

Bangladesh

Foreign Investment and Internet

Latif Ehsan
latif@uj.ac.jp
Japan

I just want to attract government attention to one crucial point. The present government seems to be determined to attract foreign investment. We, the Bangladeshis living outside, now find some rays of hopes. It seems to me that the government is not utilizing Internet properly.

Government should establish homepages for Export Promotion Bureau, Board of Investment. These organizations must have email connection so that foreigners can directly contact them. I think these should be done on priority basis.

Bangladesh: Tiger of Asia!

AJM Abdur Rouf
arouf@upmt.edu.my
Malaysia:

Our honourable Prime Minister comments that "Through investment Bangladesh will be economically booming - Tiger of Asia." The reality is that in South East Asian zone - Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia already made tremendous success in proving themselves to attract billions of foreign investment. And these countries economy are day by day getting better and better e.g. Malaysian GDP for last three years is above 8%, which is unthinkable for our country.

If really the present government is committed to make Bangladesh economically prosperous they have need serious overhauling in many areas including first and foremost is the political practice. They have to restore new political order by restraining themselves from casting political chaos and oblique comments and rivalry. Secondly, they have to take all initiative to make neutral the administration and law enforcing agency. 3rdly, deregulate the investment and financial law in line with the creating conducive environment for investment. Now the world is a competitive one. If investors find Vietnam, Malaysia more worthy and favourable for investment then why will they go to our country. So, time is running out. Still we have time to make our country really a economic tiger.

Bangladeshi Workers in Malaysia

Dr. Hossain Ishtiaq
polhossa@leonis.nus.sg
Singapore:

Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia, have recently made targets of criticism in that country as one major source of social ills. In recent weeks, Malaysian newspapers have carried articles on the simmering anti-foreign worker feelings among locals, who blame them for social problems and crime. Delegates at the UMNO also latched on to the topic, feeling aggrieved that many Malaysian girls are marrying Indonesian and Bangladeshi workers.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim revealed statistics at the UMNO meeting clearly showing that there was no basis to those sentiments expressed in the Malaysian media. He presented the latest figures on armed robbery, rape and other serious and violent crime to dispel misconceptions that the culprits were mainly foreign workers.

Mourn News

Md. Rezaul Karim
rkarim@shakai.social.tsubuka.ac.jp
Japan:

Recently, we have lost a Bangladeshi (Japanese Govt. Scholarship) Scholar here in Japan. We all are very shocked about the incident. The following news contains details of the sad incident.

We mourn over the death of Azizul Haq, a Monbusho (Japanese Govt., Ministry of Education) scholar. Mr. Aziz, Lecturer of Pharmacy Dept., D.U. died last Friday (Inna lillahi...raje-un). He was found dead in his room of Kumamoto Univ. Int'l hostel. It is believed that he died of heart attack.

Azizul Haq was born in Sathia Thana, Pabna. He passed B.Pharm. and M.Pharm. with first class 2nd position in both from Dhaka University and joined as Lecturer in the department in 1993. He was the student of F.H. Hall.

He arrived in Japan on January of this year to study Pharmaceutics. He was married and a sweet girl born in the country while he was here. He was waiting for the arrival of his wife and kid in Japan. May Allah bless peace on Aziz (depart soul) and his family to withstand this heavy shock!

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.

Anwar Ghazi
ghazi_anwar@amat.com
USA:

Bangladesh

Why Sould Investors Come To Bangladesh

It is heart-warming to know that Bangladesh government has recognized the path to development is through market based economy. I am not sure if the leadership of the country understands the problems that deter foreign investment. Having worked in the United States for 17 years and in Singapore for 5 years, my experience tells me that investors ultimate goal is to make money. They look for good infrastructure (power, telecommunication, transportation), a well educated and disciplined work force, good law and order situation, good academic environment that produces skilled labor force in any country before they commit their dollars. Cheap labor solely is not a criteria without the above to attract foreign investment. Investors never go to a place with a charitable mind.

