

"Niruddesh", a moving social film



Wahida Mollick Joli (R) with co-artist in a scene from the film

FAYZA HAQ
"NIRUDDESH" or "Lost Keys" that had its premiere recently at the Alliance Francaise is based on an actual incident. The film has been made by Cine Octagon, a group of eight directors. According to the story line, Rekha Ahmed, a widow and a mother of a teenager, works with an NGO and lives in Dhaka. On a rainy evening, as she was returning from office, having picked up her

daughter from the coaching class, her rickshaw is waylaid by muggers, who snatch her bag.
 Rekha is totally confused and upset as the bag contained the office keys and it was to be pay day the next morning. She is concerned that she might lose her job. However, an individual named Shoaib Sarker calls to tell her that he has found her bag and would be returning it to her soon. While Rekha is relieved, she is also afraid that Shoaib might have connections with

the miscreants. Shoaib too is perturbed. He has to leave for overseas the next morning and wonders if he should go through the hassle of returning the bag.
 Thus the film highlights the mutual distrust and disregard in today's decaying society, where everyone is self-centred. Speaking on the film, Professor Kabir Chowdhury said that he had enjoyed it. "The film displayed an element in our society that disturbs others, i.e. rampant crime that is

especially aimed at women. There is also the theme of distrust that often exists between people: this is displayed in short but complex scenes. The manner in which the reality has been captured in the scenes is admirable."

Catherine Masud said, "This is a commendable effort. It reflects the insecurity that we face in the streets. Everyday we hear about someone who has been robbed, stabbed or assaulted in the streets. I've been here in Dhaka for 20 years and I feel increasingly insecure. At the same time, it is a good sign that more and more people are coming into the media as a means of expression. However all that we see on TV do not reflect the reality of problems that people are facing in their day to day lives. The crisis of alienation, insecurity, violence which surrounds us everyday is not properly highlighted in TV dramas. With new people coming with new ideas will have a powerful impact in our society. I regret that there are not enough women coming to make films, although at the same time I admire the effort and sensitivity of the eight people who have come forth to make this film."

The cast includes Raisal Islam Asad, Wahida Mollick Joli, Ashfaq Ahmed, Proga Paramita Orni, Proma Shanchita Otri, Arbinda Sarker, Intiaz Pavel and others. The story was written by Jahangir Mohammed. The groups of eight directors include Arbinda Sarker, Jahangir Mohammed, Ashfaq Ahmed, Shahriar Islam, Bulbul Biswas, Rakibul Hasan and Intiaz Pavel.

Street theatre festival arranged by BPNP



Actors of Shubochan Natyasangsad rehearsing for the street play 'Noramedh'

ERSHAD KAMOL
 Bangladesh Patha Natok Parishad (BPNP) has arranged a seven-day

street theatre festival at the Central Shaheed Minar premises to observe March, the month of our Independence.

The festival began on March 1. 53 street plays altogether will be staged during the festival. Slogan of the Street Theatre Festival-2006 is

'*Pather Aloye Dur Karo Dushshashan*'. President of BPNP, Manna Heera says, "BPNP has been regularly arranging a street theatre festival every March since 1993. Other two organisations - Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and Shammilito Sanskritik Jote - arrange street theatre festivals in December and February. Street plays, which are usually satires of the contemporary political turmoil, are included in the festival. Besides theatre troupes from Dhaka, troupes from outside the city are participating in the festival. Seven of the street plays being staged during the festival are written by me. Each day the festival begins at 4 pm."
 Ramendu Majumdar inaugurated the festival on March 1. Nasiruddin Yousuff, Golam Kuddus, Jhuna Xchowdhury and Ahkamullah delivered speeches at the inauguration ceremony presided over by Manna Heera. Mizanur Rahman, the general secretary of BPNP delivered the welcome speech on the opening day programme.

Bengal Bikash

Regional selection round wraps up today

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Bikash, the talent-hunt by Bengal Foundation is drawing attention nationwide. 4,071 tapes containing performances by aspiring singers were turned in during the initial stage of the contest. From that pool 1,294 contestants were selected in the preliminary round. Following that the regional selection round began which will end today with the completion of selection from Dhaka Division being held at Bangla Shilpalaya, Dhaka.

