

Election: A Night-mare for the Minority Community People

by Iftequar Mahmood

ELECTION is never a good experience for the minority community people of the country. It has been experienced in Bangladesh that whoever wins in the national elections, some sort of bitter consequences are always faced by the minority community people.

It is a legacy which is trailing the minority community over the last three decades. Looking back to the history, these people were the worst

noted pre-election violence in the minority inhabited areas of Raizan in Chittagong and in some places of Comilla. In a press conference of six human rights organisations, massive pre-election violence against minority community people in Chandpur-1 constituency was specifically reported.

There has been no satisfactory step taken to ensure free and peaceful participation of minority community people in the polling. On the contrary, in

votes were casted, Hindu voters were attacked by the activists of an independent candidate. Some of them received serious injury. They were scattered down, left the premises and never came again for voting. Interesting that polling in this center was not postponed inspite of such kind of irregularities.

In the same constituency a wooden bridge connecting the village and the polling center was turned down so that the

Post election violence in minority inhabited areas

Date	Place	Injury/death/damages	Source
June-13	Baruail Bazar Thana Sarail Dist. Brahmanbaria	20 shops of Hindu community looted	Bhorer Kagoj 14.06.96
June-13	Lakshenarayan Akhra, Jeosh Pukurpar and Bhuyabagh area (including Lohkhat Asram) of Narayanganj Town	Scattered attack on the inhabitant, physical assault	Bhorer Kagoj 14.06.96
June-13	Vill Bahadurpur	About 150 Hindu family left the village being intimidated not to vote. They didn't return yet after the polling	Jessore 14.06.96
June-14	Vill-Chandaikona and Ghurka, Thana Rayganj Dist. Sirajganj	Injury 50, 23 houses damaged, 3 houses set on fire	Sangbad 15.06.96
June 14	Narayanganj Town	Damages and looting of houses and shops	Sangbad 15.06.96
June 14	Vill Rustampur, Union Asula Thana Savar	Injured 30, attack on 30/40 houses of Hindu/Sangbad community people	Janakantha 15.06.96
June 16/17	Vill - Dhonkunt, Bethkar Semabari, Simla, Madhabag, Nakua Kallakair, Nishindra, Chatkasher Thana - Dhonut and Sherpur Dist - Bogra	Hindu community people left village after being attacked after election	Bhorer Kagoj 17.06.96
June 17	Bataibazar and Westernpara Thana Gournadi Dist- Barisal	16/17 shops damaged, attack in some houses	Janakantha 18.06.96
June 18	Bhalukaghar Thana Keshobpur Dist-Jessore	Futon daughter of Pinaki Bhattacharya was raped by two person for voting for a particular symbol	Bhorer Kagoj 19.06.96

victim in the War of Liberation in 1971 being presumed to be supporter of a particular political party. The attitude persists during the time of national elections as they are still presumed to be the so called "block voter" or "vote bank" of a particular political party. This is the broad based reason as to why they are victimized again and again.

