

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.

HE first convocation of Jahangirnagar University is being held in its twentyseventh year. And there-

by 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 thing else, it was to be Mus-

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 postwar 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, Raishahi and Chittagong. Being small, fully residential and unitary with no affiliated colleges to clog its steps, with a very managable 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 may 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.

HE other day Jahangir-

glorious existence through

colourful ceremonies and

seminars, recollections of old

memories of charmed days and

reunion of the veterans who

have moved out with laurels

and are now busily engaged in

traversing the undulating paths

of life and the spirited youths

who are preparing to launch out

into the uncertain future. But

even in the midst of such

enthusiastic jollity one thing

boomed large and stirred the

calm surface of the minds of all

concerned: 25 years gone and

no convocation as yet? Yes, it

has all along been a very hard

and nagging reality for all, par-

ticularly for the graduates, that

convocation continued to be an

ever-receding dream, as if an il-

first batch of graduates passed

out and the first batch of Master

degree holders held aloft their

fluttering flags of success, the

prospect of convocation gained

ground and the university au-

thorities thought of making

necessary arrangements for

holding the convocation to offi-

cially and ceremoniously

crown the uncrowned kings and

queens of the university — the

graduates — and relieve them

from carrying on their provi-

sional certificates. Unfortu-

nately, every year one hurdle or

another thwarted the efforts

and the convocation could not

thorities did not sit idle. They

were as relentless in their ef-

forts as the circumstances were

uncompromising. At long last

the dream becomes a reality to-

day — the 5th of January, 1997,

and our honourable President

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed,

the Chancellor of our Univer-

However, the university au-

Year after year, eversince the

lusion.

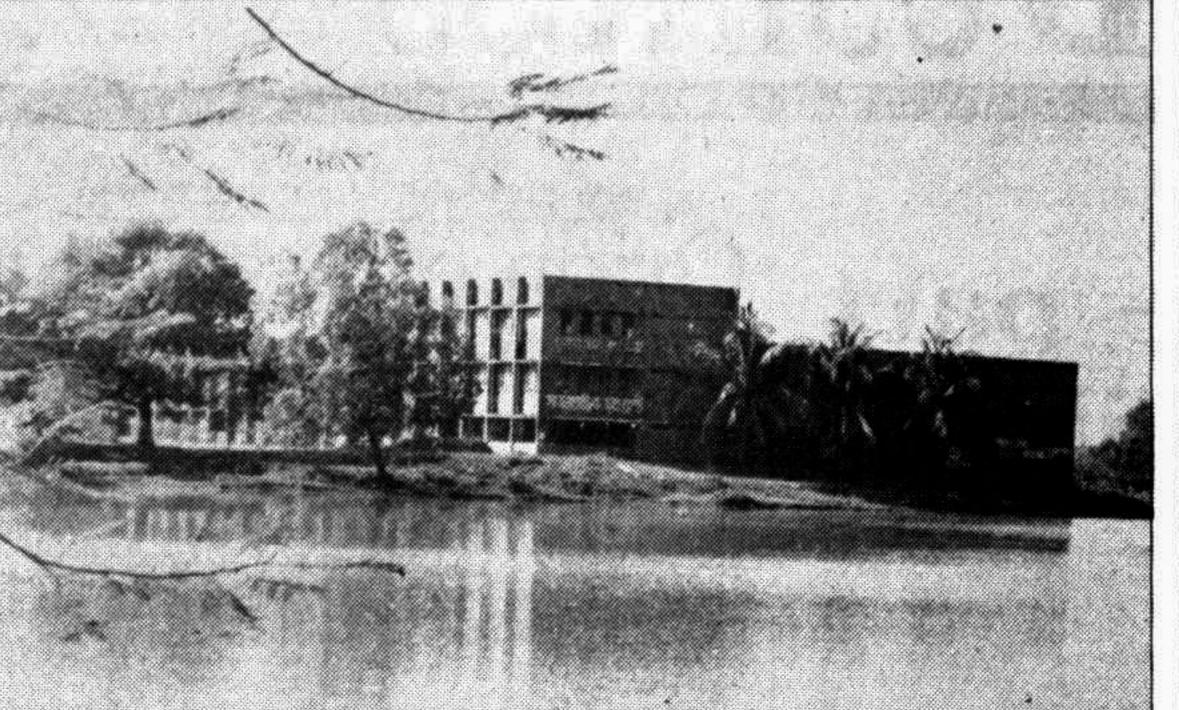
be held.

nagar University celebra-

ted its 25 the year of

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 positics. Traditionally, in olden 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 disorientátion. To hold a convocati was never considered to be sible, 'under the circums ances'

The present mome to be auspicious, in lany ways. Most relevantly. e country has a President, a d the universities a Chancel 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 aussicious beginning. May the unversity start with this a new case of her life, rich with as ation and achievement.