It is very easy to point fingers at former leadership for Bangladesh's ills. The current leadership is no angel. Just look back what path it followed to come to power. The past two year's country's economic destruction was no joke. Only a magnanimous leadership who transcend their personal goals and agenda can be great leaders. Look at Nelson

Mandela! He did not go after people who put him away for 30 years. The battle between the two Begums must stop. Bring civility if Bangladesh wants to be another asian tiger. I wonder if it will take an act of God to bring senses.

Arthur Hossain
arthur@primex.com.hk
Hong Kong:

I would like to thank Mr Ghazi Anwar for his comments, he has just spoken my heart. I am like other entrepreneurs share exactly similar idea about investment in Bangladesh. To tell the fact yes, I left Bangladesh quite early in search of education or else I could have been finished like my suffering younger in his University in Bangladesh. I am a political conscious person but never involved directly as it is meaningless for a student to care rather than study. I have finished my University and making my career in overseas as I can not afford to spoil my future. I think a successful entrepreneur could return to soci-

ety much more by creating more job opportunity than being engaged in dirty political business and for a student before finishing school it is the worst nightmare. What could be expected from a leader without academic qualification in return to society.

Like Mr Ghazi we are really not interested about those Begum's are always busy for punishing each other term by term. I myself with western partners investing in many other countries like China, creating much opportunity for hundreds people to work and production. We are sincerely interested to back our country Bangladesh we love but one condition we could not take any risk for our investment. We do not care who ever is governing the country as long as stability, security, infra-structure, communication, port facility, banking are there. We like any other investors are very closely watching what is going on in every part of the world looking for opportunity it could be India or Indonesia and Bangladesh could be a leading one.

I am totally agree with Mr Ghazi that cheaper labor is not the only factor for investment for example what I will do with cheaper labor if my factory closed for several days owing to this strike that strike: general hartal, we are sick of it. China is still under communist rule but each day receives several investors because investors mostly do not care much about communist or democratic or hypocrites or dictator, as long as security for investment return, production and environment facility.

Bangladesh only could be better if there are lot of new investment for massive infrastructure related to transportation, communication and above all political stability. To win investors heart it needs many years proven record not in a day or year but unfortunately our leaders to goes to "Lanka becomes Raban". So potential investors are running away to Vietnam or China or India etc. I have educated in several

countries and I never had any opportunity to practice any kind of political activity during schooling days. Bangladesh authorities should follow similar conditions strictly, corruption free civil service, strictly control general political activity (could learn from Singapore) when majority people out of food and basic clothing why need politics for them, create more jobs by overseas investment, reduce violent activity to public property introducing harsh punishment. (I saw during my trip to Bangladesh in 1990 burning buses when in Dhaka has few public old buses available). Spend major share of budget for education to teach vast illiterate majority. Good understanding with neighbors like India which could be most important partner for progress like open union

Europe today. Since Gandhi dynasty out of Indian power it is the time to have better understanding and cooperation. India is receiving good investment and GDP is growing tremendously Bangladesh could be also.

I like other overseas Bangladeshis have a great hope for Bangladesh we have a common language, race, cultural harmony, religiously tolerant with others. In past centuries Europeans used to visit Bangladesh for opportunity we could be again at least not to be the lowest position in all case, education, income, population, crime rate, political violence etc. We could be identified as a courageous nation not only fighting against natural climate but we are building a great nation with hope and prosperity. I am sure not only many successful Bangladeshis in overseas are coming home also coming along with foreign investors like Overseas Indians are one of the largest group investing in India now. May be it will not arrive in my life however, I hope next generation will have a second chance to return home, sweet home Bangladesh.

Obaid M. Choudhury
moual@ix.netcom.com
USA:

I would like to congratulate

M/s Ghazi and Hossain for their comments on the investment situation in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, many of us have a tendency to voice our support to the ruling elite irrespective of the merit of its policies and actions. We have seen a number of such write-ups/comments in this website in the recent past. The comments of M/s. Ghazi and Hossain and perhaps of many others which escaped my notice, are a deviation and devoid of any political or ideological bias; it came out of their natural love for the mother country--Bangladesh.

