladesh is already short of golden boys. Boys like Salman. Let his death be a deterrent.

In an emotional moment Salman chose to take his life but bear his soul crying. From beyond as if it is saying, "Forget me not cause I shall always be with you."

Salman did. Salman has become a legend but through a sad, gloomy departure. Let no



Salman and Shabnoor



Salman Shah

## Violin's New Best Friend

by Patricia Bibby

**W**HEN most little girls were playing with dolls, Vanessa-Mae Nicholson clasped something else to her chin and held it tight. Day and night, she kept it tucked close to her chest, safe and secure in its very nearness, reports AP.

And like other girls, she studied her little token of security, knew its every contour and marveled at its graceful form.

The thing is, hers wasn't a doll at all. It was violin. And by the time Vanessa-Mae was 11, she had parlayed her musical security blanket into a career as a professional violinist, passionately burning up its strings as one of the youngest ever to record concertos by Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven.

Now 18, with the sale of millions of CDs under her belt, she's seen the world many times over thanks to her fiddle. Dubbed a "Paganini in hot pants" and "Mozart in Doc Martens," the half-Thai, half-Chinese beauty is on a quest to make violin music contemporary, even hip.

Sitting in a wood-paneled study in the Plaza Hotel, resplendent in a crushed velvet Kenzo jacket and a floor-length purple stretch velvet Sonia Rykiel dress, she would seem an ideal ambassador from the dusty world of classical music to the vibrant realm of pop. She speaks with a clipped British accent at a slightly faster rpm than most; her hands move animatedly and she's quick to laugh.

Born in Singapore on the same day as one of her idols, Paganini, she moved to London at age 4. As the only child in a privileged home — both parents were corporate lawyers — she took up the violin as little more than a hobby.

"But my teachers started getting more excited about my progress," Nicholson says. "And they started telling my parents. 'She's got promise and potential. Maybe she'd like to take it more seriously.'"

Somehow the instrument had

insinuated itself into Nicholson's psyche. "I had a real connection with my violin because, from a young age, what really drew me to the violin was the fact that it was a very compact, physical instrument," says Nicholson. "It was very affectionate to tuck it in under your chin. It was like a pet or a doll at that age."

"And when I got older, I realized that it could sing like a human voice — out of all the other instruments it was the most similar to the human voice. And also it could soar above all instruments."

As enchanted as she became with her fiddle, she also became fiercely dedicated and disciplined, accepting the mantle of professional responsibility with a stoicism far beyond her years.

"I had my fair share of tea parties and school and hanging out with friends from a young age," Nicholson says. "I just maybe said good-bye to all those things a little earlier than my friends."

She also said good-bye to regular school, opting instead to get her education from tutors who would conform their schedule to Nicholson's packed itinerary. Last year she traveled to a staggering 33 countries promoting her pop album, "The Violin Player," in which she plays an electric violin to tunes like "Classical Gas."

This year she's hit over 60 cities in countries around the world. When she finally took a break in London, she spent her down time recording yet another album, a more traditional effort called "The Classical Album," with works by Bach, Brahms and Beethoven.

Does she ever crave some good, adolescent rebellion and fantasize about doing something terribly irresponsible, like chucking everything for a backpacking trip through Europe?

"I was always allowed to do my own thing," she says. "So I don't feel this need to rebel. Nobody pushed me into this. My parents did say to me, 'This is something you have to treat seriously. You have to be a responsible human being.' That's what I learned at a young age."

That and playing a mean violin.

## Spring Fashions Focus on the Man's Physique

by Diane Sustendal

**D**ESIGNERS in New York have turned out the sexiest, steamiest, sleekest, slimmest clothes for men in decades, reports AP.

At the Seventh on sixth spring 1997 menswear shows, it was all beefcake and body beautiful, the body exalted, toned and terrific. It doesn't matter whether a guy's basic physique resembles a burly weightlifter, sleek surfer or reedlike pearl diver, the body is buffed into the best possible condition this season.

The silhouette is long and lean, devoid of unnecessary decoration and gimmicks, distinctly masculine and macho.

Suits, particularly one- and two-button versions, are the standard-bearers of the season. There are corporate, casual, even leisure-suit looks that put new spins on the business of tailored clothing.

Paired with classic shirts and ties at Ralph Lauren and Hugo Boss, or teamed with open-collar sport shirts, T-shirts and second-skin sweaters at Calvin Klein, DKNY, and Tommy Hilfiter, suits are the workhorses of a man's wardrobe.

