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SCHEDULE OF TODAY'S EVENTS

- 03:00 PM - Door Opens
- 03:00 PM - Snacks/tea
- 04:00 PM - Cultural program begins
- 06:30 PM - Dinner

SCHEDULE OF TODAY'S CULTURAL EVENTS

- **'Boishakh Abahon'**
Composition & Participation: Kakali Chakraborty & Sangeeta Ganguly

- **'Dustu Hawa'(A song from Bangla Band : Bhumi)-Kids Group Dance**
Dance Direction, Choreography: Purba Chatterjee
Participants List: Sheuli Ghosh
Purna Sengupta
Portia Bhattacharya
Krittika Krori
Anisha Rhea Das
Keya Roy
Niharika Maity

- **Solo Rabindra Sangeet**

Participant: Niharika Maity

- **'Metho Shurey Mithe Prem' - Folk Dance Drama**

Script, Narration & Music Direction: Anindya Basu

Dance Direction & Choreography: Anuradha Mukherjee

Musical Accompaniment: Nirmalya Chatterjee (Harmonium)
Milan Chatterjee (Tabla)

Participants:

Dance:

Asha Banerjee
Sraboni Basu
Mishmi Bose
Poonam Chatterjee
Juhi Ghosh
Anuradha Mukherjee
Gopa Mukherjee
Indrani Pan
Ruchira Ray Barman
Raka Sen

Songs:

Anindya Basu
Deepak Chakravarti
Kakali Chakraborty
Nirmalya Chatterjee
Sharmishta Maitra

- **'Nuton Jauban-eri Dut' - Kids Group Dance**

Dance Direction, Choreography: Anuradha Mukherjee

Participants List: Pulak Chatterjee
Biswadeep Mukherjee
Navajyati Ray Barman

-----Intermission -----

- **Kids Prize Distribution**

- **'Assortment of Songs'**

Musical Accompaniment: Bulbul Bhattacharya(Synthesizer)
Milan Chatterjee(Tabla)

Participants: Bashistha Bhattacharya
Bulbul Bhattacharya
Krishnendu Bhattacharya

- **Solo Kathak Dance**

Participant: Mala Chatterjee

- **'The Changing Moods of Bollywood Style'**

Direction, Choreography and Costumes: Chaitali Adhikari

Sound Editing and Narration: Prasenjit Adhikari

Participants list: Anuva and Manas Goswami

Saroj Chatterjee

Aparna Ghosh

Bashistha (Romy) Bhattacharjee

Indrani and Shantanu Roy

Ruchira Ray Barman

Gopa Mukherjee

Anuradha Mukherjee

Debjani Krori

Shohini and Somnath(Shome) Ghosh

Sraboni Basu

Lipika Das

Suparna Ghoshal

Chaitali Adhikari

Mishmi Bose

Sagarika(Chutki) Sinha

Ishika(Laddu) Sinha

Poonam Chatterjee

Arkajyoti (Jeet) Ray Barman

Prasenjit Adhikari

Special Acknowledgement: Anuradha Mukherjee
Sraboni Basu

Love for Hindi!

Devajyoti Bhattacharya

It was March of 1999 when I first heard that our company has bagged a contract for engineering consultancy services on behalf of a British company that was working in Iraq for the United Nations Food for Oil Program. Our company was specializing in Oil and Gas and Petrochem consultancy but mostly on offshore rigs and gas collection stations and this was the first time that our company got this unique opportunity – we were to help put back Iraq's second largest refinery on its feet that had been bombed out of operation during the first Gulf War.

When I was approached to lead the initial team to Iraq it was a hard decision to make, but I finally agreed after considering the experience that I would gain working hands-on in a refinery. On 7th June a team of 8 of us flew to Amman, Jordan and from there drove the whole night to Baghdad (Iraq was divided into two no-fly zones and the only way to reach there was by road) and on to Baiji refinery which is on the northern part of Iraq and close to Mosul (where Saddam's sons were found) and Tikrit (Saddam's hometown). When we arrived at Baiji we found that an advance team has already cleared up an old army barrack near the refinery for us and two of us were put in each hut.

The work was grueling and it was the first time I had to work in conditions where sandstorms would reduce visibility to a few feet and temperatures would reach up to 125 Fahrenheit. What made it more difficult were the lack of masks, gloves and other safety equipment that one normally uses while working on Oil and Gas platforms and refineries. The relentless desert sun would make the rungs of the hydrocarbon distillation towers unbearably hot, and we would have scales on our hand climbing 45 feet to the top to inspect the impact of a missile hole (without safety harness and on monkey ladders that were rusted and had steps missing!). But in spite of all the hardship, what made the experience memorable were the day to day interactions that I had with the common Iraqi folks and their extreme love for India and Indians, and I owe it to them to share a few of those incidences.

