

The Children Must Go Beyond Basics

by Ekram Kabir



Immunisation: Safe life hence

arrhoeal diseases; support for breast-feeding through baby-friendly hospital initiative and ending free and low-cost distribution of breastmilk substitutes; virtual elimination of Vitamin A deficiency; universal iodisation of salt; elimination of guinea worm disease; and the universal ratification of the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Among all the mid-decade goals, some areas witnessed appreciable consumption. Salt iodisation, for example, is also the most noteworthy. According to the Unicef country representative in Bangladesh Rolf C. Cariere, it is no small achievement that Bangladesh — a country that had even in the recent past 60 million of its people at risk of iodine deficiency — now iodates 62 per cent of its salt. And the PoN '96 confirms, mentioning Bangladesh's latest official report, that the country's 97 per cent salt is iodated. It's also remarkable that Bangladesh now pays for over two-thirds of its routine immunisation costs," says Cariere.

Other achievements regarding Bangladesh have not been clearly made understood except for the news that "essential obstetric services are being decentralised by upgrading district and community facilities and staff skills, development of clinical protocols to guide diagnosis and treatment, and community mobilisation". A strategy, whereby 11 district hospitals were linked with obstetric and gynaecological departments of 11 medical colleges, has played an important role in the success of the programmes carried out so far.

The West, however, started to look after their children when the Second World War ended. Over the years, their very process of modernisation and economic advancement have permitted the "old problems" to be overcome. Since then, the industrialised nations have been content a considerable extent extent regarding their children with their persevering efforts. But after the curtain drawn on the Cold War, a flurry of newer problems among the children has cropped in. For example in the US, among the 15-year-old boys who now smoke cigarettes, deaths from tobacco.

according to the PoN '96, over the next 55 years will triple the combined deaths from "murder", "suicide", "drug abuse", "alcohol", "traffic accidents" and "AIDS". This is apparently a helplessness. This feeble situation now prevails even all over the world.

These problems are very much present in the developing nations as well. The UN agencies who are concerned over these issues will not be doing justice if they do not empathise in the same way about the poorer nations. The children are as cherished to the southern nations as they are to the North.

Even in Muslim majority Bangladesh, the children are highly treasured by religion. They are assessed as precious assets of the society. Religion realises the fundamental rights for the young people as: the right to life; the right to breast-feeding; healthcare and nutrition; the right to future security; the right to education, training and self-defence; the right to equal treatment of both the sexes; and the right to be supported by "fair share of funds".

The Unicef's PoN '96 reveals the organisation has started to work on "beyond basics" in the industrialised countries, for the "basics" have already been achieved there. This can be interpreted as all the children in the wealthy countries are satisfactorily nourished and relish basic healthcare and obtain the explicit education. Yet the PoN '96 says that this doesn't mean all problems are solved; mounting problems — both old and new — face the children in the industrialised world, and new avenues of measuring progress or regression are needed.

Tobacco use in the form of cigarette-smoking among the under-15 has been identified as one of the major "beyond-basics" problems of the West. Given the studies done and according to the league table, yes, it's one of the major problems in the richer part of the globe. And among 22 rich nations, Finland's 15-year-olds lead the tobacco road. Twenty-five per cent of its under 15 boys and 19 per cent of girls within the same age-group are regular smokers.

What the UN Children's

Fund forgets — among many of its programmes — is that the children of rural Bangladesh, even the school-goers after class hours, who go helping their farmer-fathers very easily grow the habit of smoking bidis at a very tender age which continues until they die from tobacco-related diseases. This practice of tobacco use among the countryside kids has been going on for a long time which is very close to be a social norm in Bangladesh rural areas. Viewed in this context, the PoN report every year has totally ignored Bangladesh.

While giving precautions on the tobacco-related problems in the PoN '96, the WHO programmer on substance abuse, Neil Collishaw says: "Most people know that tobacco is hazardous, but few people appreciate how hazardous it really is. Smoking kills about half of persistent smokers who take up the habit in adolescence". Here he, of course, talks about the young people of the rich



Breast feeding is the best feeding for the baby.

