

WHAT'S ON

Street Show
Play: Lal Jatra
Troupe: Prachyanat School
Venue: Chobir Haat, Shahbagh
Date: March 25
Time: 5pm

Theatre
Play: EY Veokaste
Troupe: Aranyak
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 1
Time: 6:15pm and 7:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: Dhaka Art Centre and Shiko
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7A, H-60, Dharmondi
Date: March 19-29
Time: 11am-5pm

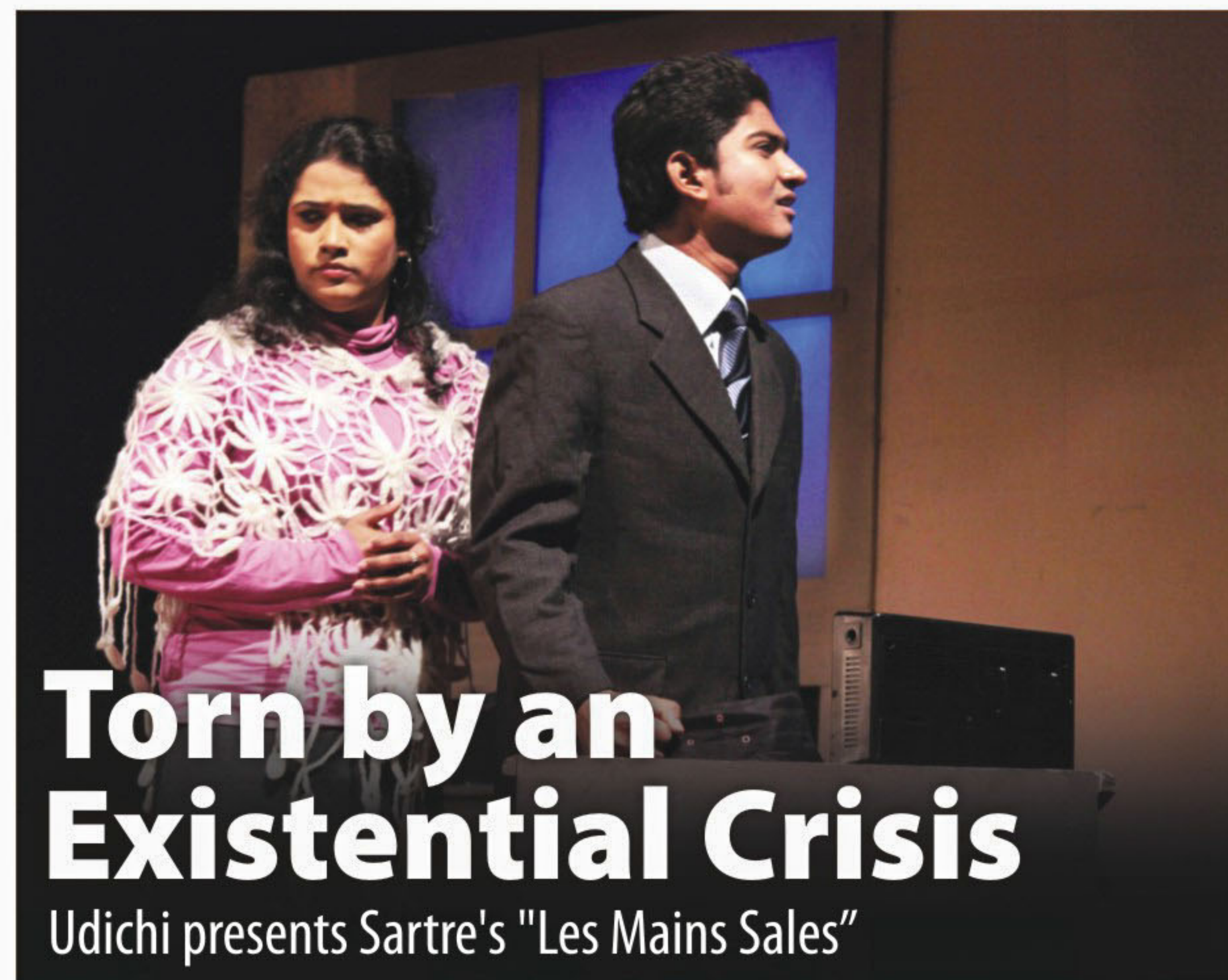
Rooted Creativity-9
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, R-16, Dhanmondi
Date: March 22-31
Time: 12pm-9pm

Ganosangeet Album Launch
Album: Gano Manusher Gan
Troupe: Udichi
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 27