Arts faculty 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...

sity, will formally confer the degree to the successful graduates of this university. It is indeed, and will continue to be, a matter of great pride that no less a personality than our present Chancellor who won international fame and recognition as the head of an exemplary care-taker government, is conferring the degrees to our

Universities are "centers not

only of the humanities but also of vast scientific learning and investigation ministering to human enlightenment and welfare". A university aims "at a discipline of the mind", "character-building" and "it makes ... the gentleman". The university graduates have, therefore, great social and moral responsibilities, in addition to their own career-building. So, when they are in the process of learning they are taught of and trained in the various aspects of these responsibilities. When they are formally conferred their degrees they are reminded of their roles in life, the proper use of their knowledge and skill and they are sent off to the battlearena of life as soldiers who will be characterised by "calmness, equitableness, freedom,

moderation, wisdom, the capacity for a synoptic view and for self-direction", as far as practicable. In such a context, convocation has a far-reaching significance and the graduates await this solemn ceremony with not only eclat but also an added awareness of their role in

Although convocation has travelled far from its orginal signification 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 signification '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 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

Jahangirnagar in a spirit of ju-

bilation and dedication, with

great enthusiasm and inspiring

waves, frequented by guestbirds 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

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 Uni versity'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.

Of Convocation — Past and Present

HOUGH convocation was 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 leg-

islative assembly of the Church

of England in each of its

Gobinda Bar provinces. It was also applied to a similar assembly of clergies in the northern and smaller province of York in England

Convocation was parallel to the life of English parliament, usually meeting two or three times a year during parliamentary sessions. When a new parliament was elected, a new convocation used to be assembled; convocation would be dissolved with the dissolution of the parliament

The development and progression of the concept of convocation is interesting as well as meaningful. Perhaps in the madieval period, the religious ceremony conjoined with the educational festivity. 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

