

A new standard was set in this city last week, but remember :No pictures please! Those were the strict instructions at **Mohanjit 'Mozez' Singh's 'Red Night'** party - the kick off, as it were, for his brother **Vikramjit 'Tunoo' Singh's** upcoming wedding. And just as well. The most outrageous, rocking evening of the season would have melted camera lenses at the sheer heat of the event, so high was the centigrade factor that evening. Picture this then : A forty foot high tent in carmine red, three smaller 'harem' tents in dull molten gold enclosed within the main one, clusters of juicy, glistening grape like black balloons hanging from the ceiling, a vast disco ball that reflected flashes of light across guests' faces. It didn't stop there. The floors were covered with huge brass containers with some 2000 thousand candles floating placidly in the confines. Rose petals floated somewhat amiably with the candles. Guests were greeted at the gates by armies of fire eaters spewing flames into the night sky, while inside, men on stilts showered all assembled with petals. Performing artists in full puppet outfits mingled in the crush, while go-go dancers dished out their stuff on specially erected pedestals. The pedestals, in fact, brought out the best in all present - everyone wants to be a star, even if it's for fifteen minutes. By the middle of the evening, invitees were pushing to get on top and strut their stuff to **Cher's 'Believe'**. Even **Sylvester 'Sylvie'**, the prominent

The buzz

Nikhil Khanna

hair artiste felt miffed by the glamour of it all - another guy in full drag, with a boa - pha ! the party had seen it all. By then, some of the more adventurous guests had already started shedding garments on stage- the DJ had to issue a statutory warning. When did events reach an apogee - certainly at 7 AM, when the speakers started pounding out the latest House from New York. What seemed like a trickle on the floor, turned into a deluge and more. In the hedonistic blaze, ('Blazing' incidentally was the dress code of the evening): the designer **Mary McFadden, Simone Zhilka, the Begum Sameera Rana, Devaki Singh, Chloe Montfort, Wendy Schiff, Jane, Lady Jeh Wadia**, crowds of **Doon School** boys viz **Rahul Shrinagesh, Himmat Rana, Virajeet Singh, Vikram Aggarwal, Ajal Mehta** tons of ladies decked out to take the city on, like **Mallini Ramani, Priti Paul, Shaheen Aggarwal, Gitu Ramani**, and a supporting cast of at least a thousand more.

Her portrait of former US Ambassador to India, **Frank Wisner en famille** drew rave reviews. The life size painting now rests in the **Wisner's** sprawling



A painting from Sheyna Balg's 'The Child Within' collection

art encrusted Park Avenue apartment in New York. She then went on to paint **Sir Donald Bradman** in a painting that was commissioned specially by him. These are just some of the things the low-key **Sheyna Balg** has done in her debut exhibition of watercolours, oils and mixed media at the **India Habitat Centre** is just another beige coloured feather in a neatly placed hat. It is also one of the more exciting debuts of the art season. The uppercrust **Balg**, (she is the daughter of the cricketer **Abbas Ali Balg** and his wife **Vinu**), studied at Delhi's Modern School, Vasant Vihar. She then upped and went to the achingly expensive Millfield School in England, (former schoolmates include the progeny of practically all rock stars). She then honed

her now apparent skills at the Chelsea School of Art, and then put it in sharp perspective at the St. Martins School of Art and Design where she completed a B.A. in fine art painting and English Literature. Finally, she decided to go to the Slade School of Art to do a Life Drawing course - so has all work and no play, (coupled with a life of healthy, blue blooded privilege) made Jane a dull girl ? *Au contraire*. **Balg** slogs at her workgroup shows - in Leicestershire, at the Clichester music festival, at **O.P. Jain's** heavenly **Anandgram**. It's an energetic, international existence blended with even handed hard work. Her hectic schedule packs in voluntary work at **Youth Reach** as well as teaching art to children from the age of four and up. She also remains unfailingly polite and gracious, a real lady in the harsh push and shove of this city. However, the wielding of the correct knife at dinner seldom wins accolades, instead it is **Balg's** hard work that has paid off. Ninety percent of her paintings were sold out within four hours of opening and most will adorn living rooms of people in the know, of people who appreciate art. Meanwhile who made it in the crush on opening night ? **Dr. Karan Singh, Abid Hussain, Satish Gujral, the Begum Pataudi, Bambi Ra. Manjit Bawa, Lata and Vijay Kelkar, Reena Ripjeet Singh, Anjolie Ela Menon, Richard Celeste, Bim Bisell, Cukko Rao, Ashok Mehta, Romi Chopra, Jeh and Rahul Bajaj** and many, many more.