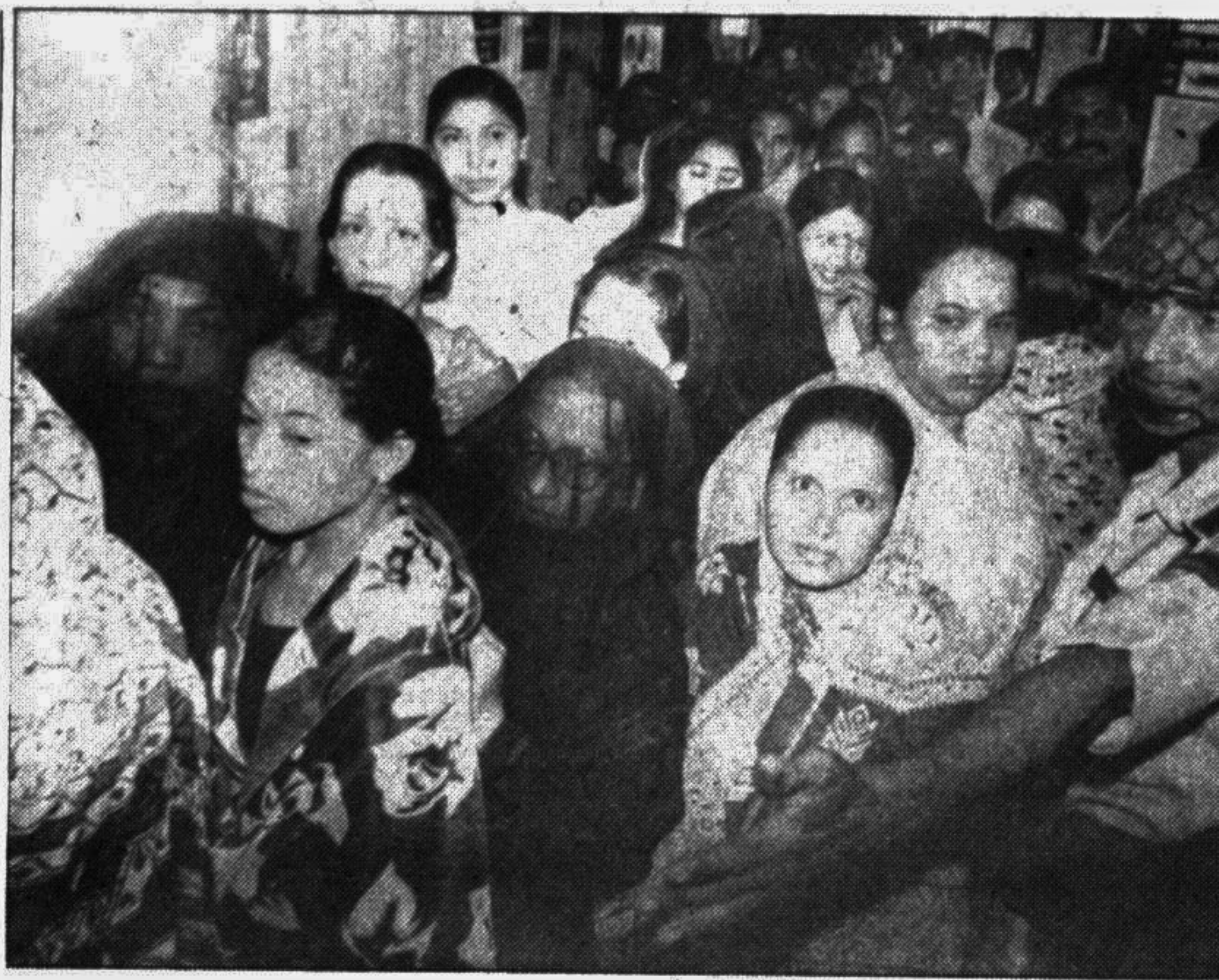
It has long been an election strategy of many candidates to keep the minority community people out of the polling process. For that they resort to violence and intimidation in the minority inhabited areas before the date of the election. This become an open secret to which everybody in the locality knows the perpetrator. Yet there are little things to do. Even in the present elections some of the foreign observers

some places violence on the minority community are perpetrated at the connivance of the local administration. For instance in Raizan in Chittagong, where it has been long known to all concern that the minority community people were always intimidated by an influential candidate, nothing exceptional happened this time. A large number of minority voters couldn't vote again this time.

A very new type of violence was experienced this time in Chandpur-1 constituency. In the Sachar Government Primary School polling centre female voters of Hindu and Muslim community were kept in separate lines at the direction of the Presiding officer. Voters of the Muslim line were taken first and then at about 11 am. when all the Muslim

villages could not come for voting. These are some instances of pre-election violence. Post election violence are much more devastating. People in many villages spend all the moment in fear of any probable attack from the losing party. Not only that defeated candidates always attack, attacks are also made from the processions of winning candidate. People in many villages leave their homes in fear of violent attack. Some of them leave the village and do not return until the situation calms down. The attached chart shows only post election violence against the minority community people which were reported in daily newspaper.

