

# The Longest Street Painting in the World

THE work of the creation of the world's longest street painting began at the Landskrona center, at Sweden in May, this year. Within three weeks approximately 525 meters of Eriksgatan and Storgatan, from "Folkets Hus" to the pharmacy will be covered with happy colorful patterns. "A splendid idea," said artist Ruhul Amin Kajol, who was directing the project.

"Heaven on Earth" is the name of the street painting, which is going to give Landskrona a space in the next publication of the Guinness Book of Records. "When the gray asphalt is transformed and becomes beautiful and alive, then the atmosphere in the city is delightful too," says Kajol, who originally comes from Mymensingh, Bangladesh. He has studied ceramics at the Institute of Fine Arts, DU. Kajol has also had more than 20 exhibitions in Bangladesh, Denmark, Finland, Sweden

and Spain. These days Kajol lives and works in Denmark. He has taken part in the work of making the world's longest wall painting in Spain.

"That was an exciting arrangement and it took us 12-13 days to complete," says Kajol, who is calculating with three weeks in Landskrona. Then the painting will cover Eriksgatan and Storgatan between "Folkets Hus" and the Pharmacy. "The problem, is the weather," says Kajol, looking up in the sky and at its gray clouds. It should be summer weather now, but we hope that it will be dry in the coming days.

The carnival committee who have been taking the initiative for the street painting, hopes that the street painting will be a successful tourist attraction this summer.

"We think it will attract a lot of people and this is a big cultural event," says Per Leteus at the carnival committee.

Hopefully the whole project was an economical success with the help from different company as donors.

"I have done many big paintings before but this is the funniest I have ever done. I hope that also the people in Landskrona are proud of it," said Kajol.

He had had 30 painters from Denmark who have helped him since 30th of May.

"I hope that all the people who have helped me will also have learnt something which can be useful for them later in life. Per Leteus from the Carnival committee was satisfied with the painting. There is no painting which is this long, not any what they know about any way," he said.

"This is the biggest commission in my life," said Kajol, who spread some roses over the Danish youth who had been working hard. On the street you can now find people, ani-

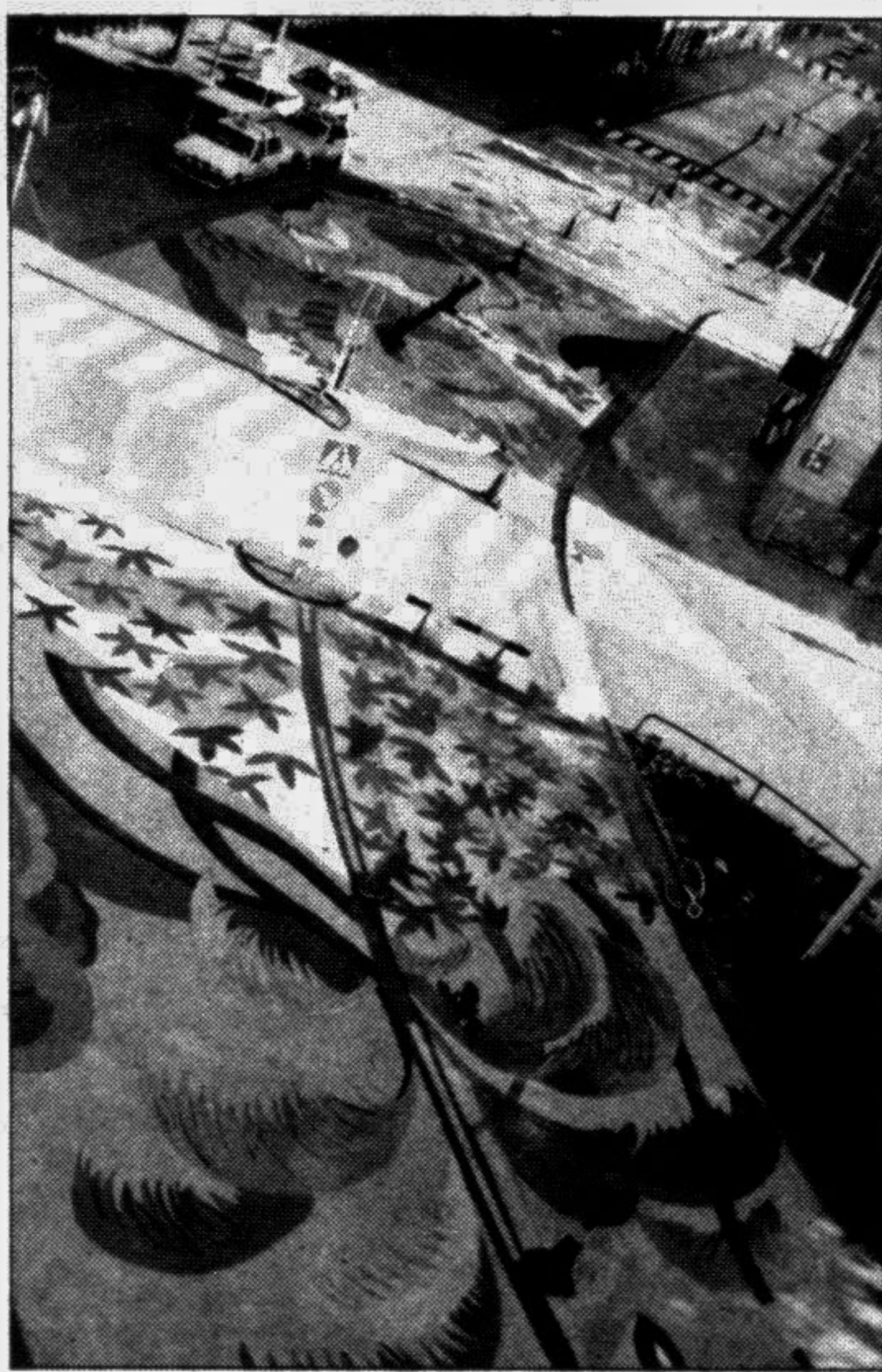
mals, nature and traditions. All living creatures around us painted at Landskrona streets, said Kajol who received applause and hugged his fellow workers.