North. It's disheartening to see WHO's lack of interest in the developing country tobacco users, who are females and adolescents — both in rural and urban areas — and are on the increase.

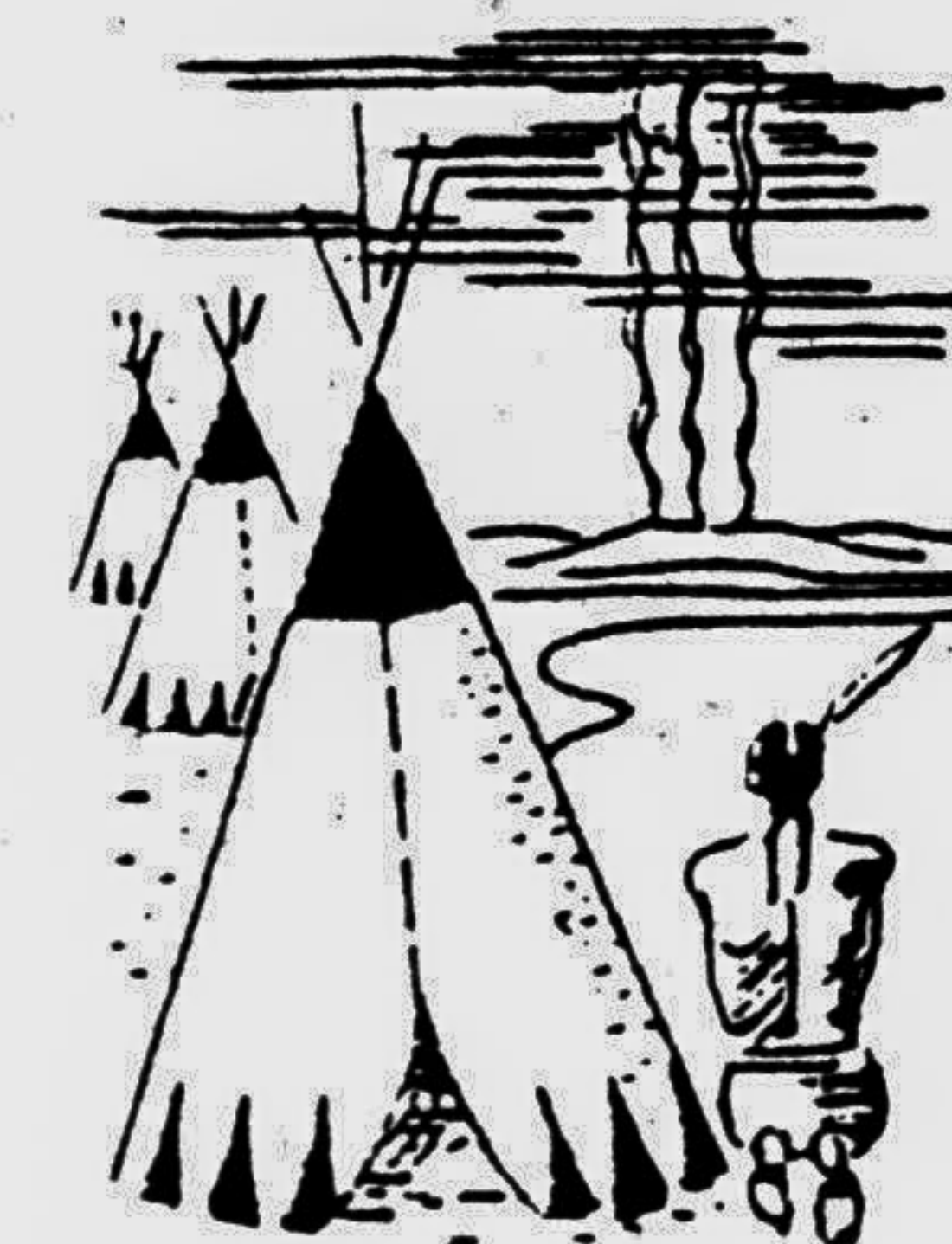
The efforts to conquer malnutrition, ill-health and illiteracy that began in the '50s have seen success, but they could not make us complacent, says Cariere, which is very true. He says so because a herd of committed tasks are yet to be performed to eradicate the enigmas. What the Unicef country representative pointed out as 'enigmas' needs pivotal attention both of the government and people at large. Nothing should make the government reluctant, if it is, to combat the problems of the future with commitment.