Iftequar Mahmood — Human Rights Secretary, Law Review



Voting: Right not privilege

A Glimpse of the Voting Right of Minority Community

by Fayaz Uddin Ahmad

A usual, in the 12 June election minority community people in different parts of the country could not exercise their right to franchise. Following some information six human rights organizations (Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Law Review, Adhikar, Gano Sahajya Shangstha, Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayon Shangstha, and Saptagram Nari Swarnirvar Parishad) went to investigate in the constituency, Chandpur-1, before the re-election. They went to Sachar and Doati union, Kachua, Thana complex and Kachua Thana office.

In a press-conference on 18 June, they reported that in Sachar union and the surrounding area, within 10 am an independent candidate and his supporters and workers were engaged in violence and kept the female voters away from voting. And those who were standing in lines were wiped out showing firearms or by beating.

Local people said that voting at the morning started peacefully and upto 10 am it was going smoothly. But a statement given by the Presiding officer of the centre created anxiety among the voters. Under the direction of the Presiding Officers Hindu and Muslim female voters were kept in different lines and were giving votes separately in Sachar Government Primary School. The Hindu female voters were attacked at 11 am with lathi, fire arms etc. and pushed away from the centre.

A middle-aged Hindu woman named Adamani said that the supporters of the independent candidate kicked her and pushed her into a pond. At that time the candidate was shouting "the centre is full of Hindu voters, they do not have any right to vote, and should leave this country."

Sagar Paddar, a student of Agriculture Diploma, was slapped and beaten on his back. He told that during the fighting a gold locket of a Hindu woman was extorted by the supporter of the said candidate.

Maranbala Goswami (37) said, she waited for two hours in the line but before entering in the booth Hindu women were attacked by those terrorists. They beat her with bamboo stick, she went out, and came later, but then her ballot paper was taken away by a person who had also taken a signature from her. Anima Rani (32) said that Akram member a supporter of the independent candidate forced her to give the ballot paper to him but she went out without giving vote. Birzabala Chakravarty also went out of the premises seeing all these. A young girl, Rachar, named, Batu Nandy, retreated after being threatened by the terrorists.

In the press-conference it was also mentioned that the Muslims and the cripples were not left away from these violence. A tempo-driver, Nurul Islam, and his cripple mother were pushed out, and

got death warning from those supporters for giving votes to a particular symbol.

Arun Shaha, a polling agent said that the Presiding officer was not impartial. While giving seals to the butterfly mark openly, the supporters and the candidate could be arrested by the Presiding officer. The Presiding officer was a silent observer only.

ASP Syed, also reaffirmed the truth of the fact. He told that, the Hindu voters of Sachar union were attacked, warned and kept away from voting. He contended that, the number of force were not sufficient and they were only supposed to work within 400 yards of the polling centre.

A local doctor, Dr Yogendra Majumdar, said that at least 70 male and female were injured during these incidents, some of them were hospitalized too. The investigating team went to the Thana Health Complex and talked with the injured people, and lodged a GD with the Thana.

This is only partial picture of one constituency. Such incidents on the minority people have become a common phenomenon. A new government is being formed and the walking in the road to democracy has already been started. Will the new government with the assistance of all parties and the people, look after the rights of the minority community? This is a question for the time.

Fayaz Uddin Ahmad — Member, Law Review

The Spirit of Habitat

Amidst the varied landscape of human life today, three features that clearly stand out are rapid population growth, accelerating urbanisation and increasing complexity in almost all fields of activity.

The ways in which the planet's resources are distributed and used has resulted in the physical and social needs of many people remaining unfulfilled in a number of different ways. While encouraging progress has been made in dispelling some spectres, our common future still remains overcast by Damoclean swords such as social insecurity, the forces of fragmentation and massive environmental abuse. Thus Habitat II's immediate focus is securing broad-based commitments to creating sustainable human settlements and providing adequate shelter for all.

One World, One Home

In practically every society in the world, tremendous changes have taken place over the past few decades. Along with technological development, the theme of many such changes has been a convergence and inter-linking of interests and activities that were previously seen as separate. While the initial surge of globalisation may have been primarily economic and technological in nature, it is a phenomenon that is laying low barriers and divisions of all kinds, making it more apparent than ever that no one is an island. We all live on one planet, a planet that seems increasingly small and is crisscrossed by a web of interconnecting relationships, a constant and self-perpetuating interplay of cause and effect.