The poor country lost enough valuable years in fighting over the leadership and ideology, and in the process lost many of its beloved leaders. The fight continues between the two honorable ladies. The former PM though seems to be little tired and toned-down, perhaps what with her incessant fight with the tripartite opposition, especially during the closing months of her administration, and what with the kind of witch-hunting, rightly or wrongly, the current PM started against her. The two ladies may cite any reason for their respective actions in 1994, 1995 and until March 1996; the net result was the people suffered immensely and the country was on brink of total economic collapse.

One was adamantly holding on to power in the name of "constitutionality", while the other was bent upon unseating the former taking a destructive course in the name of "democracy". I at times wonder if the people, if not all of them, really had the chance to exercise their free franchise on June 12 and September 5, irrespective of all the high-sounding words and arrangements in "free and fairness". Otherwise, how could the election results be like this!

We all need some soul searching with a view to charting a befitting future and dedicating ourselves for the country we love and for the generations we care. Our leaders should extricate themselves from their ghostly past and concentrate on the present. They would do well by doing something for the poor people, who suffered so much so long, rather than wasting their time and energy on controversial and unproductive things of the past.

R. H. Zaki
zaki@atl.ac.th
Thailand:

The proposal for Electricity import from India is generating quite a heated debate in Bangladesh and it is understandable considering the geopolitics of South Asia in general, and AL-BNP rivalry on the burning question of sole agency of love & respect of the sovereignty of our beloved motherland in particular.

In East Asia or Europe, the phenomenon of any form of energy import (including electricity) from any part of the world (including from neighbouring countries) does not raise any controversy (except from environmentalist for a political reason). If we import electricity from India, our political independence will not at any kind of danger, but our energy dependence shall increase. But one must remember that we are already a net energy importing country (crude oil, diesel, petrol, coal etc.), and there is little or no realistic chance of reduction of this dependency unless we discover huge oil in the Bay of Bengal or in any other part of BG.

The best solution of meeting needs would be to invest in energy sector, heavily, by establishing new power plants, and transmission & distribution lines. We must not forget, in last 26 years of independence we have not achieved the economic power even to establish one big power plant by ourself (we do not have the money or technical knowhow).

It takes hundreds of millions of taka to establish for one power plant, not to speak about transmission, distribution lines. At the same time we have to take notice of one important aspect of our power sector. System loss in BG is one of the highest in the world (approximately 40%), and non-technical loss or pilferage accounts for the major share of this system loss. And here lies the most difficult part. From

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Electricity Import

meter reader to sub-assistant engineer to executive engineer and up to the top of hierarchy, everybody has a stake in it. And it also heavily spills over to the "corridors of power" in the famous (?) "Secretariat" in Abdul Ghani Road. Reduction of 1% system loss would save about 20 million taka, so if we can reduce system loss by 10% it would save about 200 million which can be used for more productive and honest purpose.

It takes about 2-4 years to complete a power sector project. Just to meet the immediate requirement, in addition to import (or in place of import) we can procure some electricity from other local sources. All the factories under BCIC has self-generation capacity, and they do not import electricity from PDB to run their factories. But they have an appreciable amount of excess power generation capacity (approximately 100 MW) which can be supplied on commercial basis to PDB, subject to some technical adjustments.

The sugar mills also have power generation capacities, which can also be used in off-seasons to produce and sell electricity to PDB. They use bagasse as fuel, coal can be used in off season. In addition, an active Demand Side Management needs to be formulated jointly by PDB, DESA and REB to improve efficiency of electricity use by the consumers (it is widely practiced in SE Asia, USA and EU). It will also help to make people aware wastages they make in their every day life and subsequently they would become more careful. It will help reduce peak load which is the main concern of power sector and resulting in load shedding. The eradication of peak load will help power utilities to get rid of the great headache.

A good combination of practical options employed together will help our country to run without hitch.

