

Bangladeshi makes TV film on immigrants' lives in US

NEW YORK, Feb 11: The travails and tribulations of Bangladeshi and other South Asian immigrants to the U.S. and the cultural crosscurrents in which they are often caught are the subject of a television film by a young Bangladeshi filmmaker in New York, according to India Abroad News Service.

reality as soon as she comes to the U.S. three years after marriage. She feels cheated and ultimately gets separated from her husband. The second part of the film revolves around the lives of a couple and their two children. While the couple achieves educational goals and financial securities, they are tormented by the fact that their children are far removed from the Bengali culture which the parents have nurtured all their lives. The conflict becomes so acute that the family disintegrates with the parents going back to Bangladesh without their children. In the end, one of the children "realises his mistake" and gets to know his roots and "accepts Bengali culture." Ultimately, he returns to Dhaka to meet his parents. "What I sought to portray in the film is the fact that while immigrant Bengalis want their children to retain their native culture, the young generation often does not want to do that. This conflict between the parental values and the values of children is the focus of my film," Karim said.

But soon his dream is shattered as he is unable to pay for the tuitions and he takes to cab driving to meet the expenditure. But gradually, his ambition takes a back seat as he is forced to become a professional cab driver.

"Building a castle of lies," the man gets married to an unsuspecting woman in Dhaka for whom "a U.S.-educated husband" is a dream come true. Her dreams founder on the rock of



Airmen drag an air-to-air missile beside an EA-6 Prowler, an all-weather jet used in tactical electronic warfare, aboard the aircraft carrier USS George Washington Tuesday. The plane is being readied to carry out a mission in support of Operation Southern Watch on Iraq. — AP/UNB photo

Diplomacy running its course to resolve UN-Iraq crisis

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 11: Diplomatic efforts to resolve the UN-Iraq crisis have nearly run their course — unless Washington or Baghdad accepts a solution that falls short of current demands, reports AP. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said as much Tuesday, after seeing weeks of mediation attempts by Middle East and European envoys run into brick walls. If the two sides stick to their public positions, "we will not find a solution," Annan told the British Broadcasting Corp. "I appeal for that kind of courage, that kind of wisdom, that will allow us to make the kinds of judgments that will allow us to get out of this." Intense diplomacy in Baghdad and other capitals has produced the broad outlines of a settlement. The Iraqis have narrowed the list of off-limits sites to eight, whose secrecy they say is essential to protecting national security and President Saddam Hussein.

Snowfall disrupts relief efforts in northeast Afghanistan

KEZER, Afghanistan, Feb 11: Fresh snowfall again disrupted relief efforts to earthquake-ravaged northeast Afghanistan Wednesday, as survivors shivered under blankets near the crumpled shells of their former homes, reports AP. One week after a magnitude-6.1 earthquake and subsequent landslides killed more than 4,000 people, snow, fog, mud and civil war continued to frustrate rescue efforts. With 40 centimeters (16 inches) of snow burying the closest airstrip, Red Cross and United Nations officials in Pakistan said relief flights in the isolated mountainous region may be canceled for the second day in a row. Relief supplies piled up at staging points in neighboring Tajikistan, Pakistan and India, awaiting transportation to more than 15,000 people left homeless by the tremors. A World Food Programme truck convoy that reached the quake zone Tuesday after a two-day, 120-kilometer (72-mile) journey over icy mountain passes, found whole villages on their maps had virtually disappeared. The four vehicles brought nearly 20 tons of food as well as blankets, tents and cooking stoves — barely enough to blunt the misery of the homeless in the below-freezing weather. Survivors used shovels to search the rubble for lost relatives in the devastated village of Kezer at the base of a mountain 17 kilometers (10 miles) east of the district capital, Rустаq. "We buried 200 people in this village and we sent another 100 to the hospital in Rустаq," said Sher Mohammed, stepping around the bodies of sheep and goats that lay scattered across the muddy ground. "We put 15 to 20 people in each grave, because there weren't enough people left to dig." The mountain looming over the village was split in two by last Wednesday's quake, sending thousands of tons of rocks and muddy earth crashing down onto sleeping villagers below, said Mohammed. Villagers erected a makeshift tent from wooden posts and scraps of fabric to house survivors too badly wounded to be taken to the closest health clinic in Rустаq. Women and children huddled inside the shell of the village school, one of the least damaged buildings despite the gaping holes in its walls. Children were coughing and feverish. "If they don't get help soon, they will die," said Mohammed. Unburied animal carcasses further raised fears of disease. As of Tuesday, relief teams traveling by donkey and in 4-wheel drive cars had reached less than half of the 27 villages