The opinions about this painting is divided. The people who are against it have spoken about the traffic trouble it makes. The people in favour of the painting are happy. "No one wanted the Eiffel Tower either, when it was built. Look

how many people who are coming just to see that," said one of the Gert Gunnarsson, an onlooker.

People also had different opinions at the inauguration. Some thought that it was very nice with the music and colours while others thought it was ridiculous.

A summary of reports from various newspapers in Denmark.



LAILA Sharmeen's new collection of prints, scheduled for the next exhibition, comprise etchings based on the earlier theme of T S Eliot's "The Hollow Men", seen earlier at Alliance Francaise Galerie last April.

Visiting Laila's studio, one found her bent double over her favourite occupation — making prints. In "Hollow Men in the Twentieth Century-1" one sees a flat creation in which a figure is sketched with triangular face, slanted eyes and up-turned nose. The bosom is brought in subtly in the left, while the subject is surrounded by apparently careless strokes, in crosses and zig-zag forms. The use of occasional pale colours and opaqueness of the backdrop lent an effect of peace, although the subject is that of the lonely and helpless man. Despite the fact that there might not have been any difference between Laila's theme of '93 and '94, the insight was more mature, while the symbolism was even more dramatic.

In "Love-1" there was a departure from the earlier subject and theme, and one discovered a couple sauntering in the moonlight, the woman being juxtaposed against the man in the background. The artist's penchant for depicting the sky brought in a moon on either side of the backdrop. Sketched in grass in the foreground lent harmony and lyricism to the composition.

An embracing and kissing couple was seen in "Lovers 2", a mezzotint, learnt under the guidance of the visiting Japanese professor Shiroki

## A Painter's Penchants and Problems

by Fayaza Haq

Toshiyuki, in Dhaka, recently. The nude figures were partly covered by splashes of leaves. "Modern man has affairs and romantic associations to get away from the overwhelming loneliness that he suffers from. Despite the effort of human co-relation, man remains alone," the artist commented about her piece. Asked to explain about the technique of mezzotint on the expensive and sensitive copper metal sheet, Laila commented, "The zinc sheets, used more often, are

pure pleasure." She compared her experience with the lessons under the visiting artist from Spain, Monirul Islam, and said that, in contrast, Monir was far more inspiring and exhilarating to learn from. "Encouragement and appreciation for year work can do miracles for you", she added.