Photography Exhibition
Title: In Search
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dharmondi
Date: March 25-April 6

Group Installation Show
Title: Dhaka Seeks Solitude
Venue: Goethe Institut, H-10, R-9, Dharmondi
Date: Mar 10-Apr 7
Time: 11am-9pm

Contemporary Australian Art Exhibition
Title: BALGO
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, 69/71, New Circular Road, Malibagh
Date: April 1-13



Torn by an Existential Crisis

Udichi presents Sartre's "Les Mains Sales"

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

JAMIL MAHMUD
Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi's theatre troupe (central branch) has unveiled its latest production. An adaptation of French existentialist playwright-philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre's "Les Mains Sales" (English title: "Dirty Hands"), the play is titled "Rajnoitik Hotya". The play zooms in on the political and ideological crises faced by an anarchist bourgeois intellectual, who assassinates the leader of the party he belongs to.
Translated by Arpita Ghosh, the play has been directed by Ratan Dev. "Rajnoitik Hotya" was staged on March 21 at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. It was the second show of the play, which premiered last month.
The plot of the political play is set in the fictional East European country of Illyria, between the years 1943 and 1945. In the play, Hugo Barine is an anarchist who is attempting to assassinate Hoederer, leader of the proletarian party Hugo belongs to.

Hugo is appointed by Louis, another factional leader, to assassinate Hoederer because both Louis and Hugo believe that Hoederer is a traitor, making a deal with the ruling fascist government.
The play features flashbacks -- Hugo narrating to Olga, another policymaker of the party, how he carried out the assassination.
Though Hugo belongs to the bourgeois class, his dreams of a class-free society compelled him to become a member of the proletarian party. He is different from Slick, Georges and Leon -- members who joined the party only to put food on their tables. Hugo's ideology differs from that of Hoederer as well: a political party is formed mainly to achieve power rather than serving the people.
After being assigned by Louis, Hugo joins as Hoederer's secretary. He moves into Hoederer's place along with his wife Jessica. But things take a sudden u-turn when Hugo finds out that although Hoederer wants to make a coalition with the ruling party, his aim is to avoid an

approaching bloodshed.
Hugo kills Hoederer finally but the question -- whether his motivations were political or personal -- remains unanswered.
Though the play appears as a political drama, critics believe that Sartre established his doctrine of 'existentialism' through Hugo. Throughout the play, Hugo fights against his own ideology and he cannot make up his mind till the end.
The highlight of "Rajnoitik Hotya" is its dialogues. Its duration [approximately two and a half hour long] may seem too lengthy but overall, it's a thrilling play. It deserves an attentive audience.
The cast of the play includes Aslam Oronyo as Hugo; Alamgir Hossain as Hoederer and Joya Sengupta as Olga. Shreemanto Basu, Moumita Jannat, Aminul Islam and Manohar Chandra Das played other characters.
Aslam Oronyo and Anwarul Haque designed the set. Oronyo and Ainul Islam designed the lights.

Gorky Sadan's Tribute to Bangladesh's 40th Anniversary

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
To mark the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh's Liberation War, Gorky Sadan in Kolkata, one of the city's landmark cultural hubs, will host a three-day festival screening films by Bangladeshi directors Zahir Raihan and Tanvir Mokammel, starting from March 29. Gorky Sadan, located on Acharya Jagadish

Chandra Bose Road, has invited Mokammel to give a talk and screen his documentary film "Tajuddin Ahmad: An Unsung Hero". Besides Mokammel's film, Zahir Raihan's "Stop Genocide" and "Jibon Theke Neya" will also be showcased between March 29 and 31. During Mokammel's stay in Kolkata, Somoloya, an organisation working for cultural exchange between India and Bangladesh, will show his feature film "Rabeya" at Nandan.

Mokammel told The Daily Star that he will also use the opportunity to visit Kolkata to work on the final stage of his forthcoming mega documentary "1971" with his film editor Mahadeb Shi.
Responding to a question, the director said he is at present busy finalising the cast and locations for his next feature film "The Drummer" whose shooting will commence from July this year.



A scene from Zahir Raihan's "Jibon Theke Neya".



Saliha Lefevre speaks at the press conference. (From left) Rifat Rashid, Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury and Samuel Berthet are also seen in the photo.

