

# JU Convocation Special

## On Jahangirnagar's First Convocation

Zillur Rahman Siddiqui

*Jahangirnagar, to our special satisfaction, is the first amongst the older universities to seize the chance of holding a convocation which is also her first, with the Chancellor presiding over the ceremony.*

THE first convocation of Jahangirnagar University is being held in its twenty-seventh year. And there hangs a tale.

The university was somebody else's dream. It was to be another Aligarh — fully residential, separate — in a very special sense — distinguished, generously funded and supported by the government, with a distant benediction showered from Islamabad; and above every other thing else, it was to be Muslim.

All these hopes and aspirations were to remain matters of historical curiosity. The war of independence changed every thing. The entire scheme might well have been abandoned in the changed scenario of post-war Bangladesh. In fact, it was suggested and I have it on good authority, that the campus and whatever infrastructure was already there — there wasn't much — could be put to another use. Instead of a teaching university, the proposed affiliating university could be set up there. But the idea was hardly formulated when Vice-Chancellor Dr Enamul Haq reassured Bangabandhu that Jahangirnagar could serve a very special purpose. It could be both a teaching university and a laboratory of higher education. It had certain advantages over the other general universities. — Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong. Being small, fully residential and unitary with no affiliated colleges to clog its steps, with a very manageable student body, and already experimenting with a new system of education — commonly known as course system — the university could undertake further experiments in higher education.

The argument in favour of allowing the university to continue must have been put very persuasively. The university survived a very real challenge to its existence.

There have been other challenges since then all nearly all, related to development. The residential character of the university has been the regulatory principle of student admission. Since every student must have a seat in a hall of residence, only as many students could be admitted as there were places for them. This has kept the growth rate in terms of enrolment low over the years. Still, growth is the order of the day, and Jahangirnagar has grown. It now has 21 departments under three

faculties and an institute, two more institutes without departments under them, an enrolment figure over three thousand, and a teaching faculty with some very able teachers and researchers in it. In some ways the university has remained exclusive, as it has to refuse admission to at least twenty five students for every one student it is able to accept. This may appear to be a dubious kind of exclusiveness. It raises issues that will cover practically the entire spectrum of higher education. This is no occasion to enter into that complex question.

Jahangirnagar is no exception in having gone on all these years without a convocation. A convocation can be held with proper dignity only when perfect normalcy is there both in the country and on the campus. We as a nation have been denied that normalcy and this is something over which no university has had any control. A convocation also involves the Chancellor who is expected to grace the ceremony by his august presence. Unfortunately chancellors, whether a governor or a President or a Prime Minister, have almost always been a controversial man, mainly on account of his politics. Traditionally, in older times, Governors of Bengal Presidency evoked no opposition, so remote and uninvolved he was. This changed with the Partition and Independence of 1947. The second independence of 1971 brought no qualitative change in this respect. The case of Bangabandhu was different. After him the country has had a long period of political dislocation followed by academic disorientation. To hold a convocation was never considered to be feasible, 'under the circumstances'.

The present moment appears to be auspicious, in many ways. Most relevantly, the country has a President, and the universities a Chancellor who is not above controversy but one who is held in high esteem in every quarter. Jahangirnagar, to our special satisfaction, is the first amongst the older universities to seize the chance of holding a convocation which is also her first, with the Chancellor presiding over the ceremony. May this prove an auspicious beginning. May the university start with this a new phase of her life, rich with aspiration and achievement.



Arts faculty



Administrative building

## Jahangirnagar University's Day of Glory

Abu Taher Mojumder

*The term continues to connote something solemn. In so far as the universities are concerned, convocation has great significance, for, it concerns the lives of so many young men and women who have undergone academic and intellectual training for a period of time and have qualified for distinctions and recognitions...*

Although convocation has travelled far from its original significance of a 'provincial synod of clergy, the ancient ecclesiastical council of the archbishop, especially those of the provinces of Canterbury and York in the Church of England', or 'the great legislative assembly of the University of Oxford and elsewhere', its other significance 'to call together: to assemble' persists. This calling 'together: to assemble', however, is not for any ordinary purpose or matter of less important or petty issues. The term continues to connote something solemn. In so far as the universities are concerned, convocation has great significance, for, it concerns the lives of so many young men and women who have undergone academic and intellectual training for a period of time and have qualified for distinctions and recognitions in their respective fields in the form of degrees to be conferred on by a distinguished personality such as the Chancellor. This long-awaited ceremony is now being held today at Jahangirnagar in a spirit of jubilation and dedication, with great enthusiasm and inspiring zest.

