

HIGHER EDUCATION

Any Ray of Hope?

by Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman

THE recently-published 1994 BA (Hons) results of the candidates who took up English as their discipline of learning in the traditional system of the National University (NU) have already become a much talked-about issue.

Not only the students, but also the university colleges authorities that offer English were, reportedly, shocked and disappointed at the horrifying results, which in their opinion, are 'unbelievable'. One of these colleges, i.e. Eden Girls College, a leading government college of the country, the college reportedly decided to take up the matter with the NU, the university entrusted with the advanced studies in the country's colleges.

Indeed, the results in question can provoke thought and introspection as to what has really gone wrong that so many students suddenly failed at this level of study? A look at the results reveals that out of 363 examinees, only 127 could manage to get the Honours Degree (the percentage is 34) while 37 examinees got the BA (pass) Degree since 'they did not get the adequate marks to pass the BA (Hons) examination of 1994, but, nevertheless obtained the marks required to get a Pass-Certificate.' Out of those 127 who were awarded Honours, only 10 got Second Class and the rest 117 examinees were placed in the Third Class.

The college-wise result table shows that four each from Jagannath College, Dhaka and Eden Girls College, Dhaka got Second Class. The other two Second Class holders are the students belonging to Dhaka College, Dhaka and BM College, Barisal.

Forty-nine students of Jagannath College and 42 of Eden College could muster Third Class. The numbers are 9 and 17 for Dhaka College and BM College respectively. Sixteen students of Jagannath College got Pass degree and 11 from Eden College, 2 from Dhaka College and 8 from BM College were awarded the same.

It would be, perhaps, unfair if we say that justice was not done to the examinees, because those who come out from the colleges with Honours in English can seldom write reasonably correct English, let alone good English. As for their spoken ability, this writer does not want to make any comment.

But, can we blame the students only? True, they could not perform well in the exams and so they failed. Simple logic. But, are they solely responsible for their failure? Not really. Teachers are also responsible, in some cases their responsibility is much more than the students who could not jump over the hurdle of the Honours examinations. However, learned teachers never suffer. Sufferings are the inevitable fate of the unsuccessful candidates and also those who get Third Class.

Yet these students had to prove their credentials in the form of admission tests or marks obtained in their previous examinations to enter their respective colleges. And all of them secured reasonably good marks in English in their SSC and HSC examinations. After all by satisfying the authorities, they took admission in the colleges of their choice. So, can the prestigious colleges of the country, and for

that matter, the 'brahmins' among the government college teachers deny their responsibilities for the failure of their students?

It is generally said that the standard of our learners has drastically fallen after the Liberation of the country. It is also said that they do not take interest in learning. All they care to know is the technique to pass the examinations. Therefore, the quality of education has also fallen down. But, we are hardly aware of the fact, or, even if we are aware, we simply mumble over the aspect that here, too, teachers are responsible. It is the duty of the teacher to ignite the torch of knowledge in the minds of students. A teacher is the guide, friend and philosopher of his or her students. But, how many of our teachers believe in it? The commitment to duty is very important because teaching is never only a profession, it means much more than that. Unfortunately, this commitment is wanting in our teachers. They write guidebooks, an upgraded name for notebooks even for the Honours level students. But they do not guide them personally in the classrooms and it is what needed by our students at all levels.

In government colleges things become all the more complicated because of the absence of any hard and fast rule as regards teacher's transfers and placements. As a result, allegedly merit and performance are ignored and favouritism reigns supreme. It does not matter whether you have quality and all that needed to teach advanced level students. It only matters whether you have 'high connections'. Because of the existing system that fosters corruption generally less competent teachers are posted at the university colleges. A teacher teaching in an Honours college ought to be familiar with latest issues related to his/her subject. If he/she is a teacher of English literature he/she needs to have a firm command over the new trends in literary criticism which will enrich his/her deliberations. Students are also benefitted from such classes.

But, sadly enough, it isn't the case. Moreover, because of the highly arbitrary nature of transfer game, a teacher without Honours in the relevant subject can get posted in an Honours college. Again, teachers who used to teach only the HSC students before the nationalisation of their colleges, can get posted in a university college overnight without any experience.

Then of course there is the private tutelage system and teachers of English are in great demand. Most of the university college teachers remain busy in flourishing their money-making industry, neglecting duties. They do not read journals or magazines, nor they care to go to the library. Often you would hear them complaining that books are not available. The fact is that they even don't bother to study the available ones. The result is the 'fall' in the standard of education.