Recalling Progress of Telecommunications from Morse Days

by Md Asadullah Khan



Samuel Morse



American Indians used mounds and puffs of smoke for signals.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS perhaps in less than a decade, has become one of the liveliest and most competitive growth industries in the world, virtually exploding with new products, services and demand. For consumers, the brave new world of telephony has brought more choices and falling prices. For the industry, it has paid off in rising sales and profits. It has also resulted in unprecedented upheaval and progress. More importantly, over the past decade the US, Japan and Britain, as well as some other European countries, have liberalized or unleashed their telecommunication monopolies, exposing the industry to unpredictable market forces. In the world around us, the greatest growth has taken place in telephone services — electronic mail, toll-free-calls and computerised directories. In addition, telephone hardware — electronic switchboards, central office switches, handsets — has brought about billions of dollars in sales figure. As information technology becomes more and more important, the market will expand even more dramatically. By the end of the century, the world telecommunication industry and information technology could represent massive array of advances surpassing records of progress in other fields.

More importantly, the clicking and clacking of electromechanical switches have given way to the humming of electronic digital exchanges designed to speed data, pictures and voices around the world and this has put telecommunications as the most sophisticated technology.

Growth has taken place on such an unprecedented scale that consumers in one country will be able to communicate with consumers in another country like in one big global neighborhood. They will be able to choose from a wide variety of gadgets and conveniences that once seemed like science fiction. Cellular, mobile telephone are already in wide use around the world, while high-speed fibre-optic cables will deliver an array of new services including video-telephones.

However, one must not miss the fact that behind all these spectacular developments of telecommunication industry lay the humble efforts of a group of committed scientists. Various methods of sending messages had been designed by men through the ages. Over 3000 years ago, the Greeks relayed back to Greece news of the capture of Troy by signalling with fires. The American Indians used puffs of smoke for signals, one of the largest of the mounds they had for this purpose was near Miamisburg, Ohio.

Tribes in Africa and on the Island of Pacific had for centuries a form of telegraph that made use of specially built

drums. For extreme distances a listening drum was exactly tuned to the same tone as the sending drum. The French revolution brought about some spectacular development in visual telegraphy when Claude Chappe devised a semaphore system. (Signalling by operator's two arms or by flag in each hand according to alphabetic code). These semaphores were erected on high towers about 10 miles apart and a message could be sent from

Paris to Lille, 130 miles away at the rate of about 100 words per hour. Naturally, all these developments at that time had taken place because of war preparation indicating enemy location. Evidently, that was a very brilliant perfection compared with the state of things at that time. The whole kingdom could be warned instantly of an approach of an invading army.

Almost at about this time the world of science was jolted

by the impact of a new force — electricity. Almost 250 years ago, Benjamin Franklin sent an electric current through a wire stretched across the Schuylkill River and set fire to alcohol at the other end. Oersted, Sturgeon and Faraday, over a period of years, unfolded many of the basic principles of electricity and magnetism. In 1831, Professor Joseph Henry strung nearly a mile of wire around one of the rooms in the Albany Academy. By closing a switch at one end of the wire, he could ring a bell at the other. The stage was being set for the electro-magnetic telegraph.

In 1832, a meeting between Samuel Morse, a famous artist and President of the National Academy of Design in New York and Dr Charles Jackson of Boston sparked off a flurry of activities in message communication. One evening at dinner Dr Jackson mentioned that experiment had shown that electricity possesses the ability to pass instantly over any length of wire. In the course of conversation Morse said "I see no reason why intelligence can not be transmitted by electricity."