Name of the university

Students at present

Teachers at present

Employees at present

Recipients of degree

Recipients of gold medal Total recipients of Ph D

Male recipients

Female recipients

Officers at present

Departments at present

Students at the beginning Teachers at the beginning Officers at the beginning

Employees at the beginning

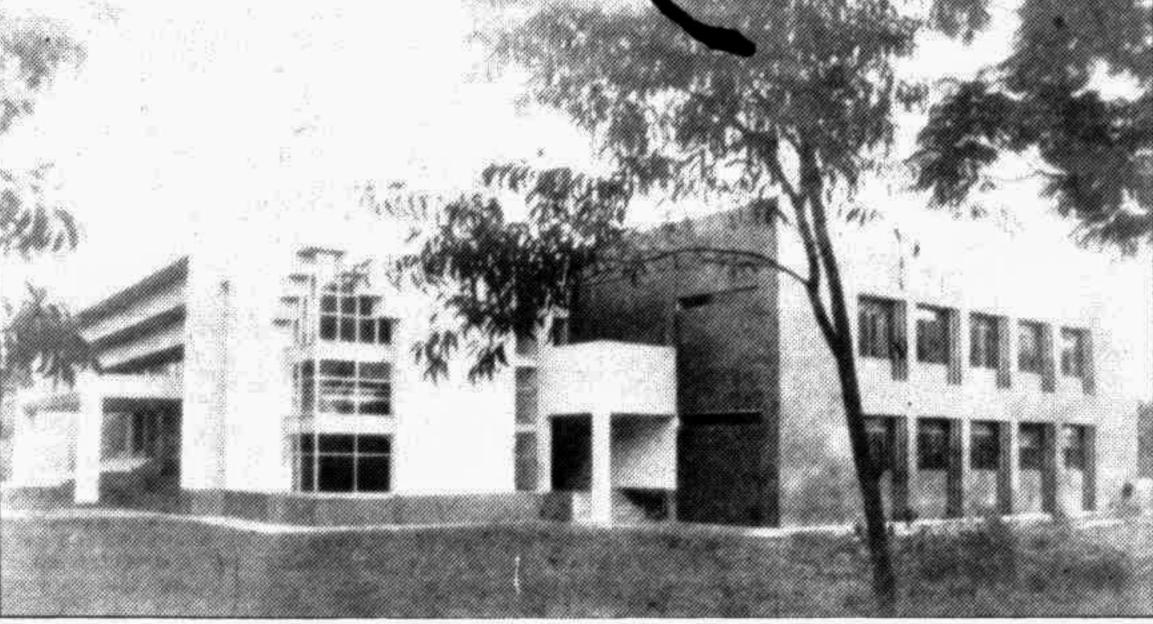
Departments at the beginning

Total degrees to be conferred

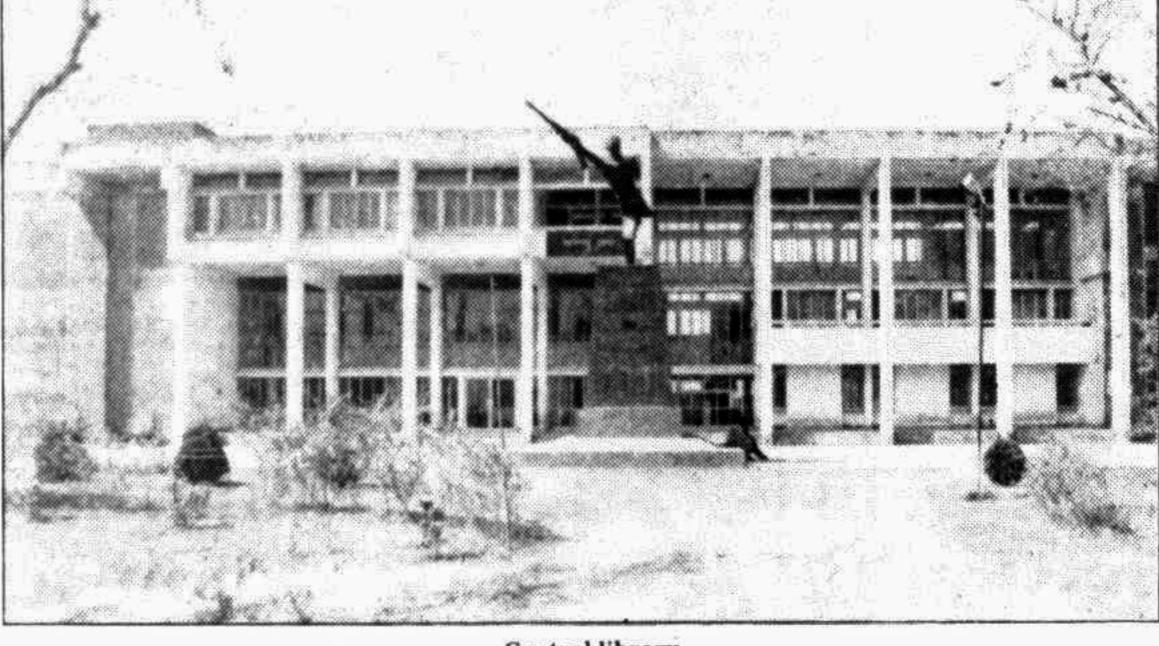
Inception

was a touch of religious fervour in the academic festivals as like as in convocation. In the course of time, religion gradually began to lose its grip on every thing perhaps following the 'clash' between the kings and the churches. Convocation got a secular character and became an entirely academic festival day by day. But it is to bring some of the Christian phenomenon with it. The ceremonial gown worn by the attendants, silence observed at the programme and the sense of sanctity of the programme necessarily remind us of the Christian past of the festival

Today convocation is perhaps the greatest academic festival for a university. Whatever would be the past, it is now a secular and unique festival in the academic arena. We hope regular holding of convocation in our universities would illuminate the path of development and improvement of education



Auditorium



Central library

UGC grant Collection from the former students

JU and the Convocation At a Glance : Jahangirnagar Over 5500 1014 5463 2290 1800 25 lakh

10 lakh

Compiled by Gobinda Bar

Total recipients of M Phil Total expenditure of convocation 11.43 lakh

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-Quran 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 Getimallya 6:35 Mayeder Jannyo 6:50 Open University 7:00 The News 7:25 Documentary 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 News10:00 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 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 12:00mn BBC World News 12:20 Britain In View 1:00 BBC World News 1:20 Window On Europe 2:00 BBC

Nirma Aaha on Zee TV tonight at 9:00 pm

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 Oye! 12:00 Sansui Mangta Hai 12:30 First Day First Show 1:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 2:00 Speak Easy 2:30 Videocon 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 Noise VJ Luke11:30 Rewind VJ Sophiya 12:00mn Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 The Ride

Alessandra

STAR PLUS

2:00 Frame By Frame 3:00 Big

Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30

Launchpad VJ Sophiya 5:30 VJ

World Headlines 2:05 World

Focus: State of The World : A

Nuclear Warning 3:00 BBC

World News 3:30 Time Out:

Tommoror's World 4:00 BBC

World Report Inc: World

Business Report/24 Hours

5:00 BBC World Report Inc.