The pathetic results of the 1994 English Honours examinations send out a message to all of us. If we fail to decode the message, or deliberately neglect its importance, we will soon encounter a total wasteland without any ray of hope.

Security and Services During the Hajj Season of 1416 AH

Improvement Needed

by ABMG Kibria

doned by their group leaders. It is wrong to put the guests of Allah to serious inconvenience either in their own country or in Saudi Arabia.

Between 1975 to 1985, I have had the good fortune of visiting KSA several times. After eleven years, Allah gave me another opportunity to visit during 1996 Hajj season. I am not a religious scholar nor an official Hajj guide. I cannot think of writing a book on rites of attending Hajj. But I have observed this year and also in the past some of the man-made impediments which cause serious strain upon the minds of the pilgrims. On reaching Jeddah, the pilgrims are put under the charge of inexperienced, very often rude servants or drivers of Moallems. From the time of landing, they are at the mercy of the Moallems and the drivers. Many of the pilgrims continue to suffer in silence during the journey to Makkah. Minna Arafat, Muzdalifah, Makkah as well as on their return journey to Jeddah, Bangladesh Hajj Mission at Makkah and Madinah can do

with my comments.

The Saudi authorities are keen to identify the positive and negative aspects of the security services in order to extend and upgrade the services as well as to eliminate the negative aspects. This matter should be given serious consideration by our religious ministry as well as by Saudi authorities. The security and services cover areas are: a) security measures and services of arrival; b) At the Holy Mosque at Makkah Mokarramah; c) at Arafat; d) at Muzdalifah; e) at Mina; f) at Prophet's Holy Mosque at Madinah Munawarah; g) in Madinah Munawarah; h) health security; i) psychological security; j) food stuff sufficiency at all places visited by the pilgrims; k) security awareness; l) public opinion poll on security measures and arrangement during the Hajj.

The Saudi government including the security and service personnel have done amazing work during the Hajj season in solving the logistics problems related to influx of over two million pilgrims. All

the pilgrims and tell them the procedure from the beginning to the end. People, particularly the non-Arabs feel bewildered when confronted with abrasive manners and harsh attitude of the airport personnel including those of the Moallems. The passports were impounded without a receipt at the time of delivering Moallems' cheque for SR. 879.00. The passports were made over to the driver of the bus in a sack who delivered them to the office of Moallems in Makkah on arrival. After a couple of days, Moallems issued an ID card. While leaving for Madinah, airline tickets were again taken away by Moallems.

The bus driver delivered the passport and tickets at the service office in Madinah. The pilgrims had to go again to take delivery of their tickets for reconfirmation. Before departure from Madinah, they had to go to that office for a chit which had to be shown to the bus office (Tankul Hijra) in Madinah. The passports were sent to the bus office from the service office which were checked before issuing boarding pass. The passengers, ar-

baggages from the bus roof. Why could not they drop the passengers at the international airport in the morning to avoid hassle?

In both the Holy Mosques in Makkah and Madinah, women security personnel clad in black burkha rather frightened the women pilgrims from South Asian countries by their attitude and manners. They made a sort of frightful sound with folded prayer mats which resembled the crack of a horse-whip. They were unable to do anything to Egyptians, Palestinian and other Arab pilgrims. I do not understand why they virtually yelled unnecessarily in the Holy Mosque in Makkah.

It is difficult to give opinion on security aspect including quality of services unless one has a chance to examine the operation plan as a whole. I had seen the security personnel (Askaris) on roads and highways carrying revolver not properly secured by means of a lanyard or a leather band, while others appeared to be carrying weapons more powerful than Bretta or Sten to face

and polite in dealing with the pilgrims.

2) A simple monograph should be developed to teach the Saudi personnel what to avoid.

3) English, French, Urdu and Bengali speaking volunteers properly trained should be mobilised at the ports of entry and strategic locations to help especially the non-Arabs in overcoming physical and psychological pressure after long and arduous journey.

4) Computer networking system should be set up at the airport or port of entry which will record all information related to the pilgrims and simultaneously transmit the information to the checkpoints, pilgrims centres, Moallems' office and even to bus office in Madinah or elsewhere. This will make seizure of passports and tickets quite unnecessary. At all points, the concerned officials may verify the passengers within the bus from the computer print-out.