Obsessed with the idea, Morse almost got away from his painting, using it only as a means of living and providing funds for his experiments. In a garret in lower Manhattan, he ate, slept and worked. He made all possible effort to make use of the information he could get from Professor Henry on electromagnets. Later with the help of Alfred Vail, he managed to develop an instrument that could receive and record dots and dashes on paper. Later they dropped the recording and used the audible dots and dashes. For ten years Morse tried to interest people in his electric telegraph and it was not until 1845 that congress finally provided the money to build a line from Washington to Baltimore. In May, 1844, the first message was transmitted.

Fortunately for the world, other than providing a new form of communication, the electric telegraph stimulated science, industry, commerce and invention. It paved the way for the development of Atlantic cable, the telephone, the radio and television. Small wonder, each of these methods of communication has helped develop a new field of its own and each contributes to the progress and success of the other.

The world at this stage of fantastic development in information technology and communication explosion has got to be indebted to Samuel Morse for his pioneering work. He braved all the hardship, poverty and discouragement and was superbly fired with dynamism and courage to explore the possibilities of fast and effective communication system that has heralded growth and development around the world.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Saturday 29th June

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

BTV

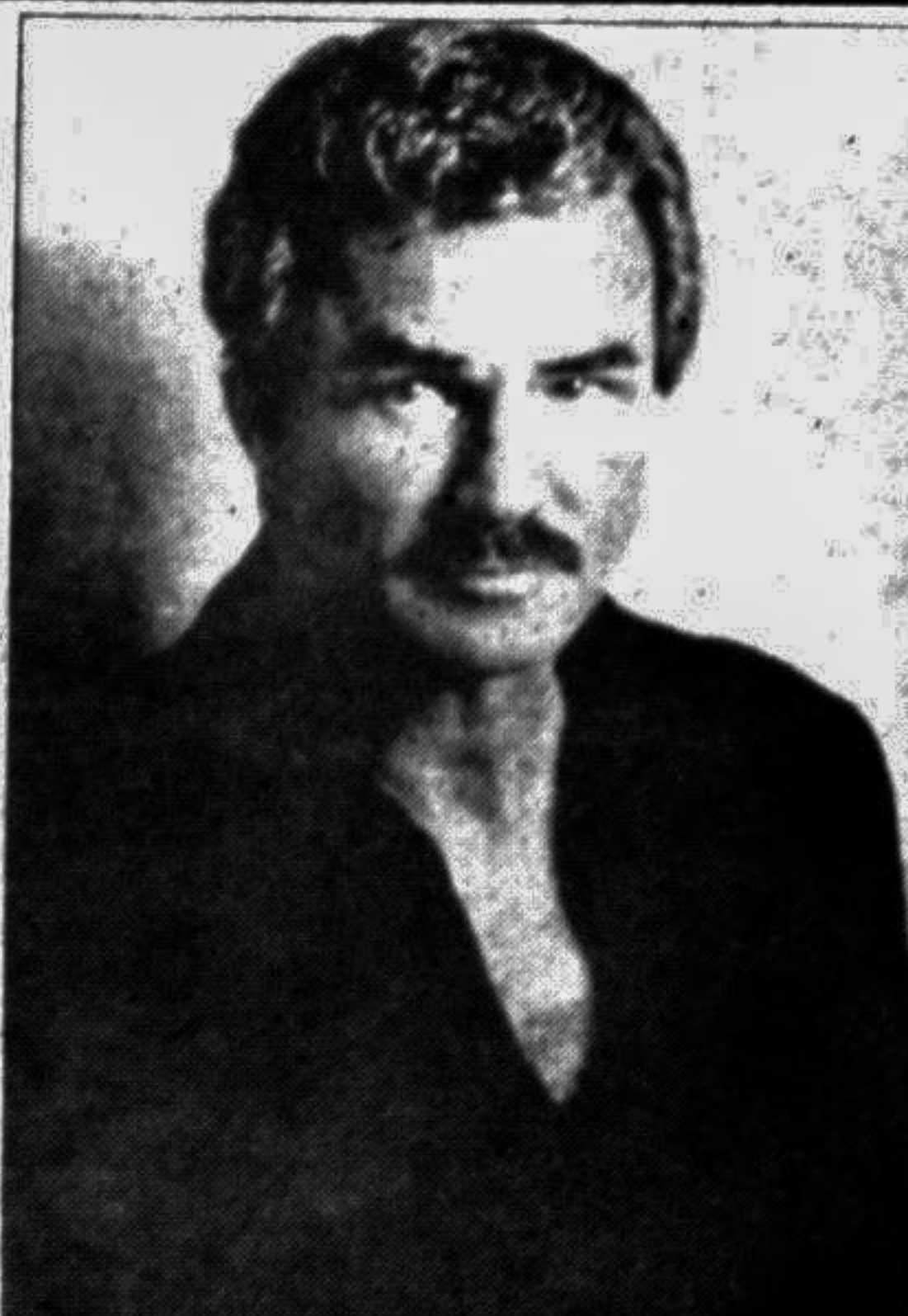
3:00pm Opening Announcement
At 3:10 Reception from the
Tribune 3:15 Movie of the Week
4:00 News in Bangla 5:00 News
in Bangla 5:25 Banbhari: Folk
Songs 6:00 News in Bangla 6:05
Shamshad: 6:30 Movie Mukar
7:00 News in English 8:00 News
in Bangla 8:30, Mats-o-Manush:
Programme Based on Agricultural
Development 9:00 Gosthisatol:
Viewers Requests 10:00 News in
English 10:30 Shashikatha:
Health Programme 10:35 Drama
Series: Dynasty 11:30 News in
Bangla 11:35 Tomorrow's programme
summary 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC World News, 6:20
Britain in View 7:00 BBC World
News 7:10 Newswatch 8:00 BBC