One day on a Friday afternoon, we were watching an old B grade Hollywood movie in Baghdad. Baghdad was around 200 miles from Baiji and the only place from where we could make a call to India – so every Friday all of us Indians (which ultimately swelled to around 40 folks) would get on a bus provided by the refinery authorities and drive to Baghdad. Anyway, as I was saying, we were watching a movie (with nothing better to do in the hot afternoon). There were around 8 of us all sitting on the last two rows and pretty close to the entrance,

when suddenly a bulky guy entered the theater and came up to us shouting '*Kutte! Kamine! mein tera khoon pi jaoonga ga!*' at the top of his voice. For a few moments we were taken aback and were wondering what rules we had broken when this guy burst out laughing. He was the owner of the theatre and upon hearing that a few '*Hindis*' had come in, he had to meet us (we were called '*Hindi*' by the Iraqis). He was extremely excited and told us how he liked Indian movies and Dharmendra and Mithun were his favorites. (When I was there, Iraq was in a sort of time warp because of the sanctions and the last Indian superstar they knew of was our own Mithun Da). He also forced us to stay back for the next show of the same movie. Finally we managed to get out but not before promising that we will come to his theatre every week and NOT pay for the tickets (we of course never lived up to our promise!).

We also had similar experiences when we went out shopping - we would be buying something from these poor Iraqi vendors with tattered clothes and torn slippers (Iraq was under UN sanctions and it appeared that the common folks were the most affected by this) but they would refuse to accept any payments from us once they realized that we were '*Hindis*'. Ultimately this made it very difficult for us to do any shopping and we had to literally throw some money and run from the vendors!

There were many other such instances that I can keep on writing about - about this poor cabbie who would not let us pay after learning that we were *Hindis* (he was a gold medal winning Iraqi wrestler in the 1982 Asiad and was very eager to know how Delhi has changed and how the Indian athletes of his generation were doing now). Or this other time when an argument broke out between an Iraqi and a Kurdish engineer, each trying to prove that Indian culture and the Hindi language was closer to his own (To be fair to them both, I found that there are a few Hindi words which are pretty close to either Arabic or Kurdish).

Recently when I heard about the news of the kidnapping of three Indians, I was pretty confident that no harm will come to them and I told so to my wife and some of my friends. When the hostages were finally released I felt very happy and vindicated - the Iraqis have once again showed their love for Indians.

When I left Iraq in December 1999 I did not feel that I was leaving a foreign country. The love and the warmth that we got from the Iraqis were unparalleled. I pray to God and wish that all those wonderful Iraqis who had so much warmth on their hearts for India and Indians are safe now. And I would like to end by quoting those Iraqis who refused to say goodbye when I left Iraq, and instead said '*Inshallah, we will meet again*'. Who knows - we might meet again someday after all.

FROM THE MILONEE COMMITTEE


Dear Friends,

We would like to start out by wishing you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year and welcome you to another colorful event of this year.....Boishakhi..

We thank you all for coming and participating in today's festivities. As you have seen from the Schedule of Events, we have put in lot of effort to get you involved in many ways to make this day a very memorable day for everyone.

Celebrating our traditions and heritage preserves our Bengali identity and we are proud to be part of this endeavor. We hope you all enjoy today's events.

Sincerely,
Milonee Executive Committee
2004-2005





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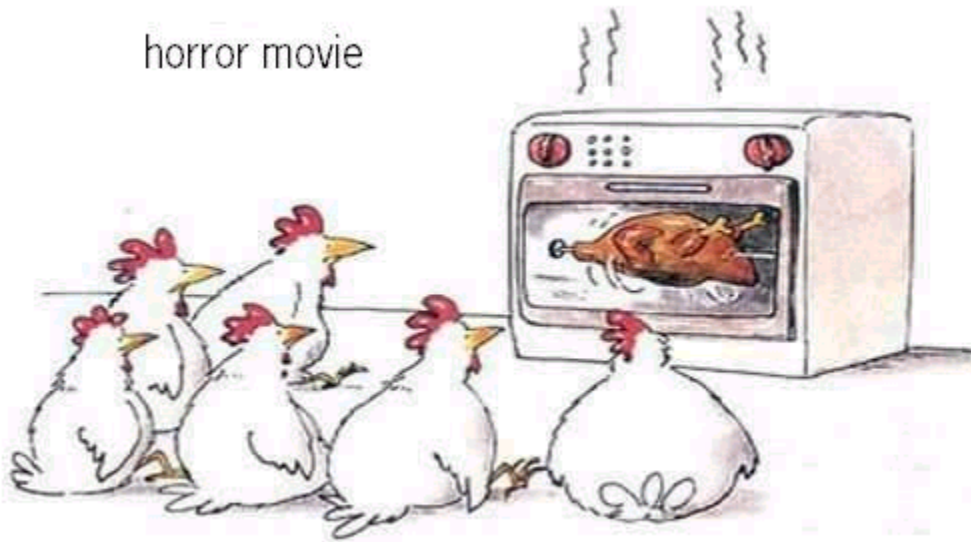
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Idea Of My Favorite Vacation

Biswadeep Mukherjee

If I were to choose an idea of my favorite vacation, I would pick Hawaii again. The beaches there are absolutely fabulous. They have numerous hotels all over the place. The people there are groovy. You'll fall in love with the scrumptious food.