To Paris With Love

Month-long Bangladeshi cultural festival in France

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence, Alliance Française de Dhaka and Chittagong, Bangladesh Brand Forum and Fondation Alliance Française Paris in partnership with the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Embassy of France in Bangladesh and France Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry will organise a month-long cultural event, titled "Bangladesh in Paris" in the French capital.
The festival will open on March 31 and will continue till April 30. The event will highlight the rich cultural diversity of Bangladesh. Beximco Group and Airbus are patron sponsors of the event, CMA- CGM is the silver sponsor and Biman Bangladesh Airlines is the official transport partner.
To inform the media about the event, Alliance Française de Dhaka organised a press conference at its Café yesterday.
Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, president, executive committee of Alliance Française de Dhaka; Saliha Lefevre,

director of Alliance Française de Dhaka; Samuel Berthet, director of Alliance Française de Chittagong; Dr. Rifat Rashid, director of CGIFB and Nazia Andaleeb Preema, project curator and advisor, Bangladesh Brand Forum were present at the press conference.
The festival will feature a photography exhibition, a heritage and crafts exhibition, a painting exhibition and a concert.
The photo exhibition will feature 13 Bangladeshi photographers. The heritage and crafts exhibition will highlight traditional Bangladeshi embroidery, tapestry and jute materials. These exhibitions will be held at Galerie de Fondation Alliance Française, Paris from March 31 to April 30.
A group exhibition featuring 18 Bangladeshi artists will be held at La Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. The exhibition will open on April 7 and will continue till April 22.
A concert will be held in Paris on March 31. Bangladeshi fusion band Don't Ask will perform at the event. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith and Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs Abul Kalam Azad are expected to attend the inaugural function.



International Children's Film Festival concludes Future in Frames

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail
The three-day International Children's Film Festival in Tangail ended on March 22 with a slogan to ensure a child-friendly world.
Children's Film Society in Tangail had organised the festival at Bhasani Hall in the town for the third time.
A total of 13 films for children, from 10 countries including Bangladesh, were screened at the festival.
Mayor of Tangail Municipality, Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti, inaugurated the festival as the chief guest and addressed a discussion.
Among others, Tangail Press Club president Ataur Rahman Azad; vice-president of Tangail Public Library Khandakar Nazim Uddin and president of Children's Film Society Muyid Hasan, also addressed the discussion.
On the inaugural day, "The Crocodiles" (Germany), "Duratto" (Bangladesh), "Children of Heaven" (Iran) and "Taare Zameen Par" (India) were screened.
On the second day, "Pasanga" (India), "Mozart of China" (Austria), "Non-profitable Police Station" (Iran) and "Dipu Number-2" (Bangladesh) were screened.
On the concluding day, films "Chhutir Ghonta" (Bangladesh), "Frogs and Toads" (Netherlands), "Here Comes Lola" (Germany), "Another Planet" (Hungary, Finland, Belgium) and "The Crocodiles-2" (Germany) were screened at the festival.
Hundreds of students from different schools in Tangail town enjoyed the films.



Runway screened at Jahangirnagar University



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of a country-wide campaign, Tareque and Catherine Masud's latest film "Runway" was screened at the Zahir Raihan auditorium, Jahangirnagar University. The two-day event was held on March 21-22. Masud's other films -- "Adam Surat", a documentary on the life and works of artist SM Sultan and "Naroshundar", a short film on the Liberation War -- were also being screened along with "Runway".
Shruti Chalachitra arranged the event in association with Zahir Raihan Film Society and Jahangirnagar Students' Film Society.
The original story and screenplay of "Runway" [by the Masuds] were inspired by the events of 2005-2006, when a rise in the violent activities of extremist groups brought the country to the brink of chaos. The film also looks at

the wider complexity of religious extremism, impact of local and international politics and economic realities.
The film zooms in on Ruhul, who lives with his family in a shack next to the runway of the international airport. A madrassah dropout, Ruhul spends his days wandering under the shadows of the planes -- aimless and frustrated in his futile efforts to find work. One day he meets Arif, a computer savvy young man who exudes confidence and a sense of purpose. The world Arif introduces Ruhul to, seems inspiring and new, but gradually Ruhul's life spirals into a nefarious netherworld of intolerance, violence and ultimately, death.
The cast is primarily made up of newcomers, including Md. Fazul Haque as Ruhul; Rabeya Akter Moni and Ali Ahsan. Other cast members include Nazmul Huda Bachchu, Nasrin Akter, Rikita Nandini Shimu and Jayanto Chattopadhyay.