5) Moallems' enclosure at the airport be abolished altogether or more personnel engaged to receive cheques and for documentation. They can sit behind immigration personnel and complete Moallems' formalities while immigration officers feed the computers with data. It will cut down time to a great extent. Computer data transmitted to Moallems' office in Makkah will enable them to prepare ID cards and wrist bands well ahead of time and deliver as soon as the pilgrims reach their office.

6) Receipt to passport holders should be given at the time of impounding their passports and the procedure explained verbally or in writing in languages they understand.

7) Transport arrangement at all places and toilet facilities particularly within enclosures of Moallems at Mina, should be further improved, and firmer control exercised over Moallems to avoid deliberate lapses.

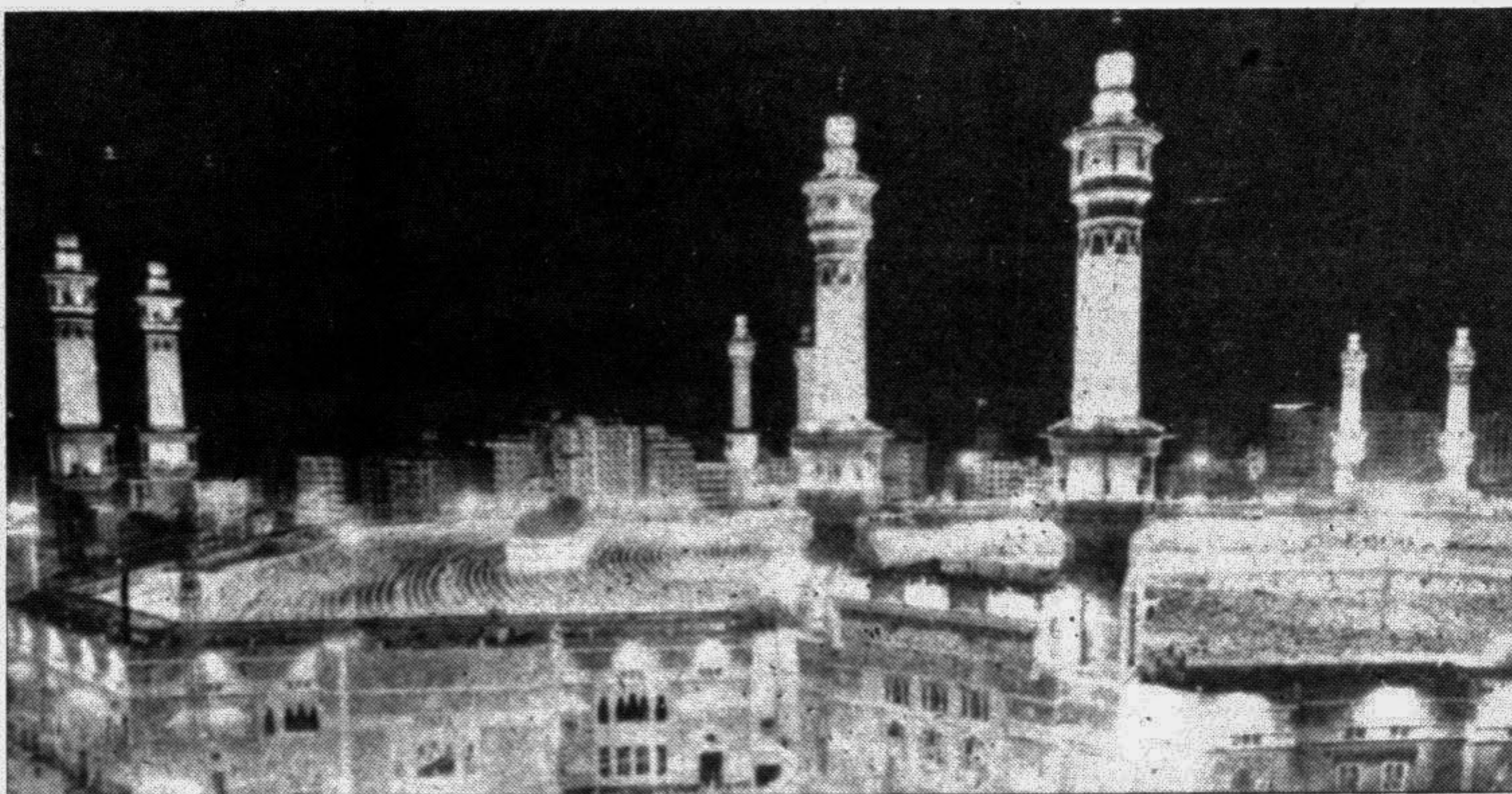
8) Drivers of vehicles carrying passengers should be discouraged from extorting money in the shape of 'bakhshish' and also the loaders at the bus and airport terminals not to press for 'fulus' against the declared policy of Saudi government.