World News 8:20 Window On
Europe 9:00 BBC World Headlines
9:05 Correspondent 10:00 BBC
World News 10:20 Arts Programme
TBA 11:00 BBC World
News 11:20 Window On Europe
12:00noon BBC World Headlines
12:05 Everyman 1:00 BBC World
Headlines 1:05 The Tourist 2:00
BBC World News 2:30 Time Out:

Tomorrow's World 3:00 BBC
World News 3:30 Time Out: The
Travel Show 4:00 BBC World
Headlines 4:05 Horizon 5:00 BBC
World News 5:20 Britain in View
5:50 Earth Report 6:00pm BBC
World Headlines 6:05 Under The
Sun 7:00 BBC World News 7:20
This Week 8:00 BBC World News
8:30 Time Out: Film '96 9:00 BBC
World Headlines 9:05 Correspondent
10:00 BBC World News
10:30 Time Out: Auction 11:00
BBC World News 11:20 This Week
12:00noon BBC World News 12:20
Arts Programme TBA 1:00 BBC
World Headlines 1:05 Horizon 2:00
BBC World News 2:30 Time Out:
Top Gear 3:00 BBC World News
3:25 Window On Europe 4:00 BBC
World News 4:25 This Week 5:00
BBC World News 5:20 Arts Programme
TBA



BL Stryker on Star Plus at 12:30 am tonight

CHANNEL V

7:00am Asian Top 20 VJ News
9:00 Big Bang Weekend VJ Alessandra
10:30 Billboard US Countdown
11:00 News Vision 2:30
The Ride VJ Trey 3:00 Rewind VJ
Sophia 4:00 House Of Noise VJ
Luke 5:30 (V) 1s 6:00pm The
Vibe Weekend VJ Luke 8:00 SPL
Oyal 9:00 The Ticket 9:30 Best
Of Time Pass 11:00 Videcon
Flashback 11:30 Club X VJ So
playa 12:00am House Of Noise
12:30 The Ticket 1:00 The Ride
VJ Trey 2:00 Music Update Tokyo
2:30 Over The Edge VJ Sophia
3:30 Big Bang House Of Alessandra 4:00
Frame by Frame