Paula Jones case Judge denies Clinton's plea to move up trial

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas, Feb 11: A US federal judge on Tuesday rejected President Bill Clinton's attempt to move up a sexual harassment lawsuit against him and said she would leave the May 27 trial date intact, reports AP. Clinton's lawyers had asked that the trial begin next month, telling a federal judge that gag-order violations by lawyers for Paula Corbin Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, were undermining the president's defense. In her order, Judge Susan Webber Wright noted recent motions in which Jones' lawyers said they would ask for more time to question potential witnesses. The judge also cited a request filed under seal asking her to reconsider her exclusion of evidence involving former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Lewinsky has been taped claiming she had an affair with the president, but also denied that in a deposition given for the Jones case, sources familiar with the testimony say. The judge said she would

consider earlier questioning of potential jurors so the trial could begin as close to the scheduled date as possible. The judge told lawyers last week that she was dismayed by leaks of information since she imposed a gag order on Oct. 30, but said she could not determine who was releasing tidbits of information to news media. Clinton lawyer Robert Bennett had said Jones' lawyers had leaked information and cited a Newsweek magazine article with references to Clinton's videotaped testimony in the case and a separate New York Times article quoting a Jones-team investigator. Bennett said punishing the gag-order violators could get the case bogged down in litigation. He said the judge could solve the problem by setting the trial for March 23. Jones claims Clinton propositioned her in a Little Rock hotel on May 8, 1991, when he was Arkansas governor and she was working at an Arkansas economic development conference. The president denies her claims.

Arab League, OIC reject any step violating Iraq's sovereignty

CAIRO, Feb 11: Arab League and Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) leaders issued a joint statement Tuesday rejecting any steps violating Iraq's sovereignty in its crisis with the United Nations, reports AP. Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdel Meguid and OIC Chief Ezzedine Laraki rejected "any efforts aimed at violating the regional sovereignty of Iraq." "A recourse to force will further complicate the crisis and expose the region to serious dangers," they said. Abdel Meguid has been meeting with Laraki here since Monday over Iraq's deadlock with the United Nations over arms inspections. Abdel Meguid and Laraki also affirmed "the necessity for Iraq to apply international resolutions" calling for full access to its arms sites for UN inspectors. The Arab League chief received a letter from Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi on "the crisis and contacts undertaken by Iran as president of the OIC summit" in Tehran last December, officials said. Meguid also met Tuesday with Belarus' Foreign Minister Ivan Ivanovitch.

Off the Record Dianaology!

LONDON: The life and death of Diana, Princess of Wales, are beaming subjects of serious academic study as university disciplines around the country try to explain what the outpouring of national grief had to say about British society, reports AP. As intellectuals try to fathom the effect of Diana's death and her elevation to cultural icon, 'Dianaology' is fast becoming an integral part of many university curricula. Last week Kent University, southern England, hosted a conference called "new sensibilities," feminists, psychoanalysts, historians, sociologists and also a priest met to analyse the nation's reaction to Diana's death. Two weeks ago the university of east London staged a conference entitled: "The Princess, the Premier and the People: Authority new Britain," and Lancaster University held a one-day Dianaology conference in November.

"This is a real coalition," Cohen said. "These are countries who are pledging their assistance and material support, and we are very happy to receive it." A senior defence official travelling with Cohen said Oman had agreed to allow five KC-10 tankers to be sent to the country. The huge refuelers would be positioned in a strategic spot to refuel B-52 bombers flying out of the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia for potential bombing runs or cruise missile strikes against Baghdad.

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate committee that the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what is still a short list of Arab allies.

Cohen, en route to Qatar, said "a real coalition" was forming to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clinton had not decided to attack, the president said at the White House, "We must be prepared to act, and I am very grateful that others are prepared to stand with America."

The administration contends it does not need the approval of other countries, a new UN resolution or an act of Congress to punish Iraq. But the hedged response around the world, particularly among Arab nations — is a sore point and also potentially encouraging to Saddam.

House session was the latest of their regularly scheduled meetings on the standoff with Iraq. "Friends, en route to Qatar, said "a real coalition" was forming to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clinton had not decided to attack, the president said at the White House, "We must be prepared to act, and I am very grateful that others are prepared to stand with America."

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate committee that the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what is still a short list of Arab allies.

Cohen, en route to Qatar, said "a real coalition" was forming to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clinton had not decided to attack, the president said at the White House, "We must be prepared to act, and I am very grateful that others are prepared to stand with America."