World Business Report/24

6:30 Voltron 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 Ankhan Bara Hath 6:00pm Batman 6:30 Charises 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 Backup

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 H/L 10:00 Asia Sport Show 10:30 World Wrestling Federation Blast Off 11:30 Indian Football National League Dempo vs Salgoacar 1:30 India Tour Of South Africa India vs South Africa 2nd Test Match Day 3 H/L 2:30 India Tour Of South Africa India vs South Africa 2nd Test Match Day 4 From Cape Town, South Africa 9:30 Asian F'ball Show 10:30 ISF World Tour H/L-1 11:00 NBA Game Of The Week New York @ Atlanta 1:00 India Tour Of South Africa India v S Africa 2nd Test Match Day 4 H/L 2:00 World Karate Champ 96 H/L 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 Family

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

ZEE TV

12 (Arabic Subtitles)

5:30am Surtal 6:00 The News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 Suno Bhai Sadho 7:30 Maa 8:00 Mythological Hindi Film10:30 Aap Ki Adalat 11:00 Siyaram's Cine Magic 11:30 Lakme Khoobsurat 12:00 Aur Ek Minute 12:30 Bournvita Quiz Contest 1:00 Haathi Cement Aashiana 1:30 Asian Sky Shop 2:00 Dream Merchants 2:30 Hindi Feature Film 5:00 Dhak Ghar Apna Ghar 5:30 Ghoomta Aaina 6:00 Helpline 6:30 Adarniya 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 Safar 11:30 Philips Top Ten 12:30 Chahat Gaye Hum 1:30 Raahat 2:00 Apcolite Aap Ki Pasand 2:30 TMM 4:00 Dastan 4:30 Kodak Klick Klick 5:00 Jagran

Aur Nafrat 1:00 Yeh Kahan Aa

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 Atco 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 Puruskeshtra 4:00 Zandu Balm Dance Mania 4:30 Ajnabi 5:30 Meri Marzi 6:00 Yumkeenz Mast Must Show 6:30 Dear EL 7:00 Snowchem Kal Bhi Aaj Bhi 7:30 Teri Bahi Chup Meri Bhi Chup 8:00 Abhinetri 8:20 Kinetic Pride Haseen Pal 8:30 Boroplus The Real Countdown 9:00 Prafful V3+ 9:30 Shatrani 10:00 Atco Ru Ba Ru 10:30 Stand By 10:40 Hollywood Se Bollywood 11:00 Navras 11:30 Manoranjan 12:00 Kinetic Pride

PTV

Haseen Pai 12:10 Karz

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

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 Aiou 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 (Pakistani Film 1947-95) 10:00 Khabarnama Commercial News 11:00 Pezwaan 11:35 Home Victime (New Serial) 12:35 Music Masters-Raag Rang 1:00 Khas Khas Khabrain

English Film: Darkwing Duck

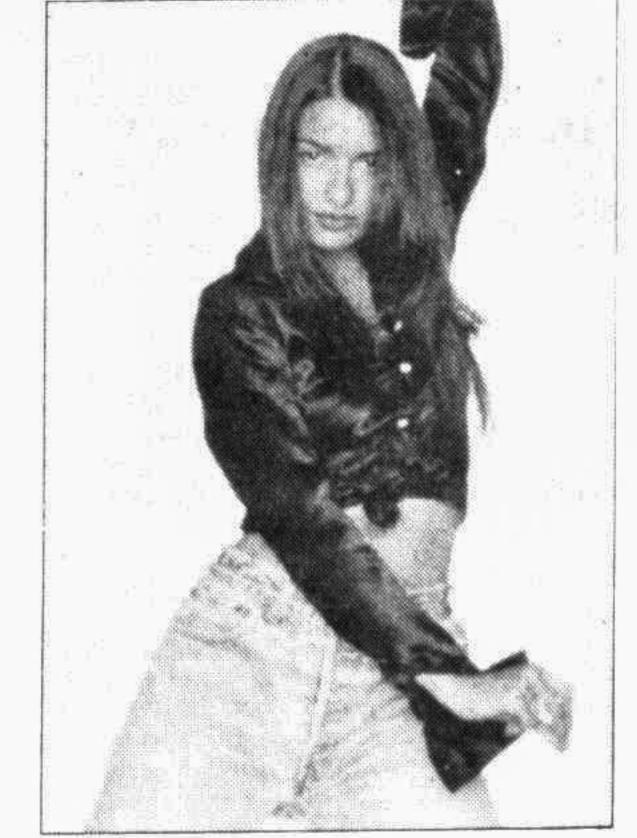
10:55 Mast Mast Sanyo 11:00

DD 7

9:00 Janmadin 9:05 Geetmalay 9:30 Movie Club Film 12:30 Surer Asar 1:00 Dhilang Dhitang Bole 1:30 Movie Club Film 3:30 Geet Sangeet 4:30 Bengali Feature Film 5:30 News 7:20 Binodon 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Shreoshi (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 Taj Mahal Takita Dhin 12:00 BSA Star Ki Pasand



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

12:30 Pehli Mulakat 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 Nirlep Rasoi Show 5:00 Boogle Woogie 5:30 Cover Story -Hostel (Serial) 6:00 Jeevan

Mirtyu (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 Fourtune 2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed