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The Daily Star invites its readers to participate in the following Internet discussion groups by sending or faxing Internet posts to: M. Shamimuzzaman, Page-in-Charge, "Live from the Internet", The Daily Star, House # 11, Road # 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. We will mail your letters to the Internet and responses will be published the following week. Letters should be titled and be no more than 100 words.

Bangladesh

Bumpers and Ghosts

M. Zahedul Anwar
Reader, The Daily Star
DOHS, Dhaka:

The Home Ministry has passed a diractive to put off all sorts of bumpers from car, jeeps, microbus, bus etc. To me it is illogical but of course to the dicision makers in the Ministry it's very much logical.....

We hope, this government at least will follow the logic and will not be guided by the ghosts of Ministry who always misguide and pull the trigger keeping the gun on other's shoulder.

Mahmud Alam
hwre@ix.netcom.com
USA:

The decision by the Ministry prohibiting the use of bumpers is just another manifestation of the morons that somehow make their way into decision making positions in the Bangladesh government. Maybe they will realize that bumpers are not cosmetic items but are put there for safety. Maybe be, if we collectively bribe the minister that made this ruling, we can buy him ,his family and his corrupt underlings, so they can spend there time in Singapore and leave the hard-working citizens of Bangladesh alone. Maybe these people will realize that there are other more necessary work that needs to be done in the transportation sector than the bumpers. Bangladesh is already a basket case. While our neighbours are on their way to a better economy, we are saddled with sweaty money grubbing assholes making whimsical decisions. Do we still need to make fools of ourselves with such idiotic rulings?

September By-polls

A. R. Choudhury
Reader, The Daily Star
Uttara, Dhaka:

...In a densely populates zone, it is humanly impossible for a polling agent to know all faces with description, more complex in case of female voters. A by-pole makes it more, as people from non poll areas can infiltrate.

In such a case ID card is an ideal solution. As per last CEC, ID-car could be issued to all if 6th JS poll held during April 96 or later. But for some unknown reasons that project has been kept at a low key. It will be better if EC can issue ID cards to all by-poll area voters before poll. Since huge public money has been allocated, the government has a duty in this regard....

Manir
Manir@ncds.anu.edu.au
Australia:

I think the reason for not pursuing the project of issuing ID card is not unknown. It is a simple matter of finance which our govt is sufficiently short of.

Mak Kalam
makn@msg.ti.com
USA:

What about the Bill which is trying to do away with ID Cards for voters? Is getting rid of the ID card a better system to prevent fraud in election?

Baggage Loss on Biman

A.Mitra
mitra@eden.rutgers.edu
USA:

Hi People. Is there any truth to the rumor I've been hearing that baggage loss is very often experienced by passengers going to India on Bangla Biman? Someone told me that the airline often sends all baggage to Bangladesh instead of to India, thus delaying the reciept of luggage for passengers disembarking at Delhi.

Hassan Monu Alam
hassan@shell.portal.com
USA:

Luggage handling in the whole region is weak. Friends of mine have had bags pilfered in Dhaka and Delhi on Thai. Suspect is more the ground staff than the airline per-se though airline employees may be in on it.

Rishi Bhattacharjee
rishinet@postoffice.ptd.net
USA:

My idea of Bangladesh Biman is this friends: Even if I am getting a free ticket to India thru Dhaka with Bang Biman, I would refuse it. The experience my wife had while travelling alone thru Dhaka at the hands of the biman officials, is indescribable. She was ignored, verbally heckled, taken to the point of confusion where she had to resort to crying. Her passport was taken away, tickets not validated (already 36 hrs late becaoz of Gulf air) and she was not even given the meal coupons which are supposed to give her the B'fgast, lunch and dinner. A combo of Gulf Air, Bang Bim ---- Stay away. Even if u get one of them -- stay away.

This is an experience and not a fabrication. But, this paragraph is also a suggestion.

Bangladesh

Macca from the USA

Rubaiet
mhossan@wrri.nmsu.edu
USA:

From this information (if I am correct) I don't find any logic to pray in the North-East direction. I think we should pray in a direction between East and South-East or at least in the East.

I argued with an Arab student, who some times become Imam about this matter, but he says that all the people of the USA pray in the North-East direction.

In which direction you are praying?

