

BOOKS

Our Foreign Relations in the Early Years

Critical Times by Fakhruddin Ahmed
Published by University Press Limited, Dhaka

BOOK REVIEW

by Arshad-uz Zaman

CRITICAL Times, published in 1994, is to the best of my knowledge the first book of its kind. Written in a style of refreshing candour, the book deals with such a sensitive subject as the Foreign Relations of Bangladesh in her formative years. What adds special value to the book is that it is written by a career diplomat, who held on two occasions, the highest administrative post in the Foreign Ministry.

Critical Times is easily divided into two parts — although they are of very unequal importance. The first part deals very briefly with the author's childhood and early years. He then moves quickly to his professional life as a career Pakistan Foreign Service Officer. Although they are not comparable in importance to his career in the service of Bangladesh, his years as a Pakistani diplomat has received in my judgment rather perfunctory treatment. He has briefly touched upon the tension experienced by officers from the then East Pakistan vis-a-vis officers from West Pakistan, who usually provided the Ambassadors in the Missions. The discriminatory treatment experienced by the author was common enough. What I regret is that the author gives the impression of being in a hurry to

narrate his experience as a Pakistani diplomat. This is more than compensated by the intimate insight the author brings into the events after the birth of Bangladesh. Fakhruddin Ahmed is insistent that the trial of Pakistani War Prisoners should have taken place and the initiative should have been taken right after the Government of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took charge in Dhaka. I was in the Foreign Ministry then and was very fortunate to enjoy the trust and affection of Bangladesh. After his return from Pakistani jail in 1972, Prime Minister Sheikh Mujib publicly declared that the trial of War Criminals will be held on the soil of Bangladesh. International pressure mounted on our Prime Minister became so great and in those early days of independence when we had emerged victorious from a bloody war but found our country's economy in ruins, there were other compulsions. In fact in another public meeting Sheikh Mujib expressed re-

grets that he could not keep his word and hold the trial. I fully share the author's scepticism regarding Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's visit to Bangladesh as ill timed and ill prepared. The nine month long war had been one of the most murderous costing 3 million Bengali lives, thousands of adolescent girls raped and entire villages burnt and the rudimentary communication system totally destroyed. I worked in Dhaka during the War of Liberation and the popular perception was that Mr Bhutto shared a large part of responsibility in the unleashing of the murderous assault by Pakistan army. An official visit by Mr Bhutto to Bangladesh, so soon after 1971 events, could not have been appreciated by the people of Bangladesh. Algeria became independent after eight years of war. One of the dearly held wishes of president Charles de Gaulle to visit Independent Algeria, an event for which de Gaulle took great personal risks, could not be fulfilled because

the Algerian public was far from ready. I shall never forget the sullen Algerian faces, when French President Valery Giscard D'Estaing rode through the streets of Algiers in 1974, 12 years after the independence of Algeria.

I have known Fakhruddin Ahmed as a colleague and a friend for many decades. He is a democrat through and through. It is, therefore not surprising that his chapter on the years of dictatorship of Hussein Muhammed Ershad, is scathing. Here again Fakhruddin lives up to his reputation of direct talker and refutes allegations against diplomats, who speak an 'arcane' language.

I have greatly appreciated the chapter devoted to future diplomats. It will be of invaluable service to our new generation of diplomats.

In the absence of serious books on our Foreign Relations, Critical Times by Fakhruddin Ahmed, a career diplomat, who has witnessed momentous events and participated in the decision making in the Foreign Relations of Bangladesh, must be, must reading for the professional diplomats as well as all those, who want to gain an insight into the making of our Foreign Relations during our formative years.

ENTERTAINMENT

TELEVISION

Arabian Nights : Alladdin and the Magic Lamp

Alladdin Meets the Magician Jingalo Jungla: While returning from slave Gulam Masoom Baig's house — Alladdin confronts the Vazir. In trying to run away from the soldiers of the Vazir — Alladdin is saved by the evil magician Jingalo Jungla — who bides Alladdin in his huge cave coat.

Jingalo Jungla is Alladdin's Uncle: Evil magician Jingalo Jungla pretends that he is a very rich lost uncle of Alladdin and has come to pay respect and the debt of his dead brother to his nephew — by making Alladdin very rich.

He buys new rich clothes for Alladdin and promises to come to his house to meet his mother.