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate committee that the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what is still a short list of Arab allies.

Cohen, en route to Qatar, said "a real coalition" was forming to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clinton had not decided to attack, the president said at the White House, "We must be prepared to act, and I am very grateful that others are prepared to stand with America."

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate committee that the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what is still a short list of Arab allies.

Cohen, en route to Qatar, said "a real coalition" was forming to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clinton had not decided to attack, the president said at the White House, "We must be prepared to act, and I am very grateful that others are prepared to stand with America."

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate committee that the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what is still a short list of Arab allies.

Cohen, en route to Qatar, said "a real coalition" was forming to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clinton had not decided to attack, the president said at the White House, "We must be prepared to act, and I am very grateful that others are prepared to stand with America."

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate committee that the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what is still a short list of Arab allies.

Cohen, en route to Qatar, said "a real coalition" was forming to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clinton had not decided to attack, the president said at the White House, "We must be prepared to act, and I am very grateful that others are prepared to stand with America."

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate committee that the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what is still a short list of Arab allies.

Cohen, en route to Qatar, said "a real coalition" was forming to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clinton had not decided to attack, the president said at the White House, "We must be prepared to act, and I am very grateful that others are prepared to stand with America."

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate committee that the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what is still a short list of Arab allies.

Cohen, en route to Qatar, said "a real coalition" was forming to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clinton had not decided to attack, the president said at the White House, "We must be prepared to act, and I am very grateful that others are prepared to stand with America."

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate committee that the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what is still a short list of Arab allies.

Cohen, en route to Qatar, said "a real coalition" was forming to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. While Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clinton had not decided to attack, the president said at the White House, "We must be prepared to act, and I am very grateful that others are prepared to stand with America."

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate committee that the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what is still a short list of Arab allies.

Better late than never

LOS ANGELES: "Titanic" director James Cameron didn't see his first real iceberg until Tuesday — after his disaster epic scored a record-tying 14 Oscar nominations, reports AP.

Cameron was flying from Moscow to New York when the plane's captain came back to congratulate him and tell him to look out his window. "We were just approaching the coast of Greenland and there was a huge ice floe below us with hundreds of icebergs, big icebergs scattered in the ice flow, and I'd never seen an iceberg before," Cameron told The Associated Press by phone after landing in New York. "So it was just such a strange confluence of a moment." Cameron was left in suspense immediately after the nominations were announced in Beverly Hills because the plane's phone system wasn't working. The studio had to fax news of the nominations to the airliner by satellite phone. Cameron said he never thought about the Academy Awards while making the 200 million dollars disaster epic.

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

During the ceremony, Cameron presented a winter coat with a transparent dress during Pasarela Fall/Winter fashion show in Madrid Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

US citizens in ME urged to take precautions

WASHINGTON, Feb 11: The US State Department on Tuesday urged US nationals living in the Middle East, South Asia and southern European nations to take precautions because of the US standoff with Iraq, reports AP. In a statement, the department reminded US nationals living in affected areas to have their passports and other official documents handy, register with US embassies, fill vehicles with gasoline and stock up on food and clean water. This sort of warning is generally given when the situation in a nation is deteriorating to the point where Americans may be forced to leave the country. "Although we see no direct threat to American citizens in the region, we believe it prudent for Americans to heed the standing preparedness advice for American citizens living abroad," the department said in a statement.

Yugoslav official rules out extradition of war criminals

BELGRADE, Feb 11: Ignoring strong international pressure, Yugoslavia's top legal official on Tuesday ruled out extradition of citizens sought by the UN war crimes tribunal, reports AP. During talks with the court's chief prosecutor, Louise Arbour, Justice Minister Zoran Knezevic said his country would try war crimes suspects itself, according to a government statement reported by the Tanjug news agency. Arbour is on a five-day visit in Yugoslavia, which now consists only of Serbia and Montenegro, to urge authorities to hand over three Yugoslav army officers charged with organising a 1991 massacre of 200 Croats. Knezevic reiterated Yugoslavia's position that the country's constitution does not allow extradition of its citizens. Tanjug reported that Arbour called for a constitutional change to allow extradition. Yugoslavia has in the past accused the tribunal of an anti-Serb bias. Knezevic also called for a "balanced approach" in the court's work. Most of those indicted by tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, are Serbs.