Zillur Rahim
zxr@holditch.com
USA:

It is the calculation and the consensus of the Muslim scholars of North America that the shortest distance from here to Makkah is North East. The direction faced should be the shortest distance and hence it is North East. There are numerous publications by Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) and Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) describing all calculations and the validity of this direction.

Yes, just by looking on the globe it may seem different. Take a thread, place it between NY and Makkah, for example, in both directions (one through NE, the other directly through E or SE) and see which is shorter.

Education and Politics

iubat@ns1.bangla.net
Bangladesh

A student's main duty is to earn knowledge at his or her educational institute. No body should insist them to learn how to use fire arms insted of how to use a pen. It is really a matter of deep pain and sorrow that in our country some political parties intentionally use the stundents as their private army and this way destroying their educational as well as their social life.

As a student I want to know, when this process will be stopped? They are saying that they are against terrorism; but they are creating terroists in the name of politics. PLEASE DON'T DESTROY OUR FUTURE IN THIS WAY!

Bangladesh Tornado Records

Jonathan Finch
jfinch@ROSSBY.METR.OU.EDU
USA:

Does anyone know how to get records of significant tornados in Bangladesh? Or extreme east India. Anyone know any dates?

Metric System

E-me.com@juno.com
USA:

Does anyone know what are the other countries that still don't use the metric system? I know that the US doesn't, but what are the other two countries? Have they already converted to the metric system? I've heard all sorts of place (Madagascar, Bangladesh, Andorra, Algier, Mongolia, etc) Can someone confirm this for me? Thanks.

Motorcycle Travel in Asia

John Forwood
coe-jcf@jcu.edu.au
Australia:

I have just returned from a trip through Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand from Australia by motorcycle. Any others who have travelled extensively overseas by motorbike let me know for contacts. Also am continuing to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Greece 31 Dec 96. Any assistance in planning this trip would be apreciated. Round the world in 7 years

Looking for Friends

Kristopher K. Maeda
kmaeda@csupomona.edu
USA:

Hello!

I am a Japanese male student in the U.S., California. I would very much like to have a friend from Bangladesh. I am particularly interested in the religion, Islam. If anyone interested, please reply this message to me. Thanks!!!!

Tel: (310)380-4941
Fax: (909)595-7708
Address: 382 N. Lemon Avenue
Walnut
CA 91789-2344

Cyberspace

Cyberspace Sends Politics 'Back to the Future

Arlene Getz
apgetz@aol.com
Boston, USA

This year's US presidential campaign is significant for raising the curtain on a new age of politics by Internet. In her latest cyberspace column for Gemini News Service, Arlene Getz reports that the global computer network can give voters greater access to politicians and debate — offering a return to democratic roots.

The road to the White House in 1996 will pass through a new state, veteran United States Senator Edward Kennedy said recently about November's presidential election.

"You can call it the cyberstate," he explained during a panel discussion at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. "In the process, America will enter a new stage of politics unlike any ever seen before."

This year's presidential race is the first major US election campaign to be fought in the age of the global computer network, the Internet. While cyberspace politics is certainly new, many people believe the system offers a way back to an earlier, more participatory form of democracy in which voters have greater access to candidates and debate.

Kennedy pointed out that politicians saw the advantages of campaigning on the Internet when an experimental link-up a few weeks before the 1992 election attracted thousands of requests for information.

This year's campaign has seen an explosion of election-related material on the Internet's World Wide Web information market. Most politicians — from presidential candidates to town councillors — have set up sites (electronic information stalls) to spread their views.

Visitors are invited to try their hand at balancing the federal budget or to send electronic mail about issues they think the party should address at its forthcoming convention.

There is a "cafe", where patrons can study a menu listing the shortcomings of Democratic President Bill Clinton's term of office. There is also a "town hall", where Conservative types can meet to discuss the news of the day; a "school" and a "post office". Non-partisan organisations are also using the Net to provide political information.

PoliticsNow (sic), a service provided by several media organisations, is promising visitors "virtual delegate" status at party conventions. Users will be able to "chat" on-line to politicians and vote in opinion polls on convention issues such as whether they approve of Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole's yet-to-be-announced running mate.