Alladdin's mother fails to recognise the relationships of her late husband with his supposed-to-be brother. She also is not comfortable with the idea of Alladdin accom-



A scene from The Arabian Nights

panying him to a nearby town — even just for one day — to collect money and bring it back to be given to her — so that Alladdin and his mother will become very rich people in their society and town.

As a women's instinct Al-

addin mother resents the whole idea — fearing the unknown.

Alladdin is Tricked: On Alladdin's innocent insistence she gives permission to magician Jingalo to take Alladdin away for one day to

collect all the wealth being offered by her late husband's supposed-to-be brother. Alladdin leaves with the unknown Jingalo Jungla — the evil magician who has come from Africa to acquire the magic lamp which holds the world's greatest Genie — Quymat.

Episode 22 on BTV (today) Friday at 8:30 pm

Crystal Maze

Episode 21 on BTV today (Friday) at 9:05 am

Dark Justice: "Lush Life"

When Judge Nicholas "Nick" Marshall (Bruce Abbott) must let a well-known pornographer go free on rape charges, he has Gibs (Clayton Prince) become the man's employee and lead him right back to prison.

Sunday 18-6-95 at 9:00 pm on BTV.

Time Trax: "A Close Encounter"

DARIEN Lambert (Dale Midkiff) is awakened suddenly by his holographic computer companion, Selma (Elizabeth Alexander), who detects a distress signal from an alien spaceship crashing into Smith Mountain, North Carolina. Selma determines that the spaceship belongs to the peaceful population of Procardians from a nearby solar system. This confuses Darien because, historically, the Procardians don't communicate with the Earth for another 150 years. Darien and Selma leave for North Carolina.

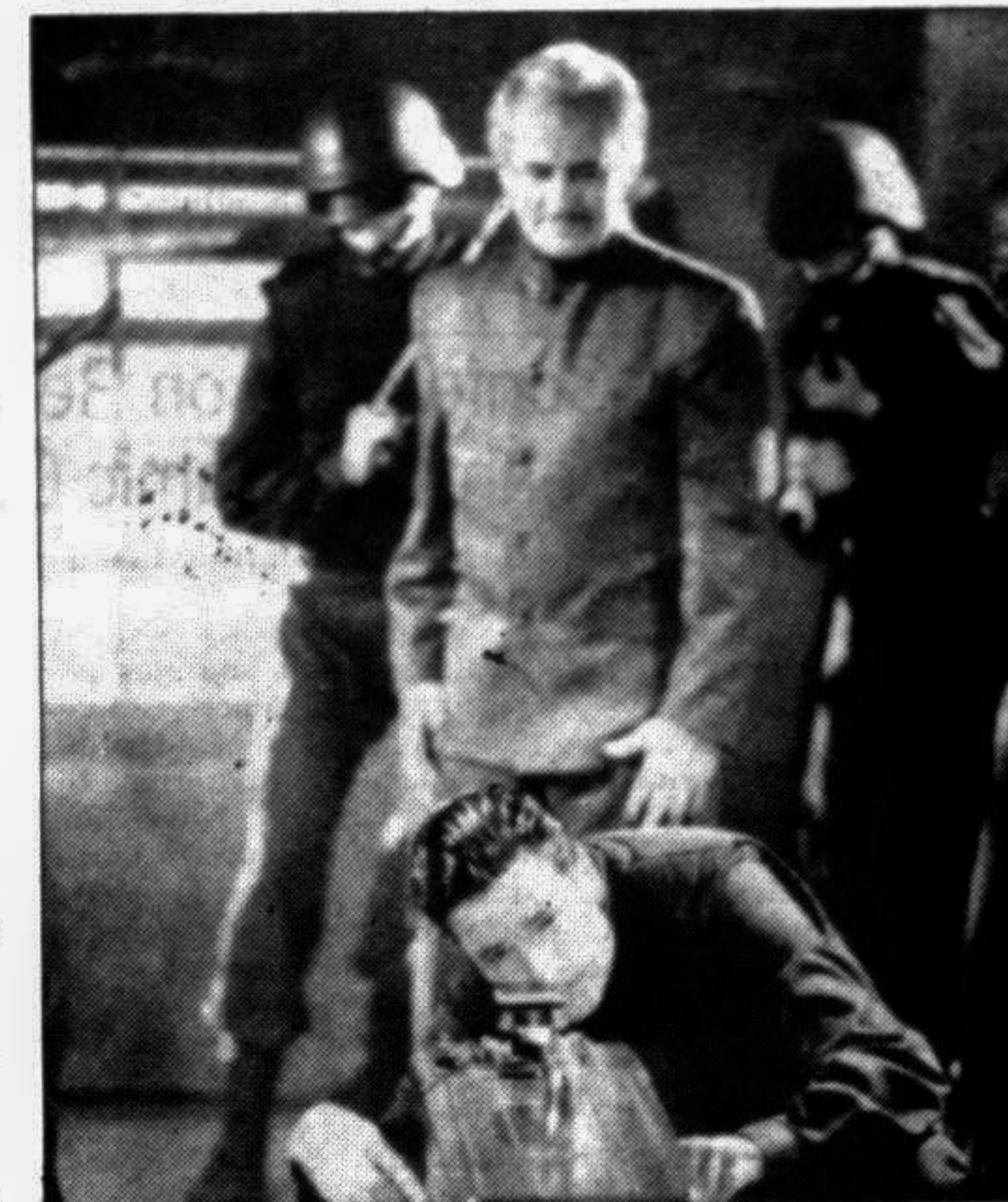
Meanwhile, Jake (Jeff Truman), the local sheriff and his brother, Keith (Christopher Lee), witness the crash. They are startled when a nude Procardian boy, Young Bill (Jesse Spencer), surrounded by an amber aura, emerges from the wreckage. Keith threatens to shoot the boy, who throws a hot white ball of energy at Keith, then runs away.