Jahangirnagar University, situated at quite a considerable distance from the central metropolis, amid a panorama of natural beauty, consisting of a vast area of undulating land; dotted with lush green trees, green fields, brick-red academic and residential buildings and a few lakes with little curling waves, frequented by guest-birds in the winter, can legitimately boast of its graduates who are contributing to national development in their various capacities with skill and sincerity and an enviable sense of dedication. The 5th of January 1997 will be marked out as a red-letter day — as a Day of Glory — in the annals of Jahangirnagar University, for the University authorities are fulfilling today, for the first time, an academic obligation to their students which is so significant and important in their lives.

The many years that have passed have brought about many changes in the lives of many of them. Some of the students will come to attend the convocation possibly with their grand children. Many students will search for their known faces — friends and classmates — who have undergone a lot of natural changes through the passage of time and will possibly try to re-listen to the reverberating footsteps of the bygone days and the echoes of endearing voices. Jahangirnagar University's Day of Glory will witness the assembly of several generations of students which is in a sense good and salutary because the delay in holding the convocation has made such a gathering of 'strange' faces possible. Let this 'Glorious Day' make the graduates more keenly aware of their patriotic responsibilities.

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The development and progression of the concept of convocation is interesting as well as meaningful. Perhaps in the medieval period, the religious ceremony conjoined with the educational festival. In those days churches had a 'unique' domination over everything including the state. Churchmen used to be the chiefs of the academic institutions and they also taught the students. Even different monasteries were developed in to universities during the middle ages. So, there

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## Of Convocation — Past and Present