Keen voters like it because they can obtain more detailed, non-intrusive political information than they get in a 30-second television commercial. And they do not have to contact campaign headquarters or suffer the inconvenience of a pushy telephone canvasser.

For politicians, the ability to reach millions of people at minimal cost improves their prospects for winning support and raising funds.

The chance to discuss issues with candidates and other voters in electronic chat rooms may give users the feeling they have breached the walls of remoteness — opening the door to a more traditional, small-town form of democracy.

In one early confrontation between presidential candidates John Kennedy and Richard Nixon in 1960, the latter's appearance — grey suit against grey background, and a strained look after a busy day aggravated by pain from a knee injury — cost him votes and tipped the election against him.

The Internet could change that. Its capacity for transmitting almost limitless amounts of information should allow users to focus more on political substance rather than frills such as haircuts and sound-bites.

As long as the Internet remains an elite medium restricted to those with high-tech computer equipment, it cannot be the springboard for new grassroots movements. But the 1996 election is the first stage — the dawn of a new era.

Magic

Copperfeild

Magikmax
magikmax@aol.com
USA:

I'd really like to find out how copperfield flys, as i'd like to try a similar principle for a close up rutine, any help would be most appricated, :)

Bunji
bunji@marsweb.com
USA:

Actually, all of the snacks at the theater that night was laced with LSD, so instead of making the audience believe that THEY can fly, he suggestes that he can fly and they believed it. The reason that we at home "Saw him fly" was because the Camera man had a couple of Snicker bars.

Homer

Closeuppad
closeuppad@aol.com
USA:

I've heard so much about Homer's pass!! Chris Kenner told me that he can do "Shifty" using the pass!!! I'm a pass-a-holic and I can't imagine what that looks like!!! I was told that Ken Krenzel's pass is the best, though.

Chad Long
longc@america.com
USA:

You should see Chris Kenner do the 'Malone Shift'. It was the best I've ever seen. He put my card in the middle of the deck, squared it, and then SLOWLY turned over the top card to reveal my selection. I picked my jaw up off the floor, went to the nearest bar, and exchanged legal tender for an extra large libation...

Jim Finger and Kathleen Kovach
imagique@ix.netcom.com
USA:

Those two really are doing it right... when I saw them in Vegas, Kenner's hand was hurt, but he still did it right. Wow!!!

Gambling Items

strin@cpcn.com
USA:

A year or so ago, I watched a man in a local bar make a lot of money by spinning a metal dreidel in an empty glass ash tray. The dreidel had markings on it such as "Add 2", "Take 1", "1 Win", etc. He set himself up at a table with several others: each would spin the dreidel and add or subtract dollar bills according to how it landed.

I had the distinct impression this little device was rigged somehow, but never could figure it out. If anyone knows how this metal dreidel works, I'd be most grateful if you'd e-mail me the secret. (I lost $4 and bailed out....)

Animation

Cartoons and Children

Ira Zimmerman
warnerbros@earthlink.net
USA:

Experts believe that the comic portrayal of stuttering teaches children to bully children who stutter because it's the fun thing to do. As a child I stuttered and Porky did bother me until other kids started to bully by calling me P-P-Porky. These cartoons were not created for children.

Jim Bennie
jgbennie@vcn.bc.ca
Canada:

Children bully children because they're jerks. They've been doing to before the invention of cartoon pigs and will do so even if the PCers (bullies of another sort, BTW) eliminate cartoons from the screens of TV worldwide. To suggest destroying every Porky Pig cartoon will end bullying of stutterers is ludicrous. "Experts" indeed!

What next? Eliminating all cartoon characters who wear glasses to stop bullies from taunting "Four-eyes".

I got bullied as a kid. What kid didn't? The only way to deal with bullies is ignoring them, not blaming their anti-social behaviour on cartoon characters.

Disclaimer

The Internet is a global medium of communication and expression. It is free from all sorts of censorship and restrictions. It is truly a PEOPLE'S FORUM.

The opinions expressed in these columns are the author's own as they appear to all receivers of the Internet. We reproduce them authentically to permit our readers to know what Bangladeshis abroad are feeling and saying.