As the world's peoples have begun to see themselves as global citizens, a change has also come about with regard to development thinking. An approach that often seemed to equate an increase in financial resources with greater well-being has given way to an understanding of progress known as sustainable human development. This concept acknowledges that people require or aspire to the fulfilment of a variety of needs, rights and hopes that are not just economic in nature but also include social, gender-based, environmental, health, mental, moral and spiritual concerns. A continuum of major international conferences held during the first half of this decade has addressed many specific such concerns and, although the focus has mainly been on individual themes, it has also become apparent that each sector is deeply connected with the other sectors and that together they form a greater interconnected whole.

Recognising that all human activity and aspirations are inter-linked, development is now seen as a comprehensive process that aims to further the overall well-being and standard of living of the individual. The engine of economic growth can help power this

process but it should not be forgotten that it remains only a means — a means towards an end objective of improving the quality of life as a whole and enabling individuals to reach their full potential. Indicators of progress in developmental activities have therefore now begun to take account of improvement not just in physical living conditions or material circumstances but also in the overall quality of life of families and individuals, including their mental and spiritual well-being. People have finally reclaimed their rightful place as the focal point of development concerns and it is now understood that development is only really development when it is holistic development of humanity in its entirety. Given this historical background, Habitat II is not only concerned with cities and settlements; it is also about human beings and the rights that flow from the fact of our humanity. The culminating point of past decades of development work, and indeed the apex of the broad-based pyramid of all human endeavour, is therefore the emphasis that must be placed on the inherent worth and dignity of the individual.

Vision and Values for Development with Dignity

Notwithstanding humanity's richly diverse heritage, there is broad agreement as to the nature of the higher ground to which development should lead us, and most of us hold within our hearts a clear vision of a better world of greater security, peace, justice, understanding and respect for all people. There is widespread recognition and awareness that this vision of a better world can only be built and stand on the foundation of certain values, attitudes and ways of living consistent with this vision. As well as being a major part of the means to the desired end, these values and attitudes are also a prerequisite to the sustenance and continued existence of the vision once it has become reality, for the world will only be more understanding, just, peaceful, compassionate and respectful for so long as we are like that. The consequence of this is that we must not only do certain things but also be certain things.

One Home, One Family

Society is a community of individuals and as its condition therefore depends on that of the individuals of which it is comprised there is something that all of us can do, something that all of us can change. Just as the Habitat II process has embraced local authorities, private sector players, community-based organisations and individuals in their own right, the need of the hour is for all people of this planet to rally under the flag of unity and take responsibility to help make the world a home of harmony, peace and fulfillment for all the human family.

Statement of the **Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements**

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Sunday 23rd June

(All programmes are in local time. We recommend programmes printed in bold. There may be changes in the programmes).

BTB

3:00 Opening Announcement At-Dance Programme Summary 3:10 Recitation from the Bible 3:15 Cartoon: Woody Woodpecker 3:45 Re-telcast of Weekly Drama 4:00 News in Bangla 4:45 Maroma 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Sports Programme 6:00 News in Bangla 6:30 Masader Junjyo 7:00 News in English 7:05 Open University 7:25 Tagore Songs 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Jannabum 8:30 Amar Desh 9:00 Film Series: Akbar The Great 10:00 News in English 10:30 Sheshatatha : Health Programme 10:35 Shis Gau Shum 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Monday's programme 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 India Business Report 7:00 BBC World News 7:25 This Week 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 India Business Report 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 BBC World News 10:00 BBC World News 10:20 Britain in View 11:00 BBC World News 11:25 India Business Report 12:00noon BBC World News 12:20 This Week 1:00 BBC World News 1:05 Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Film '96 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Auction 4:00 BBC World News 4:05 Everyman 5:00 BBC World News 5:20 Face To Face 6:00pm BBC World News 6:05 The Tourist 7:00 BBC World News 7:05 Breakfast With Frost 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 Time Out: Top Gear 9:00 BBC World News 9:05 Horizon 10:00 BBC World News 10:20 Earth Report 10:30 Time Out: More Rhodes Around Britain 11:00 BBC World News 11:20 On The Record 12:00am BBC World News 12:20 Window On Europe 1:00 BBC World