From Khulna division six singers have been selected in Tagore songs category, six in Nazrul songs, 5 artists in 'songs of the three poets (DL Roy, Atulprasad, Rajnikant Sen)', seven participants in folk songs and eight in *adunika*. From Barisal division, five singers were selected in Tagore songs, three in Nazrul songs, one in folk songs and



A contestant performing in the selection round held in Dhaka

three in *adunika*.
 Seven aspiring singers in Tagore songs category, six in Nazrul songs, six in 'songs of the three poets', five in folk songs and seven in *adunika* were selected from Chittagong division. From Sylhet division five artists were selected in Tagore songs, five in Nazrul songs, three in 'songs of the three poets', five in folk songs and five in *adunika* songs.

From Rajshahi division six singers were selected in Tagore songs category, five in Nazrul songs, five in 'songs of the three poets', six in folk songs and nine in *adunika* songs. From Dhaka division 20 hopefuls in Tagore songs category, 20 in Nazrul songs, nine in 'songs of the three poets' and 15 in folk songs have been selected. Selection process for artists participating in the

adunika songs category will wrap up today.
 The pre-final round will be held from March 20 to 22. In mid-April the final round will begin. Three artists will be selected from each category to take part in the finals.

Erratum
 In yesterday's issue of the Culture page, in the news titled "Theatre for a cause" it should have read "Department of Theatre and Music, Dhaka University". We regret the inadvertent error.

New TV serial Bhara Hobey Seat Khali

A drama serial titled *Bhara Hobey Seat Khali* is being telecast on Channel 1 at 8:30 pm every Wednesday and Thursday. Based on Shahidul Alam Sachhu's concept, Rehana Samdani is directing the TV serial under the banner of School Productions. Kamelia Alam is the playwright.

The serial exposes the various anomalies of the society through a comic portrayal of the life of tenants and the landlord living in a hostel, according to a press release.

Two cameras were used to shoot the drama to ensure acting continuity. Along with established actors, a group of young and talented stage performers has played different roles in the serial. Among the newcomer are students of Department of Drama and Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University.

Initially 102 episodes will be telecast, but the serial may be extended later. Kabir Bakul has written the title song of the serial, while Pritom composed and sang it. The writers' panel include Oniket, Rehana Samdani, Suman Anwar, Rubel Shankar and Aktaruzzaman.



Bhara Hobey Seat Khali exposes the various anomalies of the society

'Da Vinci' author 'stole plot'

REUTERS, London

Author Dan Brown appeared in court on last Monday at the start of a trial in which two historians say he copied their work to write *The Da Vinci Code* best-seller and are suing his British publisher.

Richard Leigh and Michael Baigent are suing their own publisher Random House for lifting "the whole architecture" of the research that went into their 1982 non-fiction book *The Holy Blood, and the Holy Grail*, itself a bestseller.

Brown's religious thriller has more than 36 million copies in print worldwide and has upset Catholics for suggesting Jesus married Mary Magdalene and had a child by her. The same theory is put forward in *The Holy Blood, and the Holy Grail*.



Dan Brown (L), author of *The Da Vinci Code* arrives at London High Court for the hearing

Lawyers on both sides of the case have declined to comment on how the trial might affect sales of the hugely successful novel or the distribution of a major Hollywood adaptation, which Sony Pictures plans to release in May.

Jonathan James, representing Baigent and Leigh, told the High Court, "Dan Brown copied from *The Holy Blood, and the Holy Grail* and therefore the publication of the result by the defendant is in infringement of the copyright of my client in the United Kingdom."