9) Complaint centres should be opened at visible locations for relief against harassment or maltreatment. Details of procedure should be explained in Muslim and non-Muslim countries through media at the beginning of the Hajj season.

10) A helpful attitude should be developed in dealing with pilgrims. All personnel dealing with non-Arabs should temporarily forget the use of words like 'khalas', 'Bae', 'Bae', so forth and so on, summarily dismissing the pilgrim without giving a hearing.

11) An Islamic Multi-National Civilian Task Force (not exceeding 250 people) should be constituted under Saudi Command to see how the authorities manage and guide spectacular human movement during the Hajj and assist, if called upon to do so.

The article was written on 12th May, 1996. Hence the development subsequent to it could not be taken into consideration.



A general view of the Holy Mosque at Makkah after the completion of expansion work in 1995.

precious little to solve the problems. The Biman officials are also not available to help and guide the Bangladesh pilgrims during arrival or departure. I have seen Saudi and Indian airline officials helping the pilgrims with advice and guidance. Some of the problems known to Saudi authorities can be solved easily to reduce the physical and psychological pressure on the pilgrims coming from remote corners of the world.

Perhaps to understand the magnitude of this problem, a Saudi Researcher, Saad Audah Al-Raddadi, has prepared a questionnaire for surveying pilgrims opinions on 'security measures' taken and 'services rendered' during the Hajj season of 1416 AH. He is conducting this field survey in partial fulfillment of the requirement for a Ph. D dissertation on Hajj.

While at Madinah, I got a copy of the questionnaire which I sent back together

agencies concerned under the government deserve unequalled commendation for their multiple plans and implementation capacity.

When I visited KSA in 1975, I found the immigration personnel in the tin-shed airport sitting cross-legged on the tables and dealing with pilgrims. Although not in uniform, they appeared to be prompt and efficient. Now smartly dressed in Khaki, they sit on chairs and behind computers. But they gave the impression of arm-chair lungers. Some custom officials had their noses masked as if to avoid contamination from the pilgrims in Eham, proclaiming Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik.

After seven hours of flight from Dhaka on the night of 19/20 April, it took me five hours to go through all formalities - immigration, customs, and Moallems. It needed another three hours of waiting to get the bus to Makkah. There was no one to handle organ-

ized in the early morning of 10th May at Hajj terminal Jeddah. The driver left all the passengers on his seat without telling the passengers to pick them up. I was astounded to see a four digit number covering a portion of the photograph and signature on my passport. I never saw such a thing in the past. In 1981, I traveled to Europe from Jeddah for official purpose. I wonder whether this time I could travel to any European country with this kind of international passport having a number on the photograph and signature.

The Biman officials were not visible to advice and guide Bangladesh passengers at the Hajj terminal. Two of them were sitting at the counter. The whole night was spent on journey to Jeddah and the whole day wasted at the terminal. In the evening of 10th May, the passengers were taken to the international airport (Matarul Ajaneb). No porter was available to get the

unexpected situation caused probably by a terrorist. It is not a combat situation. Bretta or Sten can spray bullets killing or injuring innocent pilgrims and causing international hue and cry. The security personnel should only carry hand guns and as is required, make target practice every month to improve their shooting skills from different positions. While improving their uniform and deportment, they should also learn how to regulate crowd and deal with people in language other than abusive. It is, indeed, a difficult task but not impossible for KSA which has accomplished miracles in many fields. My respect for their development efforts and management ability has increased wondrously.

Some Suggestions

1) Necessary training and orientation course should be provided to the field staff everywhere to be more prompt