Headlines: 1:05 Under The Sun

2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: One Foot In The Past 3:00 BBC World Report inc World Business Report/24 Hours 4:00 BBC World Report inc World Business Report/24 Hours 5:00 BBC World News 5:15 The Money Programme

CHANNEL V

7:00am Nippon Vision 9:00 The Ride VJ Trey 10:00 Pantalone Fashion Police 10:30 The Best of Ex Ka Teen 11:00 BPI Oyel 12:00 Sansui Mangla Hm 12:30 First Day First Show 1:00 Speak Easy 1:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 2:30 Videon-Flash Back 3:00 Asian Top 20 VJ Name 5:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 5:30 Top of the Pops 6:30 Classic Rock 7:30 Times Time Plus 8:30 Indian Top Ten 9:00 Launch Pad VJ Sophia 10:00 T-Ride VJ Trey 11:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 12:00 Asian Top 20 VJ Name 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 1:30 Frame By Frame

STAR PLUS

6:30am Vetrion 7:5 King Arthur 7:30 Classic Cartoons 8:00 Terry Toons 8:30 T-Bag 9:00 Ek The Cat 9:30 India Business Week 10:30 The Road Show 11:00 Amul India Show 11:30 Cricket 12:30 The Fall-Guy 1:30 Vegas 2:30 Best Sellers: 'Prime Suspect II' 4:30 The Love Boat 5:30 World Around Us: Ancient Prophecies 6:30 Amul India Show 7:00 The Road Show 7:30 Snowy



V3+ on EL TV, Tonight at 8:30

River 'The McGregor Saga' 8:30 Beverly Hills 90210 9:30 Pocket Fences 10:30 Burke's Law 11:30 21 Jump Street 12:30 Star Trek: 'The Next Generation' 1:30 India Business Week 2:30 Amul India Show 3:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 4:00 Hard Copy 4:30 Home And Away 5:00 The Sullivan 5:30 The Sullivans

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Comedy: Gino (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 Classic: Baby Takes A Bow PG (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Comedy: Doctor In The House (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Classic: The Dark Swan 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Sunday Show Time: Pee Wee's Playhouse EP 11 & 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 4:30 Sunday Show Time: All About The Movie EP 15 & 16 English Subtitles 5:30 Sunday Matinee Family Double Feature: Digby, The Biggest Dog In The World PG

STAR Sports

6:30am International Motorsport News 7:00 Live 1996 CIBA Asia Cup Badminton Finals From Seoul, Korea Feed Times HK 12:00noon 1996 College World Series Men's Championship Game The Final 3:00 Inside PGA Tour 3:30 NFL Highlights 4:00 Live Marlboro League '96 Chinese National Football League Shanghai vs Beijing @ Shanghai 5:30pm TBC 6:20 1996 CIBA Asia Cup

ZEE TV

5:30 Infotainment (TMM) 6:00 The News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 Bhagya 7:30 Mao 8:00 Mythological HFF 10:30 Aap Ki Adalat 11:00 Galaxee 11:30 Lakme Khodasurat 12:00 Film Chakkar 12:30 Bournvita Quiz Contest 1:00 Naamoo India 1:30 Asian Sky Show 2:30 HFF 5:00 Daak Ghar 5:30 Insight 6:00 Colgate Gel Yoodles-Ae-Go 6:30 Gaane Anapna 7:00 Ad Mad Show 7:30 FLU 8:00 Turnbare Live 9:30 Suno Suno Tring Tring 9:50 Nirma Aaha 9:30 9 Malabar Hill 10:00 The Zoo Horror Show 10:30 News Roundup 11:00 Index 11:30 Philips Top Ten 12:30 Gopalgone 1:00 Mr Minto 1:30 Rasna Kya Scane Hai 2:00 Duniya 2:30 Infotainment (TMM)

EL TV

00:30 Mohd Rafi Special 01:30 Nasir Hussain Special 02:30 Anilbhai Bachchan Special 03:30 Dance Dance 04:30 Jugad Jodi 05:30 Mohd Rafi Special 06:30

