Brando was equally successful in generating public interest in his personal life. He was the one who popularised 1950s leather-jacketed masculinity. He would attend swank Hollywood parties wearing jeans, insulting the hungry gossip columnists, flaunting his preference for dark-skinned women (a no-no back then). In one word he was a defiant celebrity. In the 1960s as the civil rights movement gathered steam in America, Brando became one of the earliest celebrities to march for civil rights and American Indian causes. He refused to attend the



Oscar in early 1970s to accept the prize for his acting in the movie "The Godfather." Instead. he sent an American Indian woman who read Brando's statement delineating the discriminations against American Indians. All this perplexed the Oscargoers and it was a fodder for gossip writers for weeks.

Brando was both an eccentric and moody person. He got depressed very easily dealing with film and marital woes. One time he bought an entire atoll (bunch of islands strung together) in Tahiti for \$ 270,000 in 1967. He fell in love with the French Polynesian Island and its people after filming of "Mutiny on the Bounty" in early 1960s. He was even married to a Tahitian woman for a short while. One could fill an entire page listing Brando's oddity. The world lost a powerful actor with the passing of Marlon Brando. Some of his legendary movies will become classics as time passes by if they are not so by now.

In summary, the world lost two cultural icons of the west in a short interval of time. Ray Charles will be remembered for his soulful wailing and Marlon Brando for his temperamental and poetic acting. Both of them carved a niche with their talent. Their contribution to popular postwar culture in the twentieth century will be greatly remembered. French playwright Jean Anouilh once remarked, "The object of art is to give life shape." We all will agree to it that both Ray Charles and Marlon Brando shaped our cultural world. Their presence will be sorely missed.

Dr. A.H. Jaffor Ullah is a researcher and columnist writing from New Orleans, USA

FREQUENTLY ASKED OUESTIONS



What is GFD?

GED (General Educational Development) is for those who have not completed A Level or higher secondary but would like to study further. It is mainly intended for people with study gaps. A GED certificate enables a person to take admission to undergraduate programs in both foreign universities (in USA, Canada, etc.) and private universities of Bangladesh.

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American Alumni Assn., Hs-135, Rd-13E, Banani, Dhaka. Ph:9881669.

How much is the test fee? Currently it is US \$ 375/-.

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