Random House, owned by German media conglomerate Bertelsmann, have dismissed the claim as "without merit," and succeeded last October in having a "substantial" part of the case made by the historians dropped.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
 News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
 Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
 News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.
 Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
 News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11 pm.
 News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm.
 Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
 News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
 Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
 Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
 Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
 Every hour on the hour

BTV
 08:15 Shubhechhcha Nin
 08:55 Selected Programme
 05:30 Ekusher Boli Mela
 06:10 Wrestling
 07:00 Special Programme
 07:30 Drama Serial: Antoraley Anurag
 08:35 Anondo Ayojon
 09:00 Drama: Shanko
 10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
 11:00 Chaowa Paowa

ntv
 08:35 Aajker Shokal
 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush
 Talk Show: Ki kotha Tahar Shathe
 10:05 Magic Magic
 10:30 Dhakar Cinema
 10:45 Muktaggon
 04:25 Tepartorer Mathey
 05:15 Din Darpan
 05:20 Alokpat
 06:20 Shubho Shondha
 06:50 Right Click
 08:25 Drama Serial: Romizer Aaina
 09:10 Bhalobasho Mor Gaan
 11:25 Dindarpan

CHANNEL i
 09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
 09:45 Public Reaction
 09:50 Trityo Matra
 11:05 Na Bola Kotha (Live)
 11:30 Mukto Bazar
 12:30 Aj Dupurey
 01:05 Ebonj Cinemar Gaan
 01:45 Public Reaction
 02:40 Medha Bikash
 03:10 Shaat Rang
 03:30 BAPS
 04:05 Dhaka Guide
 04:25 Selected programme
 05:30 Cholochoitra Shangeetmala

06:00 Music Plus
 06:30 Drama Serial: Dui Prohor
 07:50 Drama Serial: Swaponoker Kolpokotha
 08:20 Drama Serial: Ekush Er Por
 09:35 Hideoy Mati O Manush
 10:00 Rexona Challenge

ATN BANGLA
 08:10 Bulbul
 08:45 Durer Shur
 09:25 Drama Serial: Britto
 11:05 Drama Serial: Hortoner Bibi
 11:35 Char Deyalar Kabyo
 12:15 Bangla Feature Film: Ranga Bhabi
 03:45 Shurer Madhuri
 04:20 Children's Programme
 05:10 Amader Joto Katha
 05:45 Islami Sawal O Jobab (live)
 06:20 Travel Show: Gugly
 08:00 Drama Serial: Jol Porey Pata Norey
 08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shabuj Opera
 09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni
 09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Jonomey
 10:35 Citycell Shusthya Thakun (live)

Rtv
 08:00 Shukhi Thakun Deho Money
 09:30 Gapshap
 10:00 Aj Potrikae
 05:15 Wild Things
 07:30 Red Water
 09:30 The Big Bounce
 11:15 Rambo Iii
 01:15 Congo
 03:30 The Godfather Part Iii

PICK OF THE DAY

Lal Neel Beguni
 On ATN Bangla at 09:00 pm
 Drama Serial
 Cast: Zahid Hassan, Tamalika

The Big Bounce
 On HBO at 09:30 pm
 Genre: Comedy
 Cast: Owner, Wilson, Morgan Freeman

STAR MOVIES
 09:10 Country Bears The
 10:40 Braveheart
 01:35 Alex & Emma
 03:15 King Arthur
 05:25 Laws Of Attraction
 07:00 Broken Lizard's Club Dread
 08:40 In Enemy Hands
 10:20 Species II
 11:45 The Real McCoy
 01:30 Assassination Tango

STAR PLUS
 08:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
 08:30 Mirch Masala
 09:00 V First Day First Show- StarPlus
 09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
 09:30 Shararat - Thoda Jadu

HBO
 10:15 Internal Affairs
 12:30 Rome 01: How Titus Pullo Brought Down The Republic
 01:30 Showtime
 03:30 The New Guy
 05:15 Wild Things
 07:30 Red Water
 09:30 The Big Bounce
 11:15 Rambo Iii
 01:15 Congo
 03:30 The Godfather Part Iii

Todi Naz
 10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
 10:30 Dharam Aur Hum
 11:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
 11:30 Krishna Kathayien
 12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
 12:55 V First Day First Show- StarPlus
 01:00 Star Bestsellers
 02:00 V First Day First Show- StarPlus
 02:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
 02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
 03:30 Shanno Ki Shaadi
 03:30 Kora Kagaz
 04:00 Kora Kagaz
 04:30 Kora Kagaz
 05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
 05:25 V First Day First Show- StarPlus