Hobbit Filming Finally Underway

Filming on the two Hobbit movies has begun following months of delays caused by funding problems, a row over actors' wages and surgery for its director.
Filming is taking place at Stone Street Studios, Wellington, and on location around New Zealand.
Production on the films, starring Martin Freeman as Bilbo Baggins, is expected to take up to two years. The first is due out in late 2012.
In January, director Peter Jackson had surgery for a perforated ulcer.
Studios Warner Bros and New Line had previously considered taking the production away from New Zealand after acting unions threatened to boycott the films in protest over payments.
The unions had complained of inconsistencies in the terms and conditions of New Zealand actors and other production workers compared with their overseas colleagues.
They said they would strike if their demands for a collective contract were not met.
In an open letter written at the time, Jackson warned that shifting the entire project to



The cast and crew of "The Hobbit".

eastern Europe "could so easily happen".
"Seriously, if the Hobbit goes east -- eastern Europe in fact -- look forward to a long, dry big-budget movie drought in this country," he said.
After the studios threatened to leave, thou-

sands of people took to the streets up and down New Zealand to demand that the production remained in the country.
But at the end of October, the New Zealand government passed legislation to change labour laws and improve tax breaks to ensure production remained in the country.
The changes mean actors and others working on the films will be hired as contractors not employees.
The films had earlier been stalled by problems including rows over distribution rights and the exit of original director Guillermo del Toro.
At a press conference last month, the film's star, Freeman, joked about the trials it has faced.
"There are some bits of bad luck associated with it," he said.
"We're all very optimistic about it. We're ready to go -- just as soon as 2015 comes around."
The films, which also star Sir Ian McKellen as Gandalf the Grey, Andy Serkis as Gollum, Elijah Wood as Frodo and Cate Blanchett as Galadriel, are based on JR Tolkien's epic fantasy novel.
"The Hobbit" films act as a prequel to Jackson's trilogy of films based on Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings".

Will Miral Give Freida Pinto a Strong Foothold in Hollywood?

With her riveting performance in her new film "Miral" getting good reviews, Freida Pinto's Hollywood career may get a push.
In the film, Freida plays an orphaned Palestinian teacher growing up in a war-torn Jerusalem camp.
The movie, which some Jewish groups claim is "anti-Israel", is being distributed by Weinstein Brothers.
The advertisement for the film boldly declares: "The movie they tried to stop is coming to New York. The protestors did not want the film to have a premiere at the United Nations last week."
"I saw the film as a cry for peace," Freida said at the Toronto International Film Festival last September. "It will have a special appeal to the younger generation. Peace is the way, Gandhi said, and Rula Jabreal (who looked into her own life for writing the novel) reiterates that idea."
The film is a French, Italian and Israeli production.
"Miral", which Freida signed soon after "Slumdog Millionaire" opened, was directed by Julian Schnabel (Oscar nominated for "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly") based on Jebrael's semi-autobiographical novel about the lives of three generations of women in Jerusalem.
The film, shown at festivals in Venice, London and Toronto, has done small business in Europe and is not expected, despite the controversy, to be a big success in America. It is, however, raising Freida's profile. This is her third film after the smash-hit "Slumdog Millionaire" (earning \$360 million worldwide) and "You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger".
Julian Schnabel told Variety: "If [Israel and Palestine] don't solve this problem,



Freida Pinto in "Miral".

Israel won't exist anymore, and I don't want that to happen. The people who scream the loudest are not necessarily the sanest."
Freida has said that she did not look at it as a political film. For her, it was a story of survival and keeping one's dignity intact under the most depressing, humiliating and violent circumstances.
"Both Schnabel and writer Rula unambiguously decided that I should do the film," Freida said. Rula guided her to know Palestinian families and arranged for her to spend a couple of days with a family.
Having the writer on the sets and at locations, Freida said, spurred her determination to give her best to the film. "I felt I had to do justice to this amazing woman," she said.
She told British newspaper The Independent that she knew of the

the news-papers but visiting the occupied areas gave her rare insights. "One of my friends is a lawyer and she knew a lot about the conflict, so I took note of what she said, but until you go there, nobody understands the human side," Freida said.
"That's when I decided I'm going to leave the politics of this alone and am going to work on the human story."
She has said that even though Slumdog's gritty scenes had prepared her for a tough new film, she still found the scenes of interrogation of Arab suspects by the Israeli military unnerving. She asked Jabreal if the script reflected the reality and if the beatings were really horrendous. She remembered the novelist saying it happened "but a lot worse."