The Daily Star is not responsible for the opinions expressed in these columns. — Editor.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Wednesday 28th August
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary **3:10** Recitation from the Geeta **3:15** Retelecast of Selected Programme **4:00** News in Bangla **4:15** Sports Programme **4:45** Tagore Songs **5:00** News in Bangla **5:25** Moner Katha **6:00pm** News in Bangla **6:05** Hijal Tamal **7:00** The News **7:05** Open University **7:25** Nriter Tale Tale **8:00** News in Bangla **8:30** Chhaya Chhando **9:00** Mini Series Shin Totsukawa Stony **10:00** News in English **10:30** Shasthatatha Health Programme based on Child & Mother **10:35** Badan Hara **11:30** News in Bangla **11:35** Thursday's programme **11:40** Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC Newsroom inc World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours **9:00** BBC World Headlines **9:05** Madness **10:00** BBC Newsday **1:00** BBC World Headlines **1:05** Horizon **2:00** BBC World News **2:30** Time Out The Travel Show **3:00** BBC World News **3:30** Time Out Building Sights **4:00** BBC Newsdesk **6:00pm** BBC World News **6:15** Panorama **7:00** BBC World News **7:15** World Business Report **7:30** BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific **8:30** Time Out Airport **9:00** BBC World Headlines **9:05** Madness **10:00** BBC World News **10:30** Time Out Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld **11:00** The World Today **1:00** BBC World Headlines **1:05** White Heat **2:00** BBC World News **2:30** Time Out Raymond's Blanc Mange **3:00** BBC World Report inc World Business Report/24 Hours **5:00** BBC World News **5:10** Newsnight

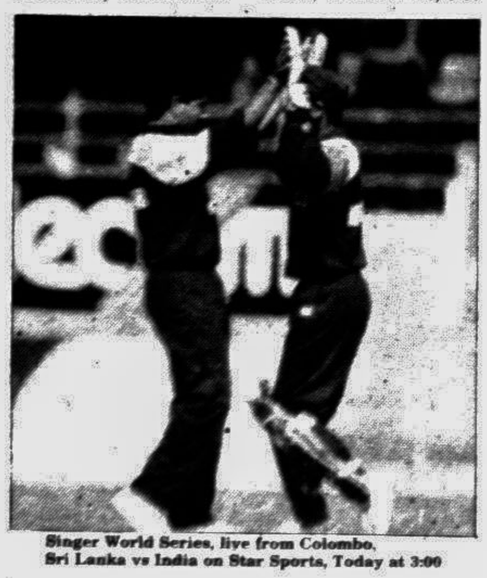
CHANNEL V

6:30am Frame by Frame **7:00** Rewind VJ Sophiya **8:00** Jump Start VJ Trey **9:00** Frame by Frame **11:00** The Vibe VJ Luke **12:00** By Rewind VJ Sophiya **1:00** By Demand VJ Trey **2:00** Frame by Frame **2:30** First Day First Show **3:00** Palmolive Extra Time Pass **4:00** Planet Ruby **4:30** By Demand VJ Trey **5:30** Rewind VJ Sophiya **6:30** Big Bang VJ Alessandra **8:00** Planet Ruby **9:00** The Vibe **9:30** Sansui Mangta Hai **10:00** First Day First Show **10:30** Soul Curry **11:00** House Of Noise VJ Luke **12:00mn** Big Bang VJ Alessandra **1:00** Haysah **2:00** By Demand VJ Trey **3:00** Big Bang VJ Alessandra **4:30** V Spot **5:30** Speak Easy

Pierce Brosnan Double Bill:Live Wire on Star Movie, Tonight at 9:30

STAR PLUS

6:30am Voltron **7:00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles **7:30** G I Joe **8:00** Saber Rider and The Star Sherrif **8:30** The Adventures Of Black Beauty **9:00** Aerobics Oz Style **9:30** Nanny and the Professor **10:00** Mr Belvedere **10:30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **11:00** E! Extreme Close Up Thomas Calabro **11:30** Gabrielle **12:30** Santa Barbara **1:30** The Bold & The Beautiful **2:00** The Oprah Winfrey Show **3:00** Remington Steele **4:00** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4:30** E! Extreme Close Up Thomas Calabro **5:00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles **5:30** The Adventures Of Black Beauty **6:00pm** Lost in Space **7:00** Home and Away **7:30** Charles in Charge **8:00** MASH **8:30** The Golden Girls **9:00** Empty Nest **9:30** NYPD Blue **10:30** The Bold & The Beautiful **11:00** Santa Barbara **12:00mn** The Rock from the Sun **12:30** The Extraordinary **1:30** Picket Fences **2:30** E! Extreme Close Up Thomas Calabro **3:00** The Oprah Winfrey Show **4:00** Hooperman **4:30** Home And Away **5:00** The Sullivans **5:30** Gabrielle