Dressed down or up, today's suits start with a strong shoulder and narrow through the torso to the waist and hip. They are slim enough to require a single or double vent for ease. Sport coats take the same silhouette and bring it in closer to the body.

Some designers are looking backward, to movies such as "Saturday Night Fever" (without the chains). Others look forward to the next millennium and space travel.

Still others are influenced by menswear from distant shores: India for Donna Kiran's

Nehru jackets, the British Crown Colonies ensembles from Joseph Abboud, Cuba and Malaysia for Nicole Farhi, John Bartlett, and JOOP, where handsomely finished sport shirts can substitute for coats in very hot climes.

Sportswear holds the slim line. Flat-front trousers and a new generation of jeans with stretch properties top the bottoms list. Surfer jams and close-to-body shorts of pivotal. Short-sleeve sport shirts and whisper-thin T-shirts and pullovers round out the picture.

For serious jocks, endurance and high-test gear is the order of the day. Biking shorts, wet suits, swim boxers and briefs in performance-driven fabrics are offered by designers and mass

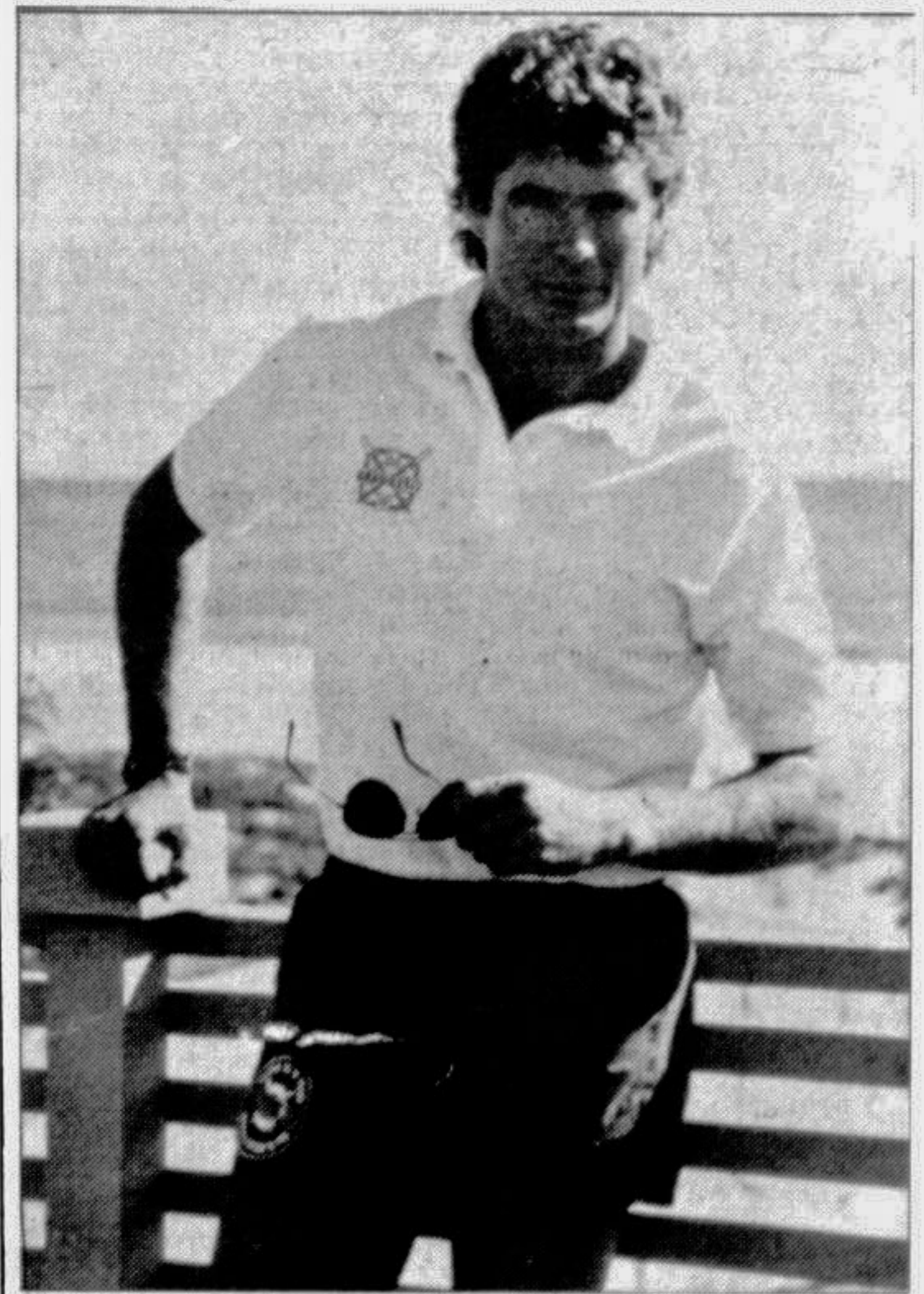
manufacturers alike. Designers are big on monochromatics, sometimes in brazen colours. The catwalks were awash with blues: indigo, azure, sky, baby, electric, teal and aqua!