STAR PLUS

6:30am Voltrix 7:00 Dungeons
and Dragons 7:30 Around The
World in 86 Days 8:00 Count
Duckula 8:30 Sabre Rider & The
Star Sheriff 9:00 Capital Critters
9:30 Zoo Life With Jack Hanna
10:00 Katts & Dog 10:30 Voyage
to the Bottom of the Sea 11:30
The Wild Wild West 12:30 Movie:
"The Lieutenant Wore Skirts" 2:30

Movie Classics: "In Which We
Serve" 4:30 Super Bloopers &
New Practical Jokes 5:30 Movie
Television 6:00pm Fantasy Island
7:00 The Wonder Years 7:30 The
Addams Family 8:00 The Simpsons
8:30 Baywatch 9:30 Star Trek:
The Next Generation 10:30 L.A.
Law 11:30 Code 3 12:00am
COP: 12:30 Mystery Movies: B.L.
Stryker 2:30 Movie: Eagles Wing
4:30 Movie TV 5:00 The Sullivan
5:30 Andres Target

STAR Sports

6:00am Australian Football League
Highlights 7:00 World M'Cycle
Champs-Holland Preview 7:30
Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships
Hil 3rd Round 8:30 Football
Mundial 9:00 NBA Inside Stuff
9:30 Gillette World Sport Special
10:30 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis
Championships 1996 From London,
GB Day 5 3rd Round 4:00 Trans
World Sport 5:00 Live Formula One
World Championships, 1996
French Qualifying 6:00pm Wimbledon
Lawn Tennis Championships
1996 From London, GB Day 5 3rd
Round 12:00 Same Day Delay

1996 World Motorcycle championship
Netherlands Grand Prix Hits
From Essen, Netherlands, 3:00
Prime Boxing fights TBC 4:30 The
Kickboxing 5:30 Gillette World
Sport Special

STAR MOVIES

8:00 100 Years Of Cinema Japan
(Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Classic
Anne Of The Indies 12 (Arabic
Subtitles) 11:30 Comedy Don't
Look Your Head 15 Hindi Subti-
tles 1:30 Family Rock A Doodle
G (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Comedy
Doctor In Distress 12 (Hindi
Subtitles) 5:30 Adventure Escape
From The Planet of the Apes 12
(Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Family Hol
Nolt, Hol Nem Volt (English
Subtitles) 9:00 The Preview
9:30 Battle Cries: Above Us The
Waves PG (Hindi Subtitles)
11:30 Comedy House Party III
18? (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Fight
Night: Hellraiser II 18 (Hindi
Subtitles) 3:30 After Dark: Ju-
dicial Consent 18 (Hindi Subtitles)
5:30 Action: Gun Crazy 18 (Hindi
Subtitles)

ZEE TV

Rajni Khanna Special 6:30
Bac: the Man Ke 7:30 Sur Sar-
gam 8:30 Guzara Hua Zamana
9:30 Dance Dance 10:30 Lakhani
Advac: Booking 11:00 Zero Se
Hero 11:30 Asha Bhonsle Special
Kar 12:00 Shashikatha Special
1:00 Pyar Hi Pyar 2:00 Guzara
Hua Zamana 3:00 Fat Or Fit 3:30
Karm 4:00 Ten Bhi Chup, Meri Bhi
Chup 4:30 Moov Usha Uthup
Show 5:00 Society Navras 5:30
Devotional Music 6:30 Dharmen-
dra Special 7:30 Zuke Ka Safar
8:00 Jawab Do 8:30 Froth Its My
Choice 9:00 Wonder Wings Amar
Prem 9:30 Fantasy Kal Bh Aaj Bh
10:00 People's Club 10:30
Liberty Public Demand 11:30 Hit
Pass