One discovered a plastic can which had been slashed in two use as a tray, in which she

and make their prints. "As for Atelier, it is almost non-existing and that too is not an encouraging place for artists who are not close friends and Kalidas Karmakar, who has organised the studio, and lives and works abroad. The Shilpakala Academy could take steps to establish a studio for professional painters. When they can afford biennials regularly, surely this will not make a big hole in their pocket. This is why this media is not popular with the young artists. It is next to impossible to afford a machine for print making on one's own in our country as we have limited budgets. Even the water colour papers sent from UK costs £30 for fifteen pieces, and one must make do with this. What is available in Dhaka, are also made in England, 10" by 15", costs Tk 200, from which one can obtain small prints," she explains.

One also discovered water colour and oil paints, apart from brushes and crayons, which the artist uses for her work — for the gifts, that she gives to her family, and which she does as a pastime. But graphic remain dear to her heart.

She has taken to graphic because she believes that painting on paper or canvas has its limitations while graphics — etching, lithographs, woodcuts, engrav-

ings, mezzotint screenprinting — has wide scope for improvisation and experimentation. Prints can be made from a single plate and one finds more buyers with limited income. In graphics, if speaking only about etchings, Laila can use varied textures and get satisfactory, multiple results, as she explains. In etching, aquatint, the artist can get, again, other results. One also discovered a large collection of books on art which proved that the artist tried her best to

keep abreast with the latest works and of the artists and their lives, as regards the visual media.

Commenting on the state of art in Bangladesh Laila said that it does not lag behind the other countries in the subcontinent, specially going by the works of Shafuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Kibria, Abdul Sattar, Mahmudul Huq and Jamal Ahmed. She felt that they had retained their national identity and also dared to experience with imagination. Among the western artists Salvador Dali and Rene Magritte are her favourites.



Laila Sharmeen at work in her studio

cheaper while the copper ones are more expensive and difficult to handle.

Talking about her Japanese teacher, Laila commented, "He could not speak English and the translator knew little about the technique. Consequently, the experience of learning at that time was not exactly and

pours nitric acid to etch the plates. There was also a container of wax and sheets of zinc plates. As Laila is no longer a student of the Institute of Fine Arts DU, it is difficult for her to coax the authorities to give her room in the print making department studio, where artists can go



Hollow Man in the Twentieth Century (Etching)

## A Visit to the Universal Studios of Hollywood

Continued from page 9

most recognisable movie sets still standing in Hollywood. This lonely abode was also used in filming Psycho 2 and 3 and the chilling TV series "Bates Motel". Even now it shivers down our spine.

**Miami Vice Smugglers' Cove:** For the live Miami Vice Action Spectacular we had been stumbled onto a deserted highway to an island which is a stronghold of an infamous band of smugglers and arms traders. It is the active base of operation for all contraband shipments in the Caribbean. Miami Vice cops Sonny Crockett and Ricardo Tubbs have been tracing them for sometime. There they have shown how they had taken action against those bands. With-out blinking our eyes and even flinching we enjoyed every single second of this action spectacular. It was the most ambitious special effects presentation ever designed. With many unbelievable explosions, outrageous pyrotechnics and over 50 high-tech special effects and stunts in a break-neck-paced 15 minutes, we were thrilled to the utmost.

**Wild Wild West:** In this stunt show we have braced ourselves for excitement as the "baddest" brawlers around tear down the explosive for the live action super stunt show. When Ma Hopper and her boys face

off against Universal's famous stunt team, we saw Hollywood's finest show, the tricks of their trade, how they survive knockdown, drag-out gun fights, crackling bull-whips, whirlwind fistfights, saddle-busting horse play and many more. We have also seen breathtaking highfall of a plank from a three-storey building and were almost gasping at the grand finale that literally brought the house down. It was a real movie-style mayhem at its finest.

**The Jurassic Park:** Inside the Studio Centre we saw the actual sets of the award winning film, the Jurassic Park and learnt its special effect tricks and came face to face with awesome dinosaurs. The special effect experts took us behind the scenes to experience firsthand the mysteries of film technology.

**Great White Jaws:** Then by the tram ride we passed through Amity, a very small town terrorised by the Great White Jaws. At first the town appeared peaceful but suddenly the shark leaps out of the water just inches away. His great crushing jaws snapping, his whole body thrashing from side to side, throwing spray and foam in his frenzied efforts to get at the passengers of the Ride. The star of Universal's "Jaws" is a one ton, 25-foot long "eating machine" that was

cast from the same mould as the shark that appeared in a number of top movies and TV shows.