Then there are surprising pastels: melons, citrus, pink, purple, lavender, lime, algae. Add in the basics, such as tan, tobacco, gray, black, and white.

These are teamed in matching or tone-on-tones combos.

What makes these interesting? Touches of embroidery, colour blocking, space yarns and the sheer sheerness of the fabrics.

Factor it all in and you can bet that the best accessory of the season is a great set of abdominal muscles.



His Physique on Demand, Baywatch Hero, the Hearthrob of Millions.

## The Jewel-Eyed Princess

by Sadia Arman

**S**HE keeps to herself. A stony heart — inside A body of flesh Draped over A structure of woodwork.

There are jewels in her eyes. Two stones of hazel set in precious pretty cases; But alas they are not Like generous rays of sunshine; Mechanically they open to do work. And close When work is done.

She has hurt me — has The jewel-eyed princess Mortally she has hurt me. I lie — in bad shape — blood flowing From alas — a heart too living, But where struck to bleed In last pulsating gasps, when Her stony arrow hit the mark.

I will not live, O stony Jewel-eyed — Without my bleeding heart. And I am your prey.

So keep my bleeding heart. Wounded it may be but still Will serve you better Than spur one of hewn stone.

## Newspaper headlines

**W**HEN the end of the world arrives how will the media report it?

**USA Today:**  
WE'RE DEAD

**The Wall Street Journal:**  
DOW JONES PLUMMETS AS WORLD ENDS

**National Enquirer:**  
O J AND NICOLE, TOGETHER AGAIN

**Microsoft Systems Journal:**  
APPLE LOSES MARKET SHARE

**Victoria's Secret Catalog:**  
OUR FINAL SALE

**Sports Illustrated:**  
GAME OVER

**Wired:**  
THE LAST NEW THING

**Rolling Stone:**  
THE GRATEFUL DEAD REUNION TOUR

**Readers Digest:**  
'BYE

**Discover Magazine:**  
HOW WILL THE EXTINCTION OF ALL LIFE AS WE KNOW IT AFFECT THE WAY WE VIEW THE COSMOS?

**TV Guide:**  
DEATH AND DAMNATION: NIELSON RATINGS SOARI

**Lady's Home Journal:**  
LOSE 10 LBS BY JUDGEMENT DAY WITH OUR NEW 'ARMAGEDDON' DIET!

**America Online:**  
SYSTEM TEMPORARILY DOWN. TRY CALLING BACK IN 15 MINUTES.

**Inc. magazine:**  
TEN WAYS YOU CAN PROFIT FROM THE APOCALYPSE

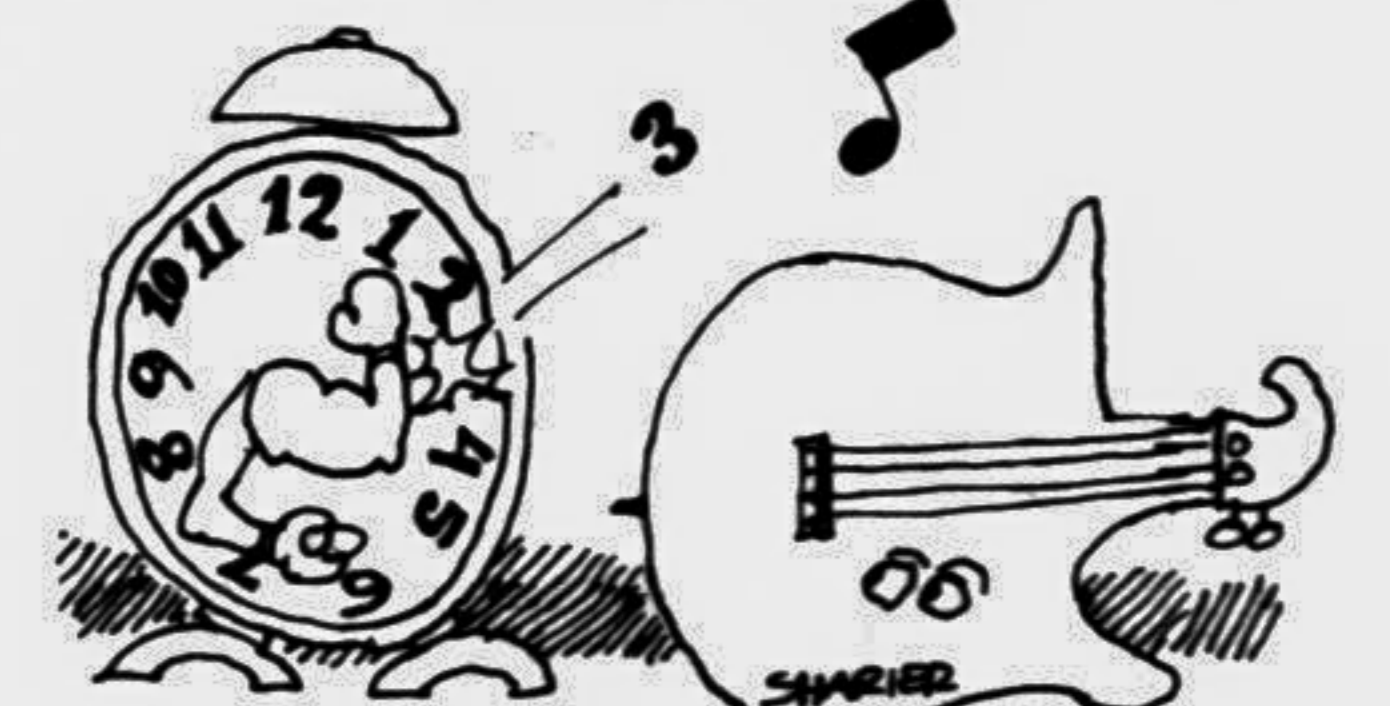
**Microsoft's Web Site:**  
IF YOU DIDN'T EXPERIENCE THE RAPTURE, DOWNLOAD SOFTWARE PATCH RAP1777.EXE.

**Sun:**  
ARMAGEDDON-TOLERANT SOFTWARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Compiled by: Shahed Aziz

## Marvels of Hands and Cyber Age

by Suzy Patterson



**T**HEY'RE a dwindling breed in an age of CDs, synthesizers and high-tech watches, but artisans are still alive and sometimes literally fighting to survive in France, reports AP.

"Labor is highly taxed here, and also the best raw materials are more expensive, so the end product is expensive and therefore hard to sell,"