While Keith lies comatose in a hospital, Darien and Selma arrive at Smith Mountain, Darien joins Jake's search party to hunt for the alien. In the woods, Darien separates from the group and Selma locates the terrified Procardian boy. Using Selma as a translator, Darien learns that the boy came to Smith Mountain in search of his mate who was accidentally left behind during a previous expedition. Unable to pronounce the boy's name, Darien calls him "Bill." He gives Bill clothes to wear and hides him in a motel, promising to help find his

mate. Unfortunately, Bill doesn't know what she looks like anymore. Instead of aging gradually as humans do, Procardians develop in spurts, looking entirely different at each stage. She also would be unable to communicate with humans. Darien remembers a mute waitress named Rachel (Dana Tenen), whom he encountered earlier at Ralph's Coffee Shop.

Darien returns to the motel, warning Bill that he must wait until nightfall before contacting Rachel. Suddenly, Bill "transmogrifies" into an older man, older Bill (Bernard Curry), with entirely different looks. Darien attempts to stop him from leaving the motel, but Bill knocks Darien unconscious with a ball of energy.

Wednesday 21-6-95 at 9:00 pm on BTV.



A scene from Time Trax

Hard Facts, Hard News, Hard Copy

THE top-rated newsmagazine series, Hard Copy, premieres on Star Plus on Monday, June 19 at 9:00 pm BST airing each weekday, says a Press Release.

Co-anchored by Emmy Award-winning journalists Barry Nolan and Terry Murphy, Hard Copy combines a blend of breaking news stories, special investigative reports, advocacy places, human interest features, celebrity interviews, and in-depth profiles of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

As Nolan sees it, they key elements in a great Hard Copy story cannot be captured within the framework of a traditional news broadcast. "Stories about passion, hero-

ism, mystery, compassion and triumph require a more prolonged treatment than you're ever going to get on a regular newscast."

The Monday-Friday series consistently ranks in the top 10 of all first run shows in the US and it has continued its competitive edge in its sixth season having finished its fifth with the highest ratings since the programme's premiere in the US in 1989.

Time magazine named Hard Copy one of the top ten best shows on television, calling it "compulsively watchable" and "enterprising journalism." Additionally, Hard Copy garnered two Greater Los Angeles Press Club Awards for "Excellence in

journalism," as well as two Genesis awards for animal rights advocacy pieces.

"We are dedicated to continuing the kind of top-notch journalism that has made Hard Copy the premier newsmagazine in first-run syndication," says executive producer, Linda Bell Blue. "Our senior correspondents, Diane Dimond and Doug Bruckner, as well as our writers and producers, have extensive news backgrounds — both on the network and local levels — and they bring that journalistic perspective and experience to our show."

Produced in Hollywood and with bureaus in London and New York, Hard Copy boasts a staff of award-winning producers, writers, and reporters, as well as field directors from around the US.