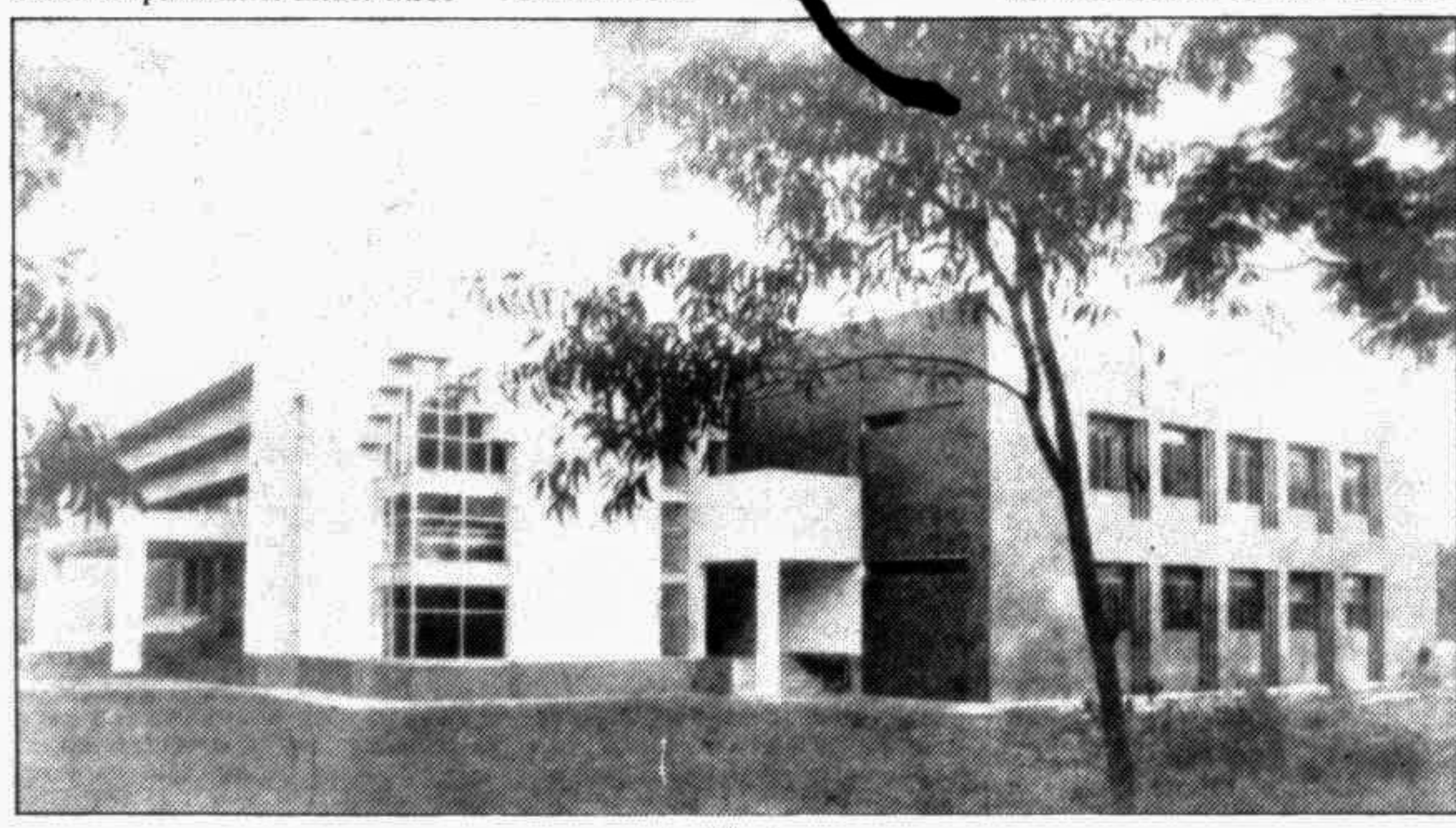
Gobinda Bar

practised by the Buddhists and the Hindus in this subcontinent in the ancient times, today's convocation is totally different in character from that practice. Convocation practised in the universities today is rather closer to the practice in Christianity than those ancient Indian practices. In ancient India, convocation used to be arranged following the completion of a student's studies in the house of the preceptor. Today, this is a special ceremony for awarding certificates to the students. The Chancellor, legislative head of a university, confers degrees to the students. This assembly of the members of a university is a solemn but entirely secular academic festival though it has its root in the Christian rites and practices. The term convocation was applied to the legislative assembly of the Church of England in each of its