First, we landed in Honolulu airport in Oahu Island and we went to Waikiki Beach. We stayed at a hotel in Honolulu. We went to North Beach and saw the huge surfs its famous for. The Waikiki Beach was crowded with colorful people. We went snorkeling in Maunalua Bay. We spend most of our time in Oahu Island and Waikiki Beach. The yellow submarine ride totally rocks. You can see all kinds of sea life that thrives under the bottom of the ocean. When you're on the cruise ship, the hula dancers are like flowers blossoming on a spring day. Inside a pagoda you can see the statue of Buddha, who was worshiped by the Japanese. You can go swimming in any one of the numerous beaches.

On Big Island, the tour bus ride was the best. We saw lots of active volcanoes. We walked through a lava tube. I traveled for what seemed like an hour in half pitch blackness. When we got out of the cavernous cave, there was dense tropical forest all around us. Then, we went to the Dole Plantation. The owners had a large maze full of pineapple trees. After we went through the maze, we went and got something to eat. We ate at the restaurant on the crater of a dormant volcano. We saw numerous, dripping waterfalls. I was surprised to see the Black Sand Beach, but learnt that the sand is black because it is made from volcano ash.

The lush forests of Hawaii were the shooting place of Jurassic Park. I learned unique things about Hawaii. It has had volcanoes erupting from ancient times. The most famous volcano in Hawaii is Mt. Kileaua. The people from Hawaii are of Polynesian origin. I look forward to visiting Hawaii again and further studying its nature and its people.

HOW INDIA HAS AFFECTED OUR WORLD TODAY

PUNAM CHATTERJI

Did you know that cotton balls came from India almost 3000 years ago? Ancient Aryans started silk production, and they also perfected a method of dyeing it into beautiful colors without ruining the fabric. When many people today think about India, thoughts of spicy food and silk saris fill their heads. It is strange to

believe that a country on the other side of the world could affect our lives in the United States so much. As Indian-Americans, or as Indian comedians say, "NRI's," our heritage has a tremendous affect on our life here in the U.S.

One of the biggest fads currently in our country is getting healthy and staying in shape. One popular method of doing this is yoga. Yoga began in India as a way to clear the mind in order to get through the day with more energy. This was later adapted to solve other problems such as increasing circulation, stopping migraines, increasing flexibility, and our favorite, losing weight. The techniques started almost 2000 years ago are proven today to help people with their health problems. Health clubs all over the world now offer different forms of yoga and it has become popular with today's athletes, movie stars, and musicians. Madonna is quoted as saying that the reason she loves yoga so much is because she can become healthy and reach spiritual enlightenment. Doctors recommend yoga because there are so many different forms and exercises that various people can participate in, and still get the results they desire. Stores ranging from King Soopers and Borders, to food and health stores, sell products for yoga learners.

Another way that India has contributed to our society today is our current methods of education. When Aryans were developing systems of math, they wanted to pass their findings along to future generations. They decided that the best way to grasp math concepts was to start with the foundation, then slowly progress. This is exactly what so many kids complain about, the staircase of numerals. However this system makes it is easier to develop math concepts and perhaps apply them to higher learning. One additional learning concept is that of how to teach different forms of astrology. Ancient Indians believed that teaching planets and stars, not only helps to create an understanding of the depths of the universe, but also of one's own self-being.

Old Indian traditions are often applied in many prestigious medical schools around the country as well. Students at these schools are taught that medicine isn't the only cure, but that other forms of treatment work also. Recently western medicine has been combining with eastern medicine trying herbal remedies and alternative forms of treatment. Students are taught to be open to these forms and then inform their patients of helpful remedies they can perform at home. Some examples of these are water therapy, sleep aromas, and herbal spices and food that people can do by they self without any trouble. Indians have taught us to accept different treatments and cures, furthering our nation's advancement of medical science.

Even though many still believe India to be a place overrun with cows and rickshaws it is so much more. It is a land with beauty and culture, which has infinitely changed our world today for the better.

স্বাভিচ্ছক টাক

MANICK SORCAR

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-MANICK SORCAR



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