A colorful Left Bank exhibition of 46 top artisans this month, Mains et Merveilles ("Hands and Marvels"), aimed to fire more public enthusiasm for those who still toil to make harpsichords, medallions or the intricate hands of a clock.

Beautifully mounted by stage designer Georges Krivochev in a 15th-century convent, the Couvent des Cordeliers, the show glowed with the finest silk, superb wood, leather and metalwork, in a gathering of elite artisans known as "The Great Atelier."

They are the cream of the professional artisans, according to one of the organizers, Jean Bergeron. But he worries: "We've got to save our patrimony."

At the show's packed opening Bergeron said he was "thrilled at the response" and he hoped the show, backed by the city of Paris, would continue to grow and project its image abroad.

Jacques Mouchier, president of the French Confederation of Artisans, says the number of workers overall in the main artisans' professions has dropped about 20 per cent in the last 20 years.

From 198 000 artisans in 1976, it's fallen to 160,000 by 1994, according to the latest figures available.

Among the reasons, "labor is highly taxed here, and also the best raw materials are more expensive, so the end product is expensive and therefore hard to sell," said Bruno Martin, a consultant for the "hands" show.

At least two anti-government bombings in southern France in recent weeks have been linked to militant artisans angered by efforts to force them to pay high social security taxes that threaten to put more of them out of business.

"It takes 10 years to form a good artisan, and kids want to get ahead faster these days."

While artisans are far from extinct, "the problem is that many coming up in most fields," said Martin. "It takes 10 years to form a good artisan, and kids want to get ahead faster these days," he said.

Harpsichord maker Reinhard von Nagel, an ebullient German living in France for the past 35 years, says the Americans have helped him survive.

His instruments take about 1,000 hours each for him to craft, and the total cost comes to about \$40,000. He feels Americans may save the art, ultimately, through work and patronage.

"European weren't resection these," he said. "They were either in museums or made into bars."

Form some, export is a key to success.

Dominique Sansom, a woodworker following in his father's footsteps, said he would "love to go to America... It's always interesting to expand."

Remy Brazet, who does tapestries and heavy silk curtains lined with horsehair, including for the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, said, "We're interested in getting more international."