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Saturday 27th July

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

BTV

3:00pm Opening announcement
Al-Quran 3:10 Recitation from the Tirmidhi 3:15 Movie of the Week
4:00 News in Bangla 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Bantour: Folk Songs 6:00 News in Bangla 6:05 Shomachar : 6:30 Moner Mukure
7:00 News in English 8:00 News in Bangla 8:30 Matri-Manush: Programme Based on Agricultural Development 9:00 Anarban
Patnotic Feature 10:00 News in English 10:30 Shasthikatha
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 Newsnight 8:00 BBC World News 8:20 Window on Europe 9:00 BBC World News 9:05 Correspondent 10:00 BBC World News 10:20 The Arts 11:00 BBC World News 11:20 Window on Europe 12:00am BBC World News 12:05 Everyman 1:00 BBC World News 1:05 Portrait of Courage
Aung San Suu Kyi 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Summer Holiday 4:00 BBC World News 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 Blue Flag 7:00 BBC World News 7:20 This Week 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 Time Out: Building Rights 9:00 BBC World News 9:05 Correspondent 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Auction 11:00 BBC World News 11:20 This Week 12:00am BBC World News 12:20 The Art Marathon 1:00 BBC World News 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 The Art Marathon

CHANNEL V

8:30am Asian Top 20 VJ Name 10:30 Big Bang Weekend VJ Alessandra 12:30 Billboard Countdown 2:30 The Ride VJ Trey 3:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 4:00 House Of Noise VJ Luke 5:30(VI) 1:30pm The Vibe Weekend Featuring Luke Week Roger Taylor 6:30 The Vibe Weekend VJ Luke 8:00 BPL Oye! 9:00 The Ticket 9:30 The Best Of Time Pass 10:30 The Best of the Past 10:30 Videom Flashback 11:00 Queen Live At Wembley 12:00 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 VJ Alessandra 4:00 Frame by Frame

STAR PLUS

6:30am Voltron 7:00 Dungeons and Dragons 7:30 Around the World in 80 Days 8:00 Count Duckula 8:30 Saker Rider & The Star Sheriff 9:00 Capital Critters 9:30 Zoolia With Jack Hanna 10:00 Katts & Dog 10:30 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea 11:30

The Wild West 12:30 Movie: 'Modesty Blaise' 2:30 Movie Classics: 'Decameron Nights' 4:30 Return of TV Conserved Bloopers and Practical Jokes 5:30 Movie Television: 6:00pm Fantasy Island 7:00 Thailand Panorama 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 COPS 12:30 Mystery Movies: B L Stryker Part 6/12 Blues for Butler 2:30 Movie: Tanamera 4:30 Movie TV 5:00 The Sullivan 5:30 Wild Wild West

STAR Sports

6:00am Wild MCycle Champs-British GP H/L 6:30 Australian Football League Highlights 7:30 Sports India 8:30 World Wrestling Federation Main 9:30 NBA Inside Stuff 10:00 Gillette World Sport Special 10:30 The Asian Football Show 11:30 Cricket Week 12:00 Wild MCycle Champs-British GP H/L 12:30 Indian Football Federation Cup Pre-Quarters Churchill Bros vs ITI 2:30 1996 Pro Beach Soccer Marseille, France 4:00 ATP Tennis Miller Lite/Hall of Fame 2nd semi-Final 5:30 Football World 6:00 Inside PGA Tour 6:30 Asia Sport Show 7:00 Live Joan Jo
Progress The European Tour Dutch Open day 3 9:30 500 Formula One World Champ 10:30 1996 Omega Sailing Magazine 11:30 The Asian Football Show 12:30 Asia Sport 1:00 Wild MCycle Champs-British GP H/L 1:30 Inside PGA Tour 2:00 World Cup Classic Matches 1966 England vs Portugal Semi-Final 4:00 Australian Football League Highlights 5:00 This is the PGA Tour

STAR MOVIES

7:30 Film Club: Desperate Remedies 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Comedy: Way... Way Out PG? (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Family Just Like Dad? (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Comedy: Mermoids 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Family: Best Shot PG-13 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Western The Or-Bow Incident 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Romance Chances? (Hindi-Subtitles) 9:00 Bollywood 9:30 Battle Cries: The Blue Max 18 (Hindi Subtitles) 12:00 Thriller: Mirage 18 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Fright Night: Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare 18 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Comedy: Monty Python's Life of Brian 18 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Thriller: Best Seller (Hindi Subtitles)

ZEE TV

6:00 News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 A To Z Computer 8:30 All Out 9:00 Bouwnite Quiz Contest 9:30 Yo Namaste 10:00 Ad Mad Show 10:30 Gaane Anjaane 11:00 Shahi Dawat 11:30 Cartoons 12:00 Philips Top Ten 1:00 Tol Mol Ke Bol 1:30 Asian Sky Show 2:30 Neralac Ashiana 3:00 Positive Health Show 3:30 Zalka Ka Safar 4:00 No Problem 4:30 TVS So Re Ga Ma 5:00 Galaxize 6:00 Commander 6:30 Wah Keya Sin Hai 7:00 FLU 7:30 Sur Taul 8:00 Helpline 8:30 Mau 9:00 Asian Paints Yaadon Ke Rang 9:30 Tara 10:00 Tamara 10:30 The News Round Up 11:00 Ghanta Aana 11:30 Player's Gold Action Movie: HFF 1:30 Colgate Geli Foodie Yo 2:00 Shakti 2:30 Zee Arabia Arabic TMM 3:30 Zee Arabia Information: TMM