Book News by Ziaul Karim

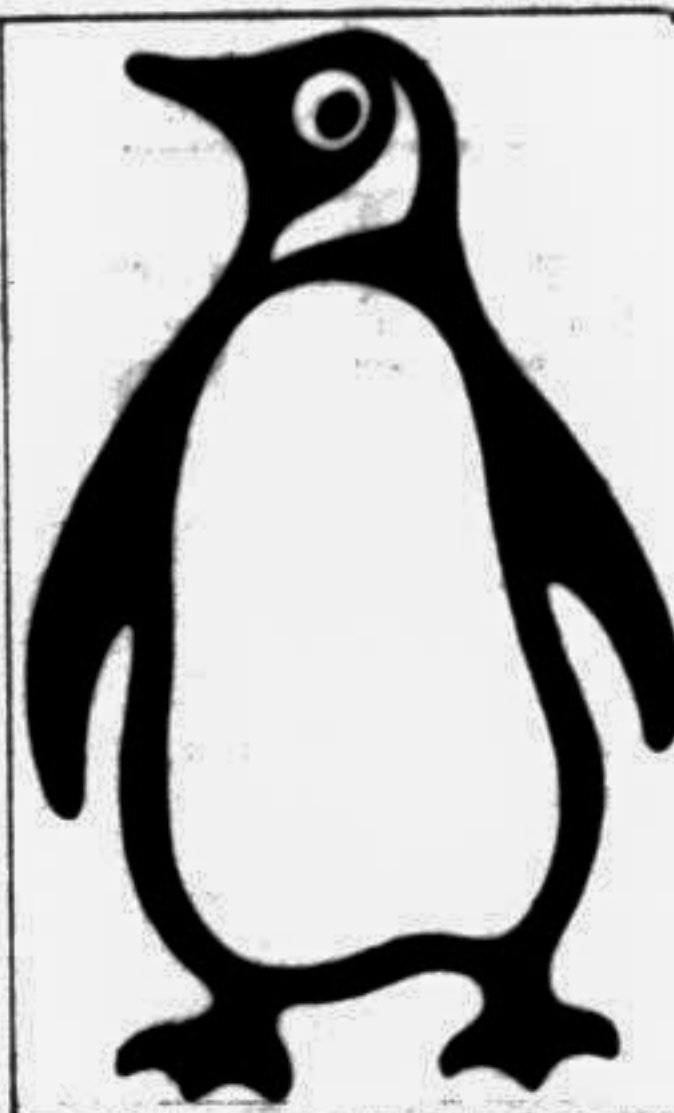
Penguin to Celebrate 60th Birthday

PENGUIN, the famous bird of publishing history, turns 60 next month. The sexagenarian bird, with its quality-first-approach, is now the largest English-language publisher in the world.

After acquiring rights from London's famous publishers to reprint their leading authors' work, Allen Lane in 1935 launched a series of books retailing at 6d a copy and with it introduced a format that in the myth of time has become the most popular in publishing history — the paperback. The first set of ten titles Lane published included, among others, Andre Maurois's "Ariel" and Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms." Within a week of publication a consignment order was placed for 63,500 copies. On July 30, 1936 — the imprint's first birthday — Lane announced sales of over 3 million books and a