Singer World Series, live from Colombo, Sri Lanka vs India on Star Sports, Today at 3:00

STAR Sports

6:00am Live US Open Tennis 1996 From Flushing Meadow, New York, USA Day 2 Night Time Session Men's Doubles Round 1 **9:00** 1996 Pro Beach Soccer New Brighton **10:00** The European Tour Volvo German Open H/L **11:30** US Open Tennis 1996 From Flushing Meadow New York USA Day 2 Night Time Session **3:00** Live 1996 Singer World Series From Colombo India vs Sri Lanka **11:00** Live Join In Progress US Open Tennis 1996 From Flushing Meadow New York USA Day 3 Men's Round 1 Women's Round 2 **2:00** Prime Boxing **4:00** World Superbike Championship 1996 From Sugo Japan

STAR MOVIES

7:30am World Cinema Cria Cuervos 15 (English Subtitles) **9:30** [illegible] Mr Robinson Crusoe 12 **10:30** Family Prince Valiant The Trust **11:30** Family What's Eating Gilbert Grape? 15 (Hindi Subtitles) **1:30** Family Touch Of Truth (Hindi Subtitles) **3:30** Adventure Anything To Survive 15? (Hindi Subtitles) **5:30** Western The Cisco Kid 12 (Hindi Subtitles) **6:45** Bool Bollywood **7:30** Pierce Brosnan Double Bill Mr Johnson 12 (Hindi Subtitles) **9:00** The Movie Show **9:30** Pierce Brosnan Double Bill Live Wire 18 (Hindi Subtitles) **11:00** India Star Five **11:30** Action Alien Nation 18 (Arabic Subtitles) **1:30** Thriller Silence Of The Lambs 18 (Arabic Subtitles) **3:30** Film Club Bride Of The Monster 12 (Arabic Subtitles) **5:30** Comedy White Men Can't Jump 18 (Arabic Subtitles)

ZEE TV

5:30 Sur Tal **6:00** The News **6:30** Jagran **7:00** ZED **8:30** Through The Gears **9:00** Helpline **9:30** Gaane Anjaane **10:00** Lakme Khubsurat **10:30** No Problem **11:00** Manasi **11:30** Hum Paanch **12:00** Sur Taal **12:30** Tanaav **1:00** ZED **1:30** Asian Sky Shop **2:30** Tara **3:00** Filmi Chakkar **3:30** Celeste **4:00** Bhajans **4:30** Namaste India **5:00** ZED **5:30** Hum Zameen **6:00** Cartoon **6:30** All Out For No Loss **7:00** Lijjat Khana Khazana **7:30** Gaane Anjaane **8:00** Rasna Spread Ek Minute **8:30** Mr Minto **9:00** 17 Shirley Road **9:30** Banegi Apni Baat **10:00** Parampara **10:30** The News **11:00** The Dream Merchants **11:30** Aap Ki Adalat **12:00** Sailab **12:30** Campus **1:00** Hasratein **1:30** TBA **2:00** Suno Suno Tring Tring **2:30** TMM **4:00** Parivartan **4:30** Insight **5:00** Jagran