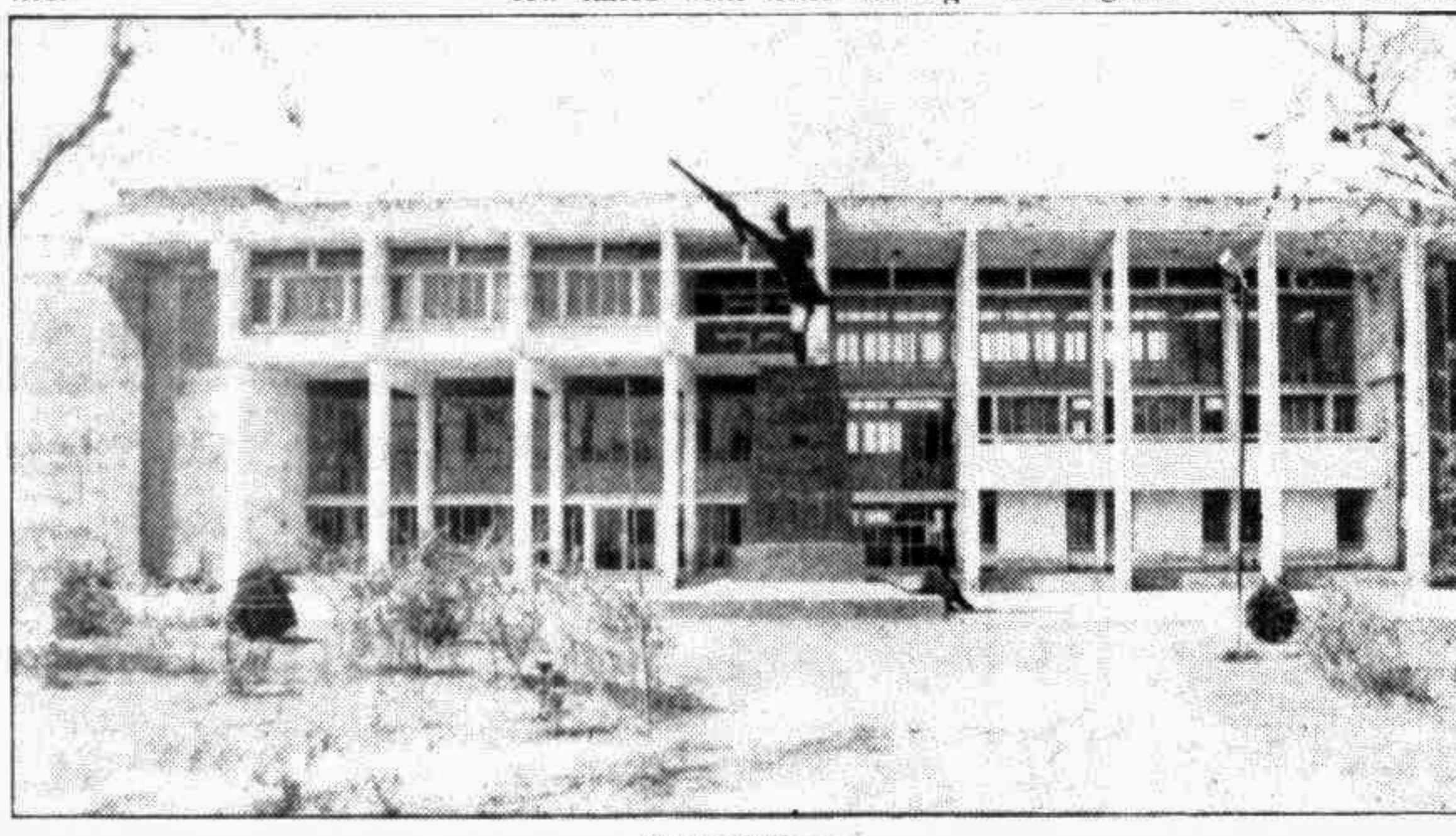
### JU and the Convocation At a Glance

Name of the university	Jahangirnagar
Inception	1970
Students at the beginning	150
Teachers at the beginning	21
Officers at the beginning	14
Employees at the beginning	125
Departments at the beginning	04
Students at present	Over 5500
Departments at present	20
Teachers at present	320
Officers at present	113
Employees at present	1014
Total degrees to be conferred	5463
Recipients of degree	2290
Male recipients	1800
Female recipients	490
Recipients of gold medal	17
Total recipients of Ph D	18
Total recipients of M Phil	12
Total expenditure of convocation	25 lakh
UGC grant	10 lakh
Collection from the former students	11.43 lakh

*Compiled by Gobinda Bar*



Auditorium



Central library

## The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

**Sunday 5th January**  
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes.)

### BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement  
Al-Curan Programme Summary  
3:10 News in Bangla 3:15  
Patriotic Songs 3:20 Recitation from the Bible 3:25 Retelecast of Drama 4:50 Marami 5:00  
News in Bangla 5:25 Sports Programme 6:00pm Geemalaya  
6:35 Mayeder Jannyo 6:50  
Open University 7:00 The News  
7:25 Documentary on Freedom Fighting 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Women in Freedom Fighting 9:00 Film Series: Akbar The Great

10:00 News in English 10:25  
Those Days of Freedom Fighting 10:30 Shono Ahaban  
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  
Headlines 8:05 Horizon 9:00  
BBC World News 10:00 BBC  
World Headlines 10:20 Britain  
In View 11:00 BBC World News  
11:25 India Business Report  
12:00noon BBC World News  
12:20 Britain in View 1:00 BBC  
World News 1:20 This Week  
2:00 BBC World Headlines

2:05 World Focus: Assignment  
3:00 BBC World News 3:30  
Time Out: The Cloth Show 4:00  
BBC World Headlines 4:05  
World Focus: Everyman 5:00  
BBC World News 5:20 Window  
On Europe 6:00pm BBC World  
Headlines 6:05 World Focus:  
Pole to Pole 7:00 BBC World  
Headlines 7:05 Breakfast With  
Frost 8:00 BBC World News  
8:30 Time Out: The Travel  
Show 9:00 BBC World News  
Headlines 9:05 World Focus:  
Horizon 10:00 BBC World News  
10:20 Earth Report 10:30  
Time Out: Film 96 11:00 BBC  
World News 11:30 Time Out:  
Top Gear 12:00noon BBC World  
News 12:20 Britain in View  
1:00 BBC World News 1:20  
Window On Europe 2:00 BBC