Allen Lane's first ten Penguin Classics published on July 30, 1935

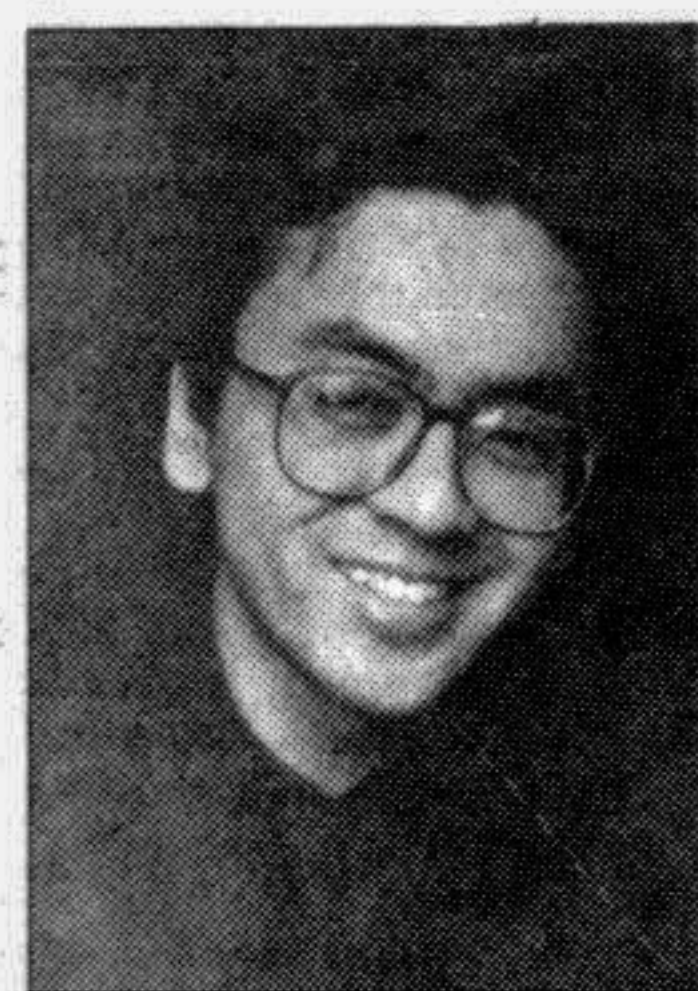


turnover of 75,000 pounds. The company's total annual sales now stands at 350 million pounds.

Paperback was not entirely a virgin publishing territory when Penguin's father Lane approached it — the format's lineage can be traced back to 18th century — but his initiative was to be its first systematic exploitation. And as he hopped into the trade, publishing was never the same again.

Lane's famous penguin logo took its inspiration from the Albatross Modern Continental Library in approach, colour coding and numbering. Lane and his colleagues before producing the first set of Penguins agreed that the new set should have a bird or animal as logo, Lane's secretary Joan Coles suggested penguin.

New Novel by Celebrity



Kazuo Ishiguro



der, arrives to prepare for a performance. He seems to inhabit a strange borderland state between dream and reality. The people he meets are real enough but the connections between them are fragmented.

The forty-one-year-old Ishiguro was born in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1954 and came to Britain at the age of five. His works have been translated into twenty-two languages.

His "The Remains of the Day" became an international bestseller, with over a million copies sold in the English language edition alone. Including "The Unconsoled" he has so far authored four novels.

An Extract from 'The Unconsoled'

From the start Gustav's routine departed from that established by the earlier dancers. Rather than pretend the box was extremely heavy on first receiving it, he tossed it effortlessly onto one shoulder and made a shrugging motion. This produced loud laughter all round and I could hear cries of 'Good old Gustav!' and 'Trust him!' And then, as he continued to make light of the box, a waiter broke through to the front and tossed up onto the table and actual suitcase. From the way he swung it and the loud thud it produced, the suitcase was clearly not empty. It had landed close to Gustav's feet and a murmur went around the crowd. Then the chanting picked up again, faster than ever: 'Gustav! Gustav! Gustav!' I could see Boris following carefully every move his grandfather made, immense pride across his face, clapping his hands vigorously and joining in with the chanting. Gustav, noticing Boris, smiled once more to him, then reached down and grasped the handle of the suitcase.

Banned Books on Auction

RECENTLY revamped British anti-censorship magazine "Index on Censorship" is organising an interesting charity auction of banned books in November this year. Index is calling on its friends and supporters to

donate books for the auction, which will raise money for the magazine and its associated organisation. Among the titles already donated are a signed first edition of "Lady Chatterley's Lover" and Radchiffe Hall's "The Well of Loneliness."

Viewing Video

by Lenin Gani

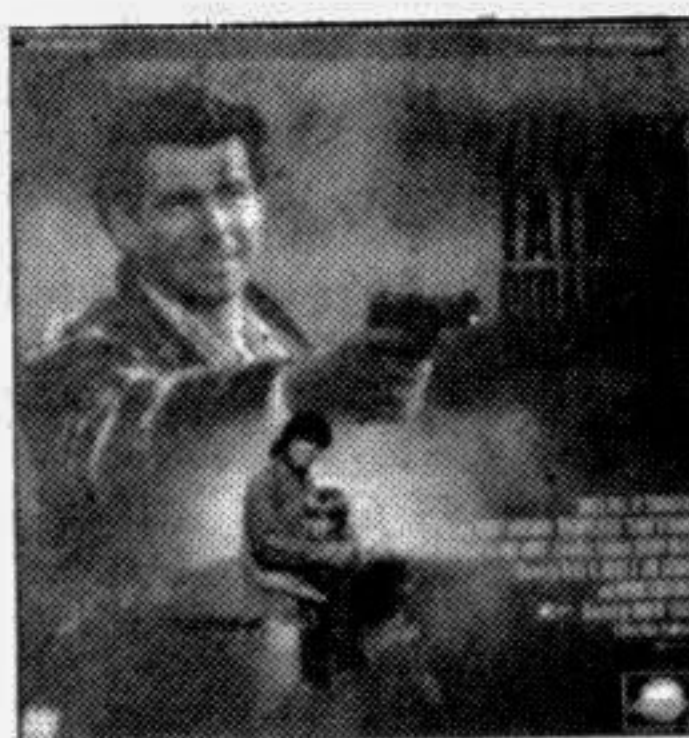
JANE (Shanna Reed) is getting her life in order following a rather messy divorce from policeman husband Bonner (Terry O'Quinn). When in comes, Patrick Brody (Pierce Brosnan) and in next to no time they are married and start afresh with Jane's son Eric (Keegan Macintosh).