Nasir Hussain Special 07:30 Anilbhai Bachchan Special 08:30 Frooti Its My Choice 9:00 Atco Rabaru 09:30 Fat Di Fit 10:00 Faltene Chalo Cinema 10:30 Song Yatra 11:00 Moov Usha Uthup Show 11:30 Liberty Public Demand 12:30 Sorry Men: Lorry 1:00 Zake Ka Salar 1:30 Dance Dance 2:30 Money Game 3:00 Instinct Parush Kshetra 4:00 Zandu Balm Dance Mania 4:30 Ortem Hit The Hit Hai 5:00 People's Club 5:30 Jugad Jodi 6:30 R D Burman Special 7:30 Sansam 8:00 Godey Starvel Film Chait 8:30 V3+ 9:00 The Music Show 9:30 Shatranj 10:00 Aico Rabaru 10:30 Gungroo 11:30 Jeevan Ke Rang

PTV

8:00am Titawat Aur Tarangam/HandiNaat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabaran 8:45 Fun Time 9:05 TV Encyclopedia 9:25 Khat Farahash 9:40 Sports Clinic 10:05 PTV Gold 10:30 English Film: Darkwing Duck 10:55 Mast Mast Sanyo 11:00 Khabaran 11:10 Sports Hour 12:05pm Biscop '95/Gaam Hama 12:55 Duran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:35 Aaj Ki Kahani 1:40 Aaj Ki Shaam 2:00 Kinara 'Ep 36' (Drama Serial) 2:55 Ghost Writer 3:55 Karabar 4:15 Education 5:25 Razi for 9th 5:55 Zameen Per Zindagi (Drama Serial) 6:25

Aiou Courses 7:00 English News 7:30 English Film: Star Trek Deep Space Nine 8:20 Hawwa Ki Naam 9:00 Break for Headlines News 9:20 Sur Tasver (Pakistan Film 1947/95) 10:00 Khabaran & Commercial News 11:00 Perwana 11:35 Home Victim (New Serial) 12:35 Music Masters-Rang Rang 1:00 Khas Khas Khabaran

SONY ET

8:30am Jai Br Hanuman 9:00 Yaadon Ki Baarat 9:30 Gaane Jaane Maane 10:00 Hindi Hits Songs 10:30 Judagaar 11:00 10 Civil Lines 11:30 Sunday Ki Sunday 12:00 Hamsa Barker Koun

12:30pm Audio Video Premier 1:00 Good Shot 1:30 Pehchan 2:00 Hum Se Barker Goet 2:30 Mere Massage Meri Goet 3:00 Naye Taranees 3:30 Gaane Jaane Maane 4:00 Dekh Tamasa Dekh 4:30 D'Maria 5:00 Jase Kaha Mera Jigar Gaya Ji 5:30 Ghaav 6:00 Dekh Tamasa Dekh 6:30 Aahat 7:00 Cine Classics Hindi Feature Film 10:00 Buddha 10:30 Audio Video Premier Show 11:00 Good Shot 11:30 Cine Prime Hindi Feature Film

Juti 10:00 Light Music 12:30 Dhitang Dhitang Bole 1:30 Marzada 2:00 Prabaha 2:25 Uru Kati Madna 3:00 Isha 4:30 Bengali Feature Film 5:30 News 7:20 Binodan 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Darshakar Darbare 8:25 Ek Tuku Basa 9:30 Drama 10:00 News/Bengali Sambad 11:00 Closed

ZEE CINEMA

8:30 Hit Hai Fit Hai 9:00 Tarana 9:30 Jadhoo 12:15 Film Bateen 12:45 Baika Badhu 3:30 Amme Samne Antakshari 4:00 Dance Dance 6:45 Mera Saaya 9:30 Songs 10:00 Dayavan 12:15 Film Bateen 12:45 Armaan

DD 7

7:40 Harekrakamba 8:20 Binodan 8:45 Banjira Lok 9:00 Geetmalay 9:30 Bangla Cinemar Romantic

Garfield®



by Jim Davis



James Bond