PTV

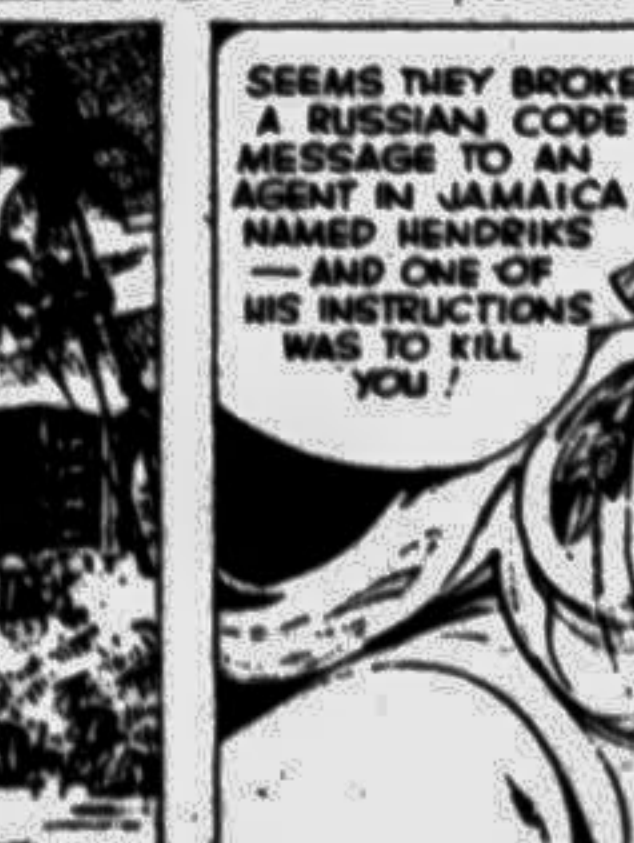
8:00am Tilawat Aur Tar-
juma/Ham/Naat 8:20 Cartoon
8:30 Khabram 8:45 Visitors Book
9:10 Pheol Khushboo 9:25 Das

tarjuman 9:40 Mehman 10:05
Aap Ki Anwar Maqsood 10:30
English Film: Tarzan 10:55 Milli
Naghma 11:00 Khabram 11:10
Meri Pasand 11:35 Janun 12:55
Duran-E-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah
1:15 Grind 2:05 Lazwal 'Ep-31'
2:55 Mussol-E-Insaaf & Sports
Coaching 3:20 TV Encyclopedia
3:40 Sports Time 4:05 Daastakar
5:05 Medicine 5:25 Computers
6:20 Adu Courses 7:00 English
News 7:20 PTV Music Library
7:30 Vesa Pakistan 7:55 Ghazal
Uss Naye Saree 8:25 Dentonic
World Of Sports 8:45 Anita 9:00
Break For Headlines News 10:00
Khabram & Commercial News
10:35 TBA 11:55 The Flash Point
1:05 Urdu Feature Film: Khas
Khabram: Close Down

SONY ET

8:30 am Kuch Dil Ne Kaha 9:00
Yaadon Ki Baraat 9:30 Cine Ma-
nus-Hindi Feature Film 12:30 Jagr

TOM and JERRY



VJ Nomi on Channel V today at 7:00 am



Wimbledon Lawn Tennis 1996 (live) on Star Sports at 10:30 am today

Bengal Tele Play Show 5:05
Dhruang Dhitang Bole 5:30 News
5:35 Urdu Kati Macha 6:00 Ankur
6:30 Western Classical Music
7:00 Saptahiki 7:30 Bangla Sam-
bad 8:00 Cher Cher 8:25 Urdu Kati
Machha 9:00 Polster Diary Thake
Dugurur Premier Gaan (Magazine)
10:00 Aparadhi 1:30 Gaan Sudhu
Gaan 2:00 Chalachchitre Rabin-
dronath 2:25 Prathinsa 3:30

ZEE CINEMA

8:30 Tarana 9:00 Hit Hui Fithai
9:30 Saima 12:15 Shooting
Shooting 12:45 Pyar Ka Rishra
3:30 Na Jane Kyon 4:00 Udhav
Ka Sindoor 6:45 Dist 8:30 Songs
10:00 Aag Hi Aag 12:15 Anban
12:45 Be Sharam