During this time Jane's ex-hubby who was dead set against Patrick, constantly warns Jane he's bad news. His fears are realised when Eric goes missing.

Apparently Eric is not Jane's real son because after she lost her first child, Bonner persuaded a young mother to give up her child (Eric).

Now Brody is supposed to be Eric's real father and he intends to sell Eric to his ailing grandfather a notorious Chicago crime boss.

Needless to say, had it not been for some late heroics by Bonner and Jane in particular, Brody would have pulled off the scheme.



Don't Talk to Strangers is an appropriate title for a film because only when it is almost too late Jane realises Brody's true colours.

HINDI		
NAME	TYPE	CAST
1. Raja	(social)	Madhuri Dixit/ Sanjay Kapoor
2. Sabse Bada Khiladi	(action)	Akshay Kumar
ENGLISH		
NAME	TYPE	CAST
1. Don't Talk To Strangers	(Thriller)	Pierce Brosnan/ Shanna Reed/ Terry O'Quinn
2. Jamon Jamon	(Rom)	
3. Killer Looks	()	

Source : Film Fair Video and other clubs.

ZEE TV

The Zee Horror Show: Khamoshi : Episode : VI T/C: 18.06.95 (2200), 24.06.95 (0030)

The body of Avinash kills the watchman. The commotion thus created attracts Paru. Paru is frightened to see the horrible dead body. The body of Avinash takes her with him while Medha looks on helplessly. The Inspector rescues her from the clutches of the body of Avinash. To make her believe that Avinash is no more alive, Ramu Kaka takes Medha to the swamp and extracts back the trunk only to find out that the body inside was not that of Avinash.....

Andaz : Episode : 40 T/C: 16.06.95 (2200), 19.06.95 (0030)

Urmila wants to know the name of the lawyer who has Rajpal's will. Jui is unable to tell her. Vijay and Jui get close. Rajpal asks Jui to call Vijay home alongwith some friends. Jui invites Seema who has been raped by Sujit. Murlu convinces Seema to come to the party. Rajpal is impressed by Vijay. But when Vijay sees Murlu, he starts drinking and there is a scuffle between them. When Rajpal intervenes, Vijay abuses him. Rajpal throws him out.

Dastaan : Episode : 8 T/C: 22.06.95 (2130), 25.06.95



A scene from Andaz

(2330) Karan Kapoor cancels his trip to Tokyo at the last moment and returns to his office, much to his staff's surprise. He calls for an emergency meeting and tell his executives that it makes good business sense to resign from the sole distributorship of Miksu Electronic range. He calls Mukherji and offers him a tip and a tip to go for the Miksu agency that he has resigned.

The news infuriates Lankesh. He had planned to involve and drag him into disputes but Karan has outsmarted him. Lankesh is furious, he goes to the graveyard.....

Hasratein : Episode : 12 T/C: 20.06.95 (2200) 21.06.95 (0030)

Uma is having an affair with Vishal. Savi has a soft corner for Satish. Satish's mother and Madhavi are against it.

Akbar Birbal : Episode : 16 T/C: 18.06.95 (2030), 23.06.95 (1630)

Birbal tries hard to come out from the jungle but cannot find way. Suddenly he sees a monkey. Birbal gets out of the jungle with the help of the monkey. On the other hand Phannekhan on his way out is surrounded by tribals and they take him with them. He saves himself from the tribals and ultimately has to admit before Akbar and the Rani that everything happens for the good.