### CHANNEL V

6:00am Frame by Frame 7:00  
Rewind VJ Sophiya 8:00 Frame  
By Frame 9:00 Big Bang  
Weekend VJ Alessandra 11:00  
BPL Oyel 12:00 Sansui Mangla  
Hai 12:30 First Day First Show  
1:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 2:00  
Speak Easy 2:30 Videocoin  
Flashback 3:00 Asian Top 20  
VJ Trey 5:00 The Vibe  
Weekend VJ Luke 6:00 The  
Vibe Weekend 7:00pm Fashion  
Police 7:30 Soul Curry 8:00 The  
Indian Top 10 9:00 Launch  
Pad VJ Samira 10:00 House Of  
Sophia 12:00noon Big Bang VJ  
Alessandra 1:00 The Ride  
2:00 Frame by Frame 3:00 Big  
Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30  
Launchpad VJ Sophiya 5:30 VJ  
Alessandra

### STAR PLUS

6:30 Voltorr 7:00 Aerobics Oz  
Style 7:30 Alaap 8:30 Tara  
Rum Pum 9:30 Chandrakanta  
(Hindi Serial) 10:30 Tu Tu Main  
Main (Hindi Serial) 11:00  
Kalaidoscope (Hindi  
Serial) 11:30 Amul India Show  
12:00noon The Road Show  
12:30 India Business Week

1:30 Star Trek 2:30 Hindi  
Classic Film: Do Ankanh Bara  
Hath 6:00pm Batman 6:30  
Chariss Angels 7:30 The  
Simpsons 8:00 The Addams  
Family 8:30 Lifeline 9:00  
Reporter 9:30 V Countdown  
Plus 10:30 STAR News Sunday  
11:30 Dynasty 12:30 India  
Business Week 1:30 Amul India  
Show 2:00 BBC Documentary  
"All Our Children" 3:00 Movie  
Classic: Anna Karena 5:00  
Backcup

### STAR SPORTS

7:30 NBA Game Of The Week  
New York @ Atlanta 8:30 India  
Tour Of South Africa India v S  
Africa 2nd Test Match Day 3  
HL 10:00 Asia Sport Show  
10:30 World Wrestling  
Federation Blast Off 11:30  
Indian Football National  
League Dempo vs Salgaocar  
1:30 India Tour Of South Africa  
India v South Africa 2nd Test  
Match Day 3 HL 2:30 India  
Tour Of South Africa India v S  
Africa 2nd Test Match Day 4  
HL 2:00 World Karate Champ  
96 HL 3:00 Live National  
Football League, 1996-1997  
AFC Playoff Feed Times & Host  
Broadcaster TBC

### STAR MOVIES

7:30am Adventure: Surf Ninjas  
15 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Hindi  
Classic Film: Do Ankanh Bara  
Hath 6:00pm Batman 6:30  
Chariss Angels 7:30 The  
Simpsons 8:00 The Addams  
Family 8:30 Lifeline 9:00  
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Asterix vs Caesar PG (Hindi  
Subtitles) 11:30 Comedy: Africa  
Screams PG (Hindi Subtitles)  
1:30 Classic: Anna And The  
King Of Siam G (Hindi Subtitles)  
3:30 Sunday Show Time: Pee-  
Wee's Playhouse (PG) 4:30  
Sunday Show Time: Just For  
Laughs 15 5:30 Sunday Family  
Double Feature: The Dog  
Who Stopped The War PG  
(Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Sunday  
Family The Peanut Butter  
Solution PG (Hindi Subtitles)  
9:00 Film 96 9:30 Gold: There  
Goes My Baby 11:30 True  
Story Picnic At Hanging Rock  
12 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30  
Comedy: Emerald City 18  
(Arabic Subtitles) 3:30 Comedy:  
Mushrooms 18 (Hindi Subtitles)  
5:30 Family: Shattered Family  
12 (Arabic Subtitles)

### ZEE TV

5:30am Surtal 6:00 The News  
6:30 Jagran 7:00 Suno Bhai  
Sadho 7:30 Maa 8:00  
Mythological Hindi Film 10:30  
Aap Ki Adalat 11:00 Siyaram's  
Cine Magic 11:30 Lakme  
Khoobsurat 12:00 Aur Ek  
Minute 12:30 Bourviva Quiz  
Contest 1:00 Haathi Cement  
Aashiana 1:30 Asian Sky Shop  
2:00 Drama: Marchant 2:30  
Hindi Feature Film 5:00 Dhak  
Ghar Apna Ghar 5:30 Ghoomta  
Aaina 6:00 Helpline 6:30  
Adamiya Pradhan Mantri 7:00  
Index 7:30 Insight 8:00 Casper  
Kya Scene Hai 8:30 Suno Suno  
Tring Tring 9:00 Nirma Aahaa  
9:30 9 Malabar Hill 10:00 The  
Zee Horror Show 10:30 News  
11:00 Suhana Salar 11:30  
Philips Top Ten 12:30 Chhat