EL TV

6:30 Ched Chad 7:30 Music Time 8:30 Taranne Aur Fasane 9:30 Best of the Best 10:30 Lakhani Adventure Booking 11:30 Zero Se Hero: Anupam Kher Show 11:30 Karz 12:00 Special 01:00 Special 02:00 Special 3:00 Fat or Fit 3:30 Karm (Serial) 4:00 Tere V Chup 4:30 The Movie Uthay Uthay Show 5:00 Pichha Karo 05:30 Special 6:30 Special (Hit Gaani) 7:30 Zuka Ka Safar 8:00 Jawab Do 8:30 Frooti: My Choice 9:00 Amar Prem 9:30 Peoples Club 10:00 Sory Meni Lorry 10:30 Silsila 11:30 Special 12:00 Newsline 12:30 Dance Dance 1:30 Best of the Best 2:30 Tarana Aur Fasane 3:30 Music Time

PTV

8:00am Takawit Aur Tarjuma/Ham/Nast 8:30 Cartoon 8:30 Khabraan 8:45 Visitors Book 9:10 Phool Khushboo 9:25 Das Larkhwan 9:40 Mehman 10:05 Aap Ki Anwar Maqsood 10:30 English Film: Tarzan 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabraan 11:10 Meri Pasand 11:35 Janam 12:55 Duran-E-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Grind 2:05 Lazwal Ep-33 2:55 Hussain-E-Insaaf & Sports Coaching 3:20 TV Encyclopedia 3:40 Sports Time 4:05 Daastkari 5:05 Medicine 5:25 Computers 6:20 Adu Courses 7:00 English News 7:20 PTV Music Library 7:30 Virsa Pakistan 7:55 Ghazal Us Naye Sairan 8:25 Dastgah World Of Sports 8:45 Ansta 9:00 Break For Headlines News 10:00 Khabraan & Commercial News

10:35 TBA 11:55 The Flash Point, 1:05 Urdu Feature Film: Khas Khasan Close Down

SONY ET

8:30 am Kuch Dil Ne Kaha 9:00 Yaadon Ki Baarati 9:30 Cine Mats

nee-Hind Feature Film: 12:30 Chantarkar 1:09 Siddhi 1:30 Kaash 2:00 Sunday Ki Sunday 2:30 The Nirlep Rassi Show 3:00 Khoya Khoya Chand 3:30 Movie Mania 4:30 Humse Barker Goo 5:00 Rangela Re 5:30 Mere Massage Meri Geet 6:00 Aana 6:30 Video CD Premier 7:00 Good Shot 7:30 Jai Bhai Hanuman 8:00

Suri Wheel Of Fortune 8:30 Cine Prime-Hindi Feature Film 11:30 Fortune Hunter 12:30 Humse Barker Goo 1:00 Hospital 1:30 Aahat 2:00 Kuch Dil Ne Kaha 2:30 Closed

DD 7

10:30 Janmadin 10:35 Movie Club

Film (Rep) Agni Sambhata 1:00 Movie Club Film (Rep) Aranya Niketan 1:30 Nijer Sange Dekha 2:00 Prathingsha 2:30 Bandhu Chale Bhalo 3:00 Kemon Aachen 3:30 Comedy Quiz 4:35 Movie Club Film (Rep): Bandhu 5:00 Jishu 5:30 Nijer Sange Dekha 6:00 Nriyan Dupure Premier Gaan 6:30 Prathingsha 7:00 Nandanki 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Dhitang

Dhitang Bole, 8:30 UJALA: Surer Asar 9:00 TBA 9:25 Classical Musir 10:00 Drama 10:30 News and Bengali Sambad

ZEE CINEMA

8:00 Anokha 11:15 Meri Jaana 2:30 Boon Jo Ban Gaya 6:00 Yado Ki Baraat 9:30 Qurban 12:30 Hawan 3:45 Farishtay

TOM and JERRY



James Bond