PTV

8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat **8:20** Cartoon **8:30** Khabrain **8:45** Mansoobajaat Barai Khud Kafalat **9:00** Sur Savana & Sehra Ka Safar & Sada-E-Kasmir **9:40** Shana Ba Shana **9:50** Aaj Ki Kitaab+Alk Nazm **10:05** Boor Kay Ladoo **10:30** English Film Chip And Dale **10:55** Milli Naghma **11:00** Khabrain **11:10** Ali Baba (Drama Serial) **11:35** Naghmazaar (Drama Serial) **12:00noon** Urdu Khail **12:55** Quran-e-Hakeem **1:02** Bismillah **1:15** Gichain (Drama Serial) **2:00** Inteha (Drama Serial) **2:50** The Earth Revealed **3:20** Araishi Puday **3:40** Natural World **4:35** How Things Work **5:00** Yeh Mumk in Hae **5:25** Hamara Sehat **5:55** Kitab Quiz **6:25** Aiou Courses **7:00** Taranum **7:05** Felix The Cat **7:30** Such Gup **7:45** English News **8:00** Morven Gold Raceday **8:25** Jawan Rang **8:55** PTV Gold **9:00** Break for Headline News **9:20** Aap Ki Anwar Maqsood **10:00** Khabarnama & Commercial News **11:00** Tes Aasmaan **12:00** NYPD Blue **12:45** Khas Khas

SONY ET

8:30 Rangeela Re **9:00** The Three Stooges **9:30** Dennis The Menace **10:00** I Dream Of Jeannie **10:30** Aaina **11:00** Faasiee **11:30** Cine Matinee Hindi Feature Film **2:30pm** Kismat **3:00** Zamin Asman **3:30** Mere Message Meri Geet **4:00** Surf — Wheel Of Fourtune **4:30** Ghaav **5:00** Sunday Ki Sunday **5:30** The Three Stooges **6:00** Mere Message Meri Geet **6:30** Dennis The Menace **7:00** Premier **7:30** I Dream Of Jeannie **8:00** Surf — Wheel Of Fortune **8:30** Faasle **9:00** Ghaav **9:30** O Maria **10:00** Janee Kaha Mera Jigar Gaya Ji **10:30** Cine Prime Hindi Feature Film **1:30** Mere Mess[illegible] Meri Geet **2:00** Prem[illegible]

DD 7

10:30 Janmatin **10:35** Classical Music **11:00** Folks Song **11:15** Adhunik Gaan **11:30** Classical Music **12:30** Chalti Hawa **1:00** Janani **1:30** TBA **2:30** Amake Dekhun **3:30** Parampurush Sri Ramkrishna **5:05** Nepali Programme **5:30** News **5:35** Chiching Fank **6:00** Palli Katha **6:30** Jay Jayanti **7:00** Drama Bhanga Boned **7:30** Bangla Sambad **8:00** Viewers Forum **8:20** Light Instrumental **8:30** Darpan **9:00** Janani **9:30** Pratibingsha **10:00** Bengali Movie Club Film Show **1:00** Closed

EL TV

00:30 [illegible] **1:30** Kishore Kumar special **2:30** Ajeeb Dastaan **3:30** Hit Pairs **4:30** Jazbaal **5:30** Love Love Love **6:30** Kishore Kumar Special **7:30** Ajeeb Dastaan **8:30** Hit Pairs **9:30** Jazbaal **10:30** Zandu Balm Dance Mania **11:00** V3+ **11:30** Karm **12:00** People's Club **12:30** Upanyas **1:00** Amitabh Bachan Special **2:00** Geet Bahar **3:00** Godrej Storwel Filmi Chaat **3:30** Sorry Meri Lorry **4:00** Gambler **4:30** Liberty Public Demand **5:30** Bacche Man Ke **6:30** Sur Surgam **7:30** Intezaar **8:00** Song Yatra **8:20** Haseen Pal **8:30** Teri Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup **9:00** Moov Usha Uthup Show **9:30** Wonder Wings Amai Prem **10:00** Top Of The Tops **10:30** Stand By **10:40** Silsila **11:00** Chehre **11:30** Number 1 **12:00** Daane Anar Ke

ZEE CINEMA

6:30 Tarana **7:00** TBA **9:00** Movies Masti Magic **9:30** Bhai Behen (Sunil Dutt Nutan) **12:15** Filmi Chakkar **12:30** Resham Ki Dori (Dharmendra Saira) **3:15** Songs **3:45** Choti Bahen (Rajendra K Nanda) **6:30** Chamak Halo (Punjabi) **9:15** Songs **10:00** Aan Milo Sajna **12:45** Khotey Sikey (Feroz K Rehana S) **3:30** Aaj Anadi Kal Khiladi **4:00** Dil-E-Nadan (Rajesh K Jaya P Shatrungha S)

TOM and JERRY

James Bond

BY IAN FLEMING
DRAWING BY NORAK