Aur Nalrat 1:00 Yeh Kahan Aa  
Gaye Hum 1:30 Rashmi 2:00  
Apoletta Aap Ki Pasand 2:30  
TMM 4:00 Dastan 4:30 Kodak  
Klick Klick 5:00 Jagran

### EL TV

12:30 Best Of The Best 1:30  
Tarane 2:30 Hit Pairs 3:30  
Devotional 4:30 Ghungru 5:30  
Best Of The Best 6:30 Tarane  
7:30 Hit Pairs 8:30 Kandos Its  
My Choice 9:00 Alco Ru-Ba-Ru  
9:30 Fat Or Fit 10:00 Siyaram  
Kamaal Kombination 10:30  
Brigadier Balwant Bhawan  
11:00 Sorry Meri Lorry 11:30  
Liberty Public Demand 12:30  
Number One 1:00 Chehre 1:30  
Moov Usha Uthup Show 2:00  
Vipul Ka Amar Prem 2:30 Money  
Game 3:00 Instinct  
Puruskashtra 4:00 Zandu Balm  
Dance Mania 4:30 Apnabi 5:30  
Meri Marzi 6:00 Yumkenz Mast  
Must Show 6:30 Dear EL 7:00  
Snowchem Kai Bhi Aaj Bhi 7:30  
Teri Bhai Chup Meri Bhi Chup  
8:00 Abhinetri 8:20 Kinetic  
Pride Haseen Pal 8:30 Boropul  
The Real Countdown 9:00  
Pratful V3+ 9:30 Shatranj 10:00  
Alco Ru Ba Ru 10:30 Stand By  
10:40 Hollywood Se Bollywood  
11:00 Navras 11:30  
Manoranjan 12:00 Kinetic Pride  
Haseen Pal 12:10 Karz

### PTV

8:00am Tilawat Aur  
Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat 8:20  
Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45  
Fun Time 9:05 TV Encyclopedia  
9:25 Khud Fatah 9:40 Sports  
Clinic 10:05 PTV Gold 10:30