ATN BANGLA	05:20 Raat Biraty
10:40 Bangla Feature Film	05:45 Googly
03:45 Shundor Jibon-er	06:05 Shyamol Bangla
Jonno	09:05 Media Bhuban
10:45 Bihongo Kotha	11:20 Rivers Swing
11:00 Drama: Prachir	11:50 Talk of the Week
12:30 Lead News	
	Boishakhi TV
	07:30 Bhor Holo Bibhaboni
	10:30 Bangla Feature Film
	Jibon Eto Chhoto
	Kyaney
	08:15 Music Train
	11:30 Boishakhi Bindon O
	Shongskriti
	Shangbadh
	Zero Hour
	Diganta TV
	12:30 Score Card
	03:30 Sports Week
	06:30 Inside Story
	09:25 Pothey Pranatorye
	11:05 Diganta Music Hour

ajc radio FM 99.2	12:00 My Time
09:00 Mahabostu Bhoroy	01:00 No Temon
12:00 Duran Durany	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00 Duranto Bikoley	09:00 Night Rider
05:00 Shondhata	01:00 Back to Back music
07:00 Shajer Meye	RADIO TORONTO FM 99.6
09:00 Raat-er Akashy	06:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:00 Golper Shech Nei	12:00 Today's Adda
Radio Foorti	10:00 Morning Express

Ruposhi Rahashya
On Rtv at 08:30pm
Single Episode TV
Play
Cast: Shirin Bokal, Litu Anam

Snake Eyes
On Z Studio at 09:30pm
Genre: Crime/Thriller
Cast: Nicolas Cage, Gary Sinise

Juddher Onek
On Desh TV at 11:55pm
Single Episode TV
Play
Cast: Raiul Islam Asad, Tarana Halim

06:10 Achhey	(Live)
Shubho Shondhya	Z Studio
ETV	10:45 Duets
03:30 Ekushey-er Business	01:30 Mission Impossible III
05:25 Desh Jurey	05:15 Breakfast with Einstein
05:40 Sports Plus	07:30 Hope Springs
06:30 Cricket Extra	09:30 Snake Eyes
07:50 Mangol Poddakuri	11:40 The Waterboy
10:10 Drama	HBO
11:50 Cricket Crazy	10:15 InHeart
	12:30 Two Brothers
Rtv	02:45 Body of Lies
01:15 World Cup Carnival	05:15 Night of the Scarecrow
02:30 Bangla Feature Film	06:45 The Lovely Bones
06:00 Extra Innings	09:30 Anacostas 3: Offspring
08:30 Drama: Ruposhi	11:15 Anacostas Trail of Blood
Rahashya	Star Movies
11:10 Cricket Highlights	11:40 Crossing Over
11:15 Tomar Jonno Amar E	01:35 Taken
Gaan	05:15 Reign Of Fire
Desh TV	07:00 City Of Ember
04:30 Dur Durante	08:40 District 13 Ultimatum
05:00 Durpath	10:30 Unrivaled
06:25 Cine Gun Gun	12:20 Into The Sun
08:15 Change the Game	Discovery Channel
09:45 Desh-e-Gafo	11:30 Rampage!
11:55 Drama: Juddher Onek	02:30 My Shocking Story
Por	09:30 Swicks
BANGLAVISION	
02:20 Cinebit Shadakalo	

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN Bangla	Rtv
08:00pm Not Out	09:15pm Bagh Patul
09:20pm Heat-er Reikha	10:45pm Cricket Rongor
Katha Sobey	BANGLAVISION
CHANNEL 1	08:15pm Dyrastar
09:35pm Maar Chhokka	09:45pm Gulshan Avenue
ntv	Boishakhi TV
08:15pm Rumal	08:45pm Over Boundary
09:45pm Shobuj Nakkhotro	09:15pm Itarus-er Dana

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm
News (English) at 10:00am,	10:30pm
4:00 pm, 10:30 pm	News Headlines (Bangla) at
Late Night News (Bangla and	10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm
English) 11:30 pm. (To be	News (English) at 6:00pm
telecast on all Bangla	Rtv
channels)	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm,
CHANNEL-1	4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm,
News (Bangla): 7:00 am,	10:30 pm, 12:30 am
9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 6:00 pm,	ntv
10:30 pm, 12:30 am	News (Bangla): 7:30am,
ATN BANGLA	12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm,
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm,	10:30pm, 1:00am
10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00	ETV
am, 4:00 am	News (Bangla): 9:00am,
01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm	11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm,
News (English): 9:00 am,	5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm,
6:00 pm	11:00pm

TALK SHOW	
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
09:20pm Top Spin	10:10am Front Line
CHANNEL 1	ETV
09:45am Gramophone	12:05am Ekushey Raat
Telityo Matra	Desh TV
ntv	06:00pm How's That
12:10am Ei Showoy	Boishakhi TV
Rtv	01:10pm Time to
10:45am Tarokalop	Cricket