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The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Wednesday 16th October
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

BTV

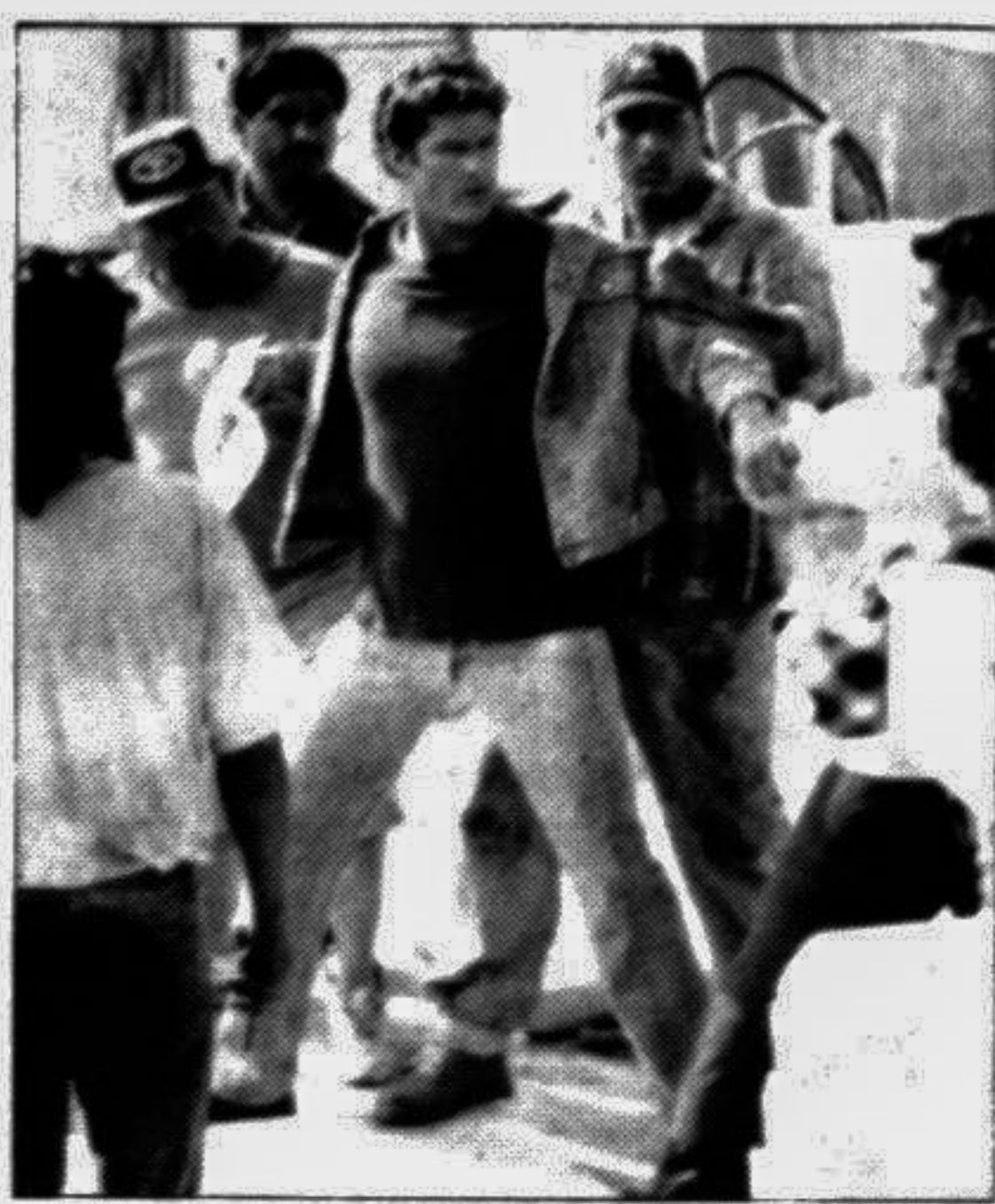
3:00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary
3:15 Recitation from the Goets
3:15 Retrospect of Selected Programme 4:00 News in Bangla
4:15 Sports Programme 4:45 Tagore Songs 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Agani: The Programme based on Population Problem 6:00pm News in Bangla 6:05 Urnesh: New Artists 7:00 The News 7:05 Open University 7:25 Writer Tale Tale Dance Programme 8:00 News in Bangla 8:30 Album: A variety Programme based on TV's Old Musical & Dramatic Performance 9:00 Mini Series: Shin Totokawa Story 10:00 News in English 10:30 Shashattha: Health Programme based on Child & Mother 10:35 Kathamala: Programme based on Art, Literature and Culture 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Thursday's programme 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC Newsroom inc. Asia Today World Business Report, 24 Hours 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 Timeswatch 10:00 BBC Newsday inc. Europe Today 1:00 BBC World Headlines 1:05 Horizon 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Film '96 4:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC World News 6:15 World Focus: Panorama 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC News Hour Asia & Pacific 8:30 Time Out: Floyd's American Pie 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 World Focus: Timeswatch 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: The Travel Show 11:00 The World Today 1:00 BBC World Headlines 1:05 Around the World in 80 Days 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Fat Man in France 3:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report, 24 Hours 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight

CHANNEL V

6:30am Vj Frame by Frame 7:00 Rewind Vj Sophiya 8:00 Jump



Baywatch Nights: Silent Witness on Star Plus, Tonight at 9:30

Start VJ Trey 9:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 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 VJ The Hard Rock Featuring MLTR 7:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 8:00 Planet Ruby 9:00 The Vibe 9:30 Mangta Ha 10:00 First Day First Show 10:30 Soul Curry 11:00 House Of Noise VJ Luke 12:00pm Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 Haysah 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 V



Nuns on the Run on Star Movies, Today at 7:30 am

Kilchen 4:30 El Extreme Close Up Tom Arnold 5:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 5:30 Adventures Of Black Stallion 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 Baywatch Nights 10:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 11:00 Santa Barbara 12:00pm Third Rock from the Sun 12:30 The Extraordinary 1:30 Picket Fences 2:30 El Extreme Close Up Tom Arnold 3:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 4:00 Hooperman 4:30 Home And Away 5:00 The Sullivans 5:30 The Flying Doctors

STAR SPORTS

6:30am This is the PGA 7:30 Asia Road Racing Champs Indonesia 8:30 Futbol Mundial 9:30 Cricket The Great Asian Matches Wild World Cup Australia v West India from Jaipur, India Cut to 6 hrs 3:00 Asia Sports Show 3:30 Mariboro League 96 Chinese National Football League Tianjin v Jilin @ Tianjin 5:30 International Motorsports News 6:30 Futbol Mundial 7:00 NBA Fantastic 8:00 Kenwood Cup 8:30 Demolition Derby 9:30 Spark 10:30 Spanish Ftbl League HL 11:00 The European Tour 1996 12:00 Watersports World 1:00 NBA Fantastic 1:30 Kenwood Cup 2:30 Gillette World Sport Special 3:00 Asia Road Racing Champs Indonesia 4:00 Demolition Derby 5:00 Rugby Hall Of Fame 5:30 Bud Pro Surf Tour.

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Comedy: Nuns on the Run 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Classic: Annan and the King of Siam G. (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Family: Modesty Blaise 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Film Club: Eight Men out 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Adventure: Time Trackers PG (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Western: Santa Fe Trail 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Miniseries: Memories of Midnight PTI 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:00 The Movie Show 9:30 Double Bill Meryl Streep 10:00 She - Devil 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Double Bill Meryl Streep 1:30 Comedy: Cadillac Man 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 3:30 Action: The Long Good Friday 18 (Arabic

Subtitles) 5:30 Film Club: Seeds of Tragedy (English Subtitles)