Love affair sparks violence in Karachi

KARACHI, Feb 11: A Romeo and Juliet story between lovers from two traditionally rival ethnic groups set off mob violence in Pakistan's largest city Wednesday, reports AP. Gangs of Pathans set fire to a van and stoned the home of Karachi's chief minister, the highest elected official of the province, to protest the alleged "kidnapping" of a Pathan girl by a Mohajir boy. The boy's family say the couple eloped, and no kidnapping took place. The two lovers were in hiding. The boy, Kanwar Ahson, is a nephew of a member of the National Assembly. Other scattered incidents were reported in several districts after the Pathans called a strike of public transportation, a sector they dominate. It was the first clash between the two communities since 1990, and authorities feared it could reignite ethnic tensions that have led to past violence. In 1986, a traffic accident that killed a Pathan girl set off months of fighting that killed about 1,000 people. To show its concern, the state administration suspended a senior police officer Tuesday for falling to find the couple and defuse the crisis. Pathans, a conservative Muslim group who originate from the hills of northern Pakistan and Afghanistan, are the third largest group among Karachi's 13 million people.

DPRK refugees flee to China to escape famine

HONG KONG, Feb 11: Thousands of North Koreans were fleeing to China to escape the famine which has claimed at least two million lives, it was reported here today, says AP. Many of the refugees crossing the frozen Yalu river into China ended up begging for food and shelter in the small border town of Changbaishan, the South China Morning Post said. The report quoted a middle-ranking official, interviewed in China, as saying nearly 10 percent of the North Korean population — about two million people — had died in the famine gripping the country. "I've travelled to different parts of the country and so many people are dying that I can't even describe it as a record of the deaths," the official, described as a well-con-

necting Worker's Party member, said. She also claimed little food was reaching ordinary people. One North Korean who had made it to China said that in the three-day train trip from her home town to the border, eight people in her carriage had starved to death. Kim Aesang, who left her two children aged five and seven with their grandfather in North Korea's Hamhung, she had no work and no access to food in North Korea. She said she received five days' ration of grain at spring festival on January 28, but before that had received nothing for two years. "I heard there was food from America but the cadres take all their fill and when they have eaten that, we just get the leftovers," Kim, 32, said.

'Titanic' appears in Oscar with a big bang

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Feb 11: A year after "Titanic" had all but run aground and appeared headed for one of the most spectacular disasters in Hollywood history, the movie received 14 Oscar nominations, more than any picture in nearly half a century, reports AP. The three-hour epic about a fictional love affair on the doomed ship was nominated Tuesday for best picture, best actress for Kate Winslet, best director for James Cameron and best supporting actress for Gloria Stuart — at 87 the oldest performer sever nominated for an acting Oscar. Hollywood's most expensive movie ever at 200 million dollars, "Titanic" was so mired in delays it missed its release date by almost six months. Cameron's obsession with authenticity drove the cast and crew to the breaking point, and studio executives began laying odds over whose heads would roll. Instead, "Titanic" has earned 337 million dollars and is steaming toward the all-time box-office record. "Titanic" tied with 1950's "All About Eve" for the most nominations in the 70-year history of the Academy Awards. "Anchors aweigh!" Stuart said from her home in Los Angeles. Of the film's doubters, she said: "They were dismissing it all around. That happens in Hollywood." "LA Confidential" and "Good Will Hunting" each received nine nominations, including best picture. The other best picture nominees were "As Good As It Gets" and the crowd-pleasing British stripper comedy "The Full Monty." "It don't know how I'll celebrate, but it's not going to involve taking any clothes off," said Mark Addy, who played the

hefty sidekick Dave. Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks studio fared poorly in its first Oscar year. His "Amistad" was not nominated for best picture, nor was Spielberg for directing it. Anthony Hopkins was nominated for supporting actor, but Djimon Hounsou, the star of "Amistad," was overlooked. The main problem is now the weather," said Sheila Hall, Medical Coordinator for medicines sans frontiers, who said the agency's estimate for total dead was now 4,200.

On the strong lineup of British women, Winslet said English actresses aren't better. The nominees, she suggested, were lucky to get good roles. "One can't help but feel: Good on the Brits," she said. Robert Duvall's self-financed starring role in "The Apostle" earned him a best actor nomination. He will face Matt Damon from "Good Will Hunting," Peter Fonda from "Ulee's Gold," Dustin Hoffman from "Wag the Dog" and Jack Nicholson from "As Good As It Gets." Absent from the nominations was Winslet's "Titanic" costar, young Leonardo DiCaprio, who has teen-age girls going back to theaters several times to see the movie. "Titanic" was also nominated for art direction, cinematography, costume design, editing, makeup, score, sound, "My Heart Will Go On," sound,