**Backdraft and Special Effect Show:** In these shows we were thrust right in the middle of the true fire-thriller — a Backdraft of 10,000 degrees hot fire. In this live show where Ron Howard's blockbuster movie roared to life, over 40 special effects with a frenzy of exploding barrels, shooting fireballs, blazing beams and walls of flame engulfed us, as the inferno from the hit movies were recreated in our front. We became deaf as massive explosion of fuel drums triggered overhead pipes to burst and spell their scalding contents at us while red hot ashes rain down all around. But unlike a real life fire, these movie-style flames are completely controlled in a fireproof soundstage, and can be ignited over 150 times a day. Here we felt only the heat and fury of a raging firestorm when we saw the live fire-scenes.

**Lucy: A Tribute:** Then we visited a heart-shaped photo exhibition of Lucille Ball. From a showgirl she began her career in film in 1933 and later became America's famous Queen of Comedy. In this display room we walked through the rare features of her Hollywood career to the one-

of-a-kind superstar talent of Lucy who touched the hearts of millions around the world. There we found everything of her from costumes, fan letters, scripts, magazine features, awards and a hilarious screened excerpts of "I Love Lucy". These tributes made us all fall in love with Lucy all over again.

Then we watched the Rocky and Bull Winkle Show, where Boris and Natasha battled live on stage. Next we went to an Internationale Carnival where we enjoyed many fun and games of old Europe.

### Shopping Centre

There is a big shopping centre inside the Studio. In Studio Style one can buy from filmy T-shirts to leather Bomber jackets. From Silver Screen Collectibles one can buy posters and apparels of all Hollywood stars including Marilyn Monroe. In the Woody's Cast of Characters there are most incredible array

of cartoon star collectibles and toys. In the Time Traveller's Depot are the greatest assortment of Back To The Future gifts. In Jurassic Park Souvenirs there are Jurassic Park hats, T-shirts and novel gifts. In Miami Vice Smuggler's Cove are Miami hats, T-shirts and even flamingos. This shopping centre is the only place where one can take away

star quality mementos while watching one's favourite TV shows play on vintage sets.

All these exceptional opportunities for shopping have made this Centre most attractive for the visitors to the Universal Studios. For any visitor to the USA a day or two in the Universal Studios of Hollywood will be a most memorable enjoyment of life. I feel myself enriched with all thrilling knowledge after my visit to this 'live' world of silver screen.

## LOVE

Continued from page 10

adversity, love is an eternal elixir. Those who cannot, the calamity can be crushing. It is in such a stage the husbands exclaim, "Frailty thy name is woman". Most of them plod through life and die an emotional wreck.

True love is divine. It is giving without asking anything in return. Successful love is an exercise in the realities of life. A discreet compromise for common good. Ideal love, to be precise, is a matter of sharing.

When the partners, the man and the wife give love without quantifying the results, trust and respect bless the pair. Happiness fills up the cup of life to the brim. Love becomes a many splendoured thing.

## A Useful Collection of Media Write-ups

### BOOK REVIEW

Gana Madhyam (mass communication) '93  
Edited by Muhammad Jahangir

Published by Urmi Mostafa from  
Centre for Development Communication, 345 Segun  
Bagicha, Dhaka  
Pages 324. Price Tk 80/-

IN the present day world we are witnessing a fast changing information technology. It is true that there are more materials written and printed today than ever before, but there are also new electronic devices which in fact threaten the traditional process of literacy built on the phonetic alphabet alone. To my knowledge there is hardly any journal worth the name in the field of journalism here to cater to the needs of the students of mass communication and also practitioners in the field. In such case, the compilation of articles on mass media in one publication is indeed a praiseworthy venture while this may serve the interest of inquisitive readers.

I have read with interest the publication *Ganamadhyam* edited by Muhammad Jahangir, who is a journalist and has earned fame as a TV anchor man. It is rather difficult to review a compilation of selected articles on mass media. The articles appeared in different newspapers and periodicals of Bangladesh in 1993. The publication contains four distinct sections — print, TV, radio and other essays. Topics range from attack on the press team of the Prime Minister, discrimination in the distribution of advertisements, death of a giant in journalism, crisis in the image of newspaper to BTV caught in hipposyndrome, BTV taking the nation for ride, privatisation of radio and TV in Bangladesh etc.