05:30 Sshhhhh... Koi Hai...
 06:30 The Proud Family
 07:00 GooF Troop
 07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
 07:30 Star Parivaar Awards 2006
 09:30 Jodee Kamaal Ki
 10:30 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
 11:00 Shanno Ki Shaadi
 11:30 Tu Tu Main Main
 12:00 Tu Tu Main Main
 09:30 Hunter Hunted
 10:30 No Border

STAR WORLD
 08:30 Smallville
 09:30 Parkinson
 10:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
 12:30 Rendezvous With Simi
 01:00 Carewel
 01:00 Travel Asia
 01:30 My Wife And Kids

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 08:00 Telebrands
 08:30 Explorations
 09:00 Amazon Bronze
 09:30 Dogs With Jobs
 10:00 Dogs With Jobs
 10:30 Backyard Science
 10:45 Doc Eureka
 11:00 Serious: Arctic
 11:30 Backyard Science
 11:45 Doc Eureka
 12:00 Serious: Arctic
 12:30 Wildlife Detectives
 01:00 Croc Chronicles
 01:30 Violent Earth (Aka Death By...)
 02:30 Air Crash Investigation
 03:30 Microkillers
 04:30 Marine Machines
 05:30 Inside Hurricane Katrina
 07:30 Rough Trades
 08:00 Going To More
 08:30 Extremes
 09:30 Hunter Hunted
 10:30 No Border

02:00 King Of Queens
02:30 Absolutely Fabulous
03:00 Coupling
03:30 Malcolm In The Middle
04:00 The Drew Carey Show
04:30 American Idol
05:30 Incredible Animal Rescues
06:30 North Shore
07:30 The Collector
08:30 Tna Xplosion
09:30 Ghost Hunters
10:30 Little Britain
11:00 Little Britain
11:30 Cops
12:00 Totally Outrageous Behavior

01:00 Cycling Tour Of Siam
 2006 Thailand Thailand Event Highlights(R)
 01:00 Asian World Cup Qualifiers 2006 Fifa World Cup : Asian Qualifiers Dammam City Saudi Arabia Saudi Arabia Vs Korea Republic Group A(R)
 03:00 Football Asia (T)
 03:30 A1 Grand Prix
 05:00 Highlights Mexico Mexico (R)
 05:00 Uefa Champions League Magazine Shows Uefa Champions League Magazine Show (T)
 06:30 Gillette World Sports Special Gillette World Sports 2006 (T)
 07:30 Sri Lanka Tour Of Bangladesh Chittagong Bangladesh Vs Sri Lanka 1st Test Day 5 Highlights(T)
 08:40 English Premier Football League 2005/06 Birmingham England Aston Villa Vs Portsmouth (S)
 11:00 English Premier Football League 2005/06 Liverpool England Liverpool Oi Vs Charlton Athletic (L)

04:00 Here We Go (R)
05:00 Sportscenter Week In Review (R)
05:55 Sportscenter
06:40 English Premier Football League 2005/06 Birmingham England West B Romwich Albion Vs Chelsea (L)
09:00 English Premier Football League 2005/06 London England Fulham Vs Arsenal (L)
11:00 Epl Saturday Premiership Saturday (L)
11:10 English Premier Football League 2005/06 Liverpool England Liverpool Oi Vs Charlton Athletic (L)

TEN SPORTS
09:30 Gillette World Of Sports
10:00 Winning Post
12:00 Abn Amro20-20: Day 8 Highlights
01:00 German League Highlights:Round 23
02:00 Trans World Sports
02:30 Gillette World Of Sports
03:00 Winning Post
05:00 Abn Amro20-20: Day 8 Highlights
05:30 Aero Gp
06:30 Wwe: Experience
07:00 Europeanour Weekly
08:00 Hero Honda Legends: Younis Khan : Ep 1
09:00 This Is The Pga Tour
09:30 Indian Golf Show
10:30 Abn Amro20-20: Final

ESPN
10:30 Sportscenter Week In Review (T)
11:00 West Indies Tour Of New Zealand The National Bank Series 2006 New Zealand Vs West Indies 5th Odi 2nd Session(L)
02:30 Australia Tour Of South