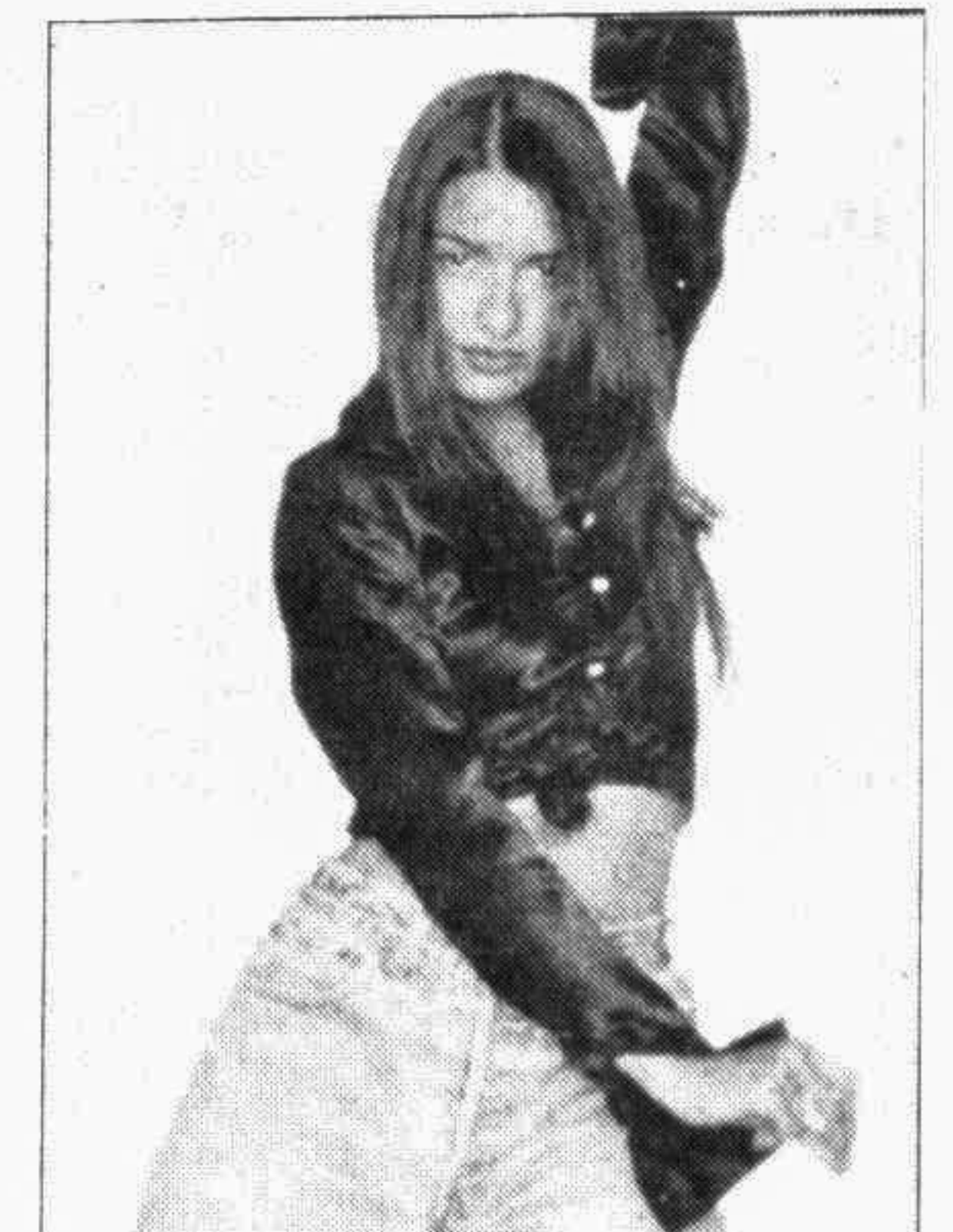
English Film: Darkwing Duck  
10:55 Mast Mast Sanyal 11:00  
Khabrain 11:10 Sports Hour  
12:05pm Biscop 95/Qasmi  
Hahani 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem  
1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Aaj Di  
Kahani 1:40 Aaj Di Shaam 2:00  
Kinara Ep-63 (Drama Serial)  
2:55 Ghost Writer 3:55 Karabar  
4:15 Education 5:25 Riazi for  
9th 5:55 Zameen Per Zindegi  
(Drama Serial) 6:25 Aioi  
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 Khabrainama &  
Commercial News 11:00  
Pezwaan 11:35 Home Victim  
(New Serial) 12:35 Music  
Masters-Raag Rang 1:00 Khas  
Khas Khabrain

### DD 7

9:00 Janmadin 9:05 Geemalaya  
9:30 Movie Club Film 12:30  
Surer Asar 1:00 Dhiang  
Dhiang 1:30 Movie Club  
Film 3:00 Geet Sangeet 4:30  
Bengali Feature Film 5:30  
News 7:20 Binodan 7:30  
Bangla Sambad 8:00 Shrooshi  
(Serial) 8:25 Geet Sangeet  
(Serial) 9:30 Drama 10:00  
Dance Prog 10:30  
News/Bengali Sambad 11:00  
Closed

### SONY ET

8:30am Jai Bir Hanuman 9:30  
Gaane Jaane Maane 10:00  
Dekh Tamasa Dekh 10:30  
Buddha 11:00 Tai Mahal Takia  
Woogie 5:30 Cover Story  
Hostel (Serial) 6:00 Jeevan



Rewind: VJ Sophiya on Channel [V] today at 7:00 am



Nirma Aaha on Zee TV tonight at 9:00 pm

12:30 Pehli Mujakat 1:00 Good  
Shot 1:30 Pehchan 2:00 Yeh  
Sadi Nahi Ho Sakti 2:30 RAVEN  
3:30 Gaane Jaane Maane  
4:00 O' Maria (Serial) 4:30  
Airtop Rasool Show 5:00 Boogie  
Woogie 5:30 Cover Story  
Hostel (Serial) 6:00 Jeevan

Mirry (Serial) 7:00 Bindass Bol  
8:00 Cine Classics - Hindi  
Feature Film 11:00 The Young  
And The Restless 12:00 Ghaav  
12:30 Aahaat (Serial) 1:00  
Faslee (Serial) 1:30 Surf-Wheel  
Of Fortune 2:00 Premier 2:30  
Closed