Apparently the editor seems to have given a greater preference to write-ups on BTV — spanning over 114 pages — over articles on print media. Three write-ups on the same TV serial appear to be an exaggeration. One comprehensive article could have met readers' interest. Similarly stories on TV writing of Sangsad roundup seem to be more than adequate. One finds little justification for inclusion of a story on the armed training of Shibir workers or the news item 'PM's press team inadequate' in a publication which intends to project the trend of mass media in Bangladesh. The editor could perhaps have paid a bit more of attention in selecting the write-ups to make the publication more worthy. However, the redeeming feature of this publication is the inclusion of articles by (late) S M Ali, Mizanur Rahman Khan, Shahidul Islam, Muhammad Jahangir, M N Mustafa, Hasan Azizul Huq and Mustafa Nurul Islam.

Editorial comments on the growth of newspaper industry, role of journalists' union and



the problem in the publication sector turned out to be feature articles. The editor concludes with a pessimistic note. He has expressed doubt about bringing out the publication in the coming years for want of finance, albeit he is confident that some one might think it plausible to continue in line with the present format. Despite printing errors here and there, the total get-up gives a good impression of the publication which could be preserved for reference purpose. I wish the publication keep on coming out every year to satiate the thirst of the readers and also to keep alive contribution of phonetic alphabet unique by itself in the fast advancing communication media.

Reviewed by  
Mohammad Amjad Hossain

## Viewing Video

by Lenin Gani

The Client is John Grisham's latest thriller after *The Firm* and *Pelican Brief*. Basically the film is about how two brothers witness the suicide of a major criminal's hitman. Tommy Lee Jones and Susan Sarandon star in the film. Jones is the Deputy District heading an investigation into the murder of another prominent mafia boss while Sarandon is a small-time defence lawyer who helps represent one of the brothers. The film has plenty of twists and turns, all the hallmarks of a Grisham novel.

The Wind And The Lion is about a fearless Moroccan desert warrior (Sean Connery)

who kidnaps an American mother (Candice Bergen, Murphy Brown fame) and her two young children. What starts as a mere kidnapping turns into an explosive international conflict involving US and German troops. Connery's motive for abducting Candice and her children is that he wants to remove a despotic sultan. Overall, the film is quite good especially the battle scenes. Viewers will appreciate the witty exchanges between Connery and Candice.

Although *Hum Aapke Hain* is yet to be released, *Film Fair Video* have acquired the making of it. The video gives an inside view and also the songs.

NAME	ENGLISH TYPE	CAST
1. Colour of Night	Thriller	Bruce Willis/Jane March
2. High Strung	Comedy	Jim Carrey
3. Sirens	Comedy	Hug Grant/Tara Fitzgerald
4. City Slickers-II	"	Billy Crystal/Jack Palance
5. Sunset Heat	Thriller	Dennis Hopper
6. The Nutcracker	Fairy tale	Macaulay Culkin
7. Richard Marx (Hold on to the Nights)	Concert	
8. Blue Tornado	Thriller	Dirk Benedict
9. Woody Woodpecker	Cartoon	
10. Dead on Sight	Thriller	Jennifer Beals/Daniel Baldwin
11. The Favour	Rom/Comedy	Eizabeth McGovern
12. Fast Fury	Kung Fu	Jackie Chan

NAME	HINDI TYPE	CAST
1. Hum Aapke Hain Kaun	Making/songs	
2. Aajaa Sanam	Romantic	Avinish Varde/Chandni
3. Zulum Ka Muqabla	Action	Bal Kishan/Vijya Shanti

Source: Film Fair Video and other clubs.

## 50th Staging of "Bhoma"

by "Tiryak"

by A Correspondent

TIRYAK theatre group of Chittagong accomplished the 50th staging of their 18th production — Badal Sarker's "Bhoma" — on September 16 at Chittagong Muslim Hall auditorium.

Badal Sarker is a modern Indian playwright from West Bengal. Many of his plays have existentialist theme stirring deep into senses of a reader or viewer. In the play in question, "Bhoma" is a person but he represents a class, the majority who are losing sensation.

They don't feel what they are doing; just doing, not thinking of consequence. Driven by immediate wants they act, and only drift and sway thereafter, for not comprehending the greater need of the time that would eventually follow.

Directed jointly by Jamil Ahmed and Ahmed Iqbal Hyder of the group, "Bhoma" was first staged by Tiryak on November 16, 1987 at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

A scene from "Bhoma" staged by Tiryak at Chittagong Muslim Hall auditorium.