ZEE TV

5:30 Sur Tai 6:00 News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 ZED 8:30 Through The Gears 9:00 Helpline 9:30 Gaane Anjaane 10:00 Lakme Khubastar 10:30 No Problem 11:00 Shayad 11:30 Hum Paanch 12:00 Sur Taa 12:30 Nafrat 1:00 ZED 1:30 Asian Sky Shop 2:30 Tara 3:00 Kurukshetra 3:30 Celeste 4:00 Suno Bhai Sadho 4:30 Namaste India 5:00 ZED 5:30 Hum Zamane 6:00 Cartoon 6:30 All Out For No Loss 7:00 Lujat Khana Khazana 7:30 Gaane Anjaane 8:00 Aur Ek Minute 8:30 Mr Minto 9:00 Apollite Aap Ki Pasand 9:30 Banegi Apani Baat 10:00 Parampara 10:30 News 11:00 Dream Merchants 11:30 Aap Ki Adalat 12:00 Sailab 12:30 Campus 1:00 Hasraten 1:30 Tumhare Lye 2:00 Arabic Programme 2:30 TMM 4:00 Parivartan 4:30 Insight 5:00 Jagran

PTV

6:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabraan 8:45 Mansoobajatt Barai Khud Kafalat 9:00 Sur Savaria & Sehra 9:40 Shana Ba Shana 9:50 Aaj Ki Kilaab-Aik Nazm 10:05 Boor Kay Ladoo 10:30 English Film: Cho And Dale 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabraan 11:10 Ali Baba (Drama Serial) 11:35 Naghmaazar (Drama Serial) 12:00noon Urdu Khali 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 Arashi Puda 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 Aou Courses 7:00 Tararum 7:05 Felix The Cat 7:30 Such Gup 7:45 English News 8:00 Moven Gold Raceway 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 Aasman 12:00 NYPD Blue 12:45 Khas Khabraan/Close down

SONY ET

8:30 Rangaela Re 9:00 The Three Stooges 9:30 Dennis The

Menace 10:00 I Dream Of Jeanne 10:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 11:00 Faasle 11:30 Pe-hchan 12:00 The Nirlep Rasoi Show 12:30 Aahat 1:00 Himesa Barker Goong 2:30pm Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 5:00 Sunday Ki Sunday 5:30 The Three Stooges 6:00 Mere Message Men Geet 6:30 Dennis The Menace 7:00 Premier 7:30 I Dream Of Jeanne 8:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 8:30 Faasle 9:00 Boogi Woogi 9:30 Anarhi (Serial) 10:00 Baat Ek Raaz Ki 10:30 O'Mara (Comedy serial) 11:00 The Young And The

Restless 11:30 Cine Prime-Hindi Feature Film 1:00 Janekaha Mera Jigar Gaya Ji 1:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed

DD 7

10:30 Janmadin 10:35 Classical Music 11:00 Folk 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 Parampursh Sri Ramkshna 5:05 Nepali Programme 5:30 News 5:35 Chhiching Fank 6:00 Palli Katha 6:30

EL TV

12:30 Jhoomo Nacho 1:30 Devotional 2:30 Tarane 3:30 Hanste Hanste 4:30 Ajeed Dastan 5:30 Jhoomo Nacho 6:30 Devotional 7:30 Tarane 8:30 Hanste Hanste 9:30 Ajeed Dastan 10:30 Zandu Balm Dance

Mania 11:00 Praful V3+ 11:30 Karm 12:00 D'Signer Quartz

People's Club 12:30 Upanyas 8:20 Light Instrumental 8:30 Dastan 9:00 Janani 9:30 Pratihanga 10:00 Bangali Movie Club Film Show: 1:00 Closed

ZEE CINEMA

6:30 Tarana 7:00 Insanity 9:00 Movies Masti Magic 9:30 Film: Do Jasoos 12:15 Filmi Chakkar 12:30 Film: Janta Hawaldar 3:15 Songs 3:45 Film: Waqt Ke Deewar 6:30 Film: Chamak Chalo (Panjab) 9:15 Songs 10:00 Film: Seeta Aur Geeta 12:45 Film: Love In London 3:30 Aaj Anadi Kal Khiladi 4:00 Film: Durga

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