Dhaka Day by Day

Be Foreign or

Be Gone

by Ayesha Fariha

A friend of mine was looking

for a house to live in. After

long search she found the ideal

apartment in Gulshan, but her

joy was short-lived. The reason

was that, the landlord/owner

was interested in renting his

monplace, and many, espe-

cially young married couples.

are facing a lot of difficulty

finding a home in the area they

wish to live in. This preference

for foreign tenants has become

so atrociously pronounced that

people with apartments and

houses to rent advertise - "Only

foreigners with genuine inter-

est" may apply. A typical ex-

ample of the Bengali lack of re-

spect for their own kind - if I

Anyway, the question

would like to place before these

landlords is: What exactly do

you mean by "foreigners"? The

term is vague and could include

a number of different kinds of

people, such as, Caucasians, or

people from other countries

who reside in Bangladesh, or

Bangalees who possess foreign

passports, or Bangalees who

have lived abroad most of their

am allowed to say so.

Such incidents are com-

flat out to "foreigners" only.

AH FINALLY A REAL

POWDER-PAINTED

NATIVE ... YES YOU

HOUSE!

TOLET

FOREIGNERS

PREFERRED

CAN RENT MY

FOREIGNER INSTEAD OF

The Daily Star invites its readers to participate in the following Internet discussion groups by sending or

# Non-Government **Organizations**

Bryan Yeazel yeazebj3@wfiredu San Fransisco. USA:

1 am an American student who visited Bangladesh this past summer. Since most of the users of this forum appear to be Bangladeshi's. I was curious about their opinion on a particular topic with non-government organizations. It seems that Grameen and BRAC can do no wrong in the eyes of the international and Bangladeshi domestic media. However, while I was in Bangladesh I could not help but notice that the government is becoming increasingly dependent on NGO's such as those two to fill in the gap for the government's inade-

quacies. Could this be harmful to the longevity of an effective government? Could it be possible that bureacratic reform is not happening in Bangladesh because the NGO's are finding solutions to problems the bureacracy mishandled? If NGO's were not as successful in Bangladesh as they are, would it be possible the government would be forced to make substantial project reforms because governmental failures would be more acute without the help of NGO's? Please let me know if you have any thoughts. I would appreciate it.

#### **Business Studies** at SAU

Nasim Ahmed Faiz Nafiz@swbell.net Dallas, TX, USA:

I hope this little information will be helpful for many of our Bangladeshi students who wants to come in USA universities for undergraduate studies in Business program. Paying tuition fees is the major concern for our students' in the USA universities. I have seen lots of students from our subcontinent who really came here for studies, but ended up in odd jobs profession as they could not afford tuition fees.

Southern Arkansas University is one of the universities where tuition fees are reasonable for foreign students. SAU is located in southwestern Arkansas in the city of

Magnolia. The tuition fee is \$1400 per semester up to 18 credit hours. For more information you can contact to the foreign student advisor in the address below. Our students come here for better education and to achieve their goal, which is very true, but at the same time they have to be financially solvent for full four years tu-

ition fees. Contact Address: The Foreign Student Advisor. Southern Arkansas University, 100 E. University Blvd, Magnolia, AR 71753-5000, USA. Fax: (501) 235-5005.

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.

# The Economic Puzzle

Taufigur R. Mollick mollick@mail.snet.net West Haven, CT. U.S.A.:

Everybody is talking about incresing foreign investment in Bangladesh. Even our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her recent visit to the United States invited the US businessmen to explore the opportunities that exists in Bangladesh.

Unfortunately, there were no significant response from the US businessmen. Can anyone guess why these businessmen did not just shut down their US plants and moved to Dhaka or Chittagong despite of an attractive three page ad on the Wall Street Journal? Well, political unstability is the most important one, but there are other factors which are as imporrtant as that if not more. The primary one is our transportation infrastructure which includes road, highways, air, water, and rail transportation. You can consider yourself very lucky if you ever went from Dhaka to Khulna (approx. 200 miles) in less than eight hours. Whereas, in United States, this same trip would take no more than four hours. Do you see the differ-

The conditions of our roads and highways are also very poor. All of them are sigle lane This only indicates the lack of foresight of our political leaders. They also allow to build bazzars right besides those narrow highways which creates very dangerous conditions. Building better roads and highways is essential for our internal growth too. Poor highways drives up transportation cost which increases the cost of marketing and distribution that results in a higher price for the consumers. Like a chain reaction, this high price contradicts with consumers' purchase ability and the company looses its market. This may not be big obstacle but this is a big problem for smaller companies

which need larger market share within a limited budget. Small and cottege industries are the major providor of jobs in our country. When these companies become bankrupt due to lack of customers (there are many other factors which I will discuss later), future for millions of young college students look uncertain.

This is not all, our inadequate roads and highways are also forcing companies to build their operations in Dhaka city alone. More companies in Dhaka means more jobs and more people that Dhaka can handle. Are you angry about the traffic jam in Dhaka? Please don't be. The third largest city Khulna doesn't even have an airport! So why should companies be in other cities? If they have to get a licence, they have to come to Dhaka, if they have to buy raw materials, they have to come to Dhaka, who wants all these hassels? Moreover, shamelessly, our political leaders use various unions to accomplish their evil purposes.

If you are a manufacturer in Rangpur and you can not deliver your products because the local bus-truck owners association is in strike to free the arrested brother of your local MP(!), how long can you sur-

I am not trying to be political, but if people do not understand themselves what is good for them, nobody can make them understand.

Foreign investors who are unfamiliar with these types of situations will never want to get involved with a country like ours. For our own interest, we should force our government to improve the roads, highways, and the overall infrastructure in a planned manner which

meet our current and future

## Bangladesh in the 21st Century

Javed Zaman javed@juno.com

Washington, DC, USA: Bangladesh has gone

through a turbulent phase in its first 25 years. The violent overthrow of a democratic government and the brutal mayhem of Bangabandhu and other Awami League stalwarts in 1975 were just the beginning of totalitarian regimes and their plunder of the national economy till the caretaker government of President Shahabuddin came to our rescue in 1990-91. But things again rolled back to the days of the past as a neodictatorship emerged with its leader having little respect for parliamentary democracy. And as a consequence of her excesses she too was thrown out of power

Sheikh Hasina's rise to power is significant as she represents the party that actual'y led Bangladesh to its independence. Naturally, our expecta tions are high and so far she has done a lot in this regard. It is obvious from her actions that she is not interested in building a dynasty based on Tareq Rahmans and Sikanders as her predecessor indulged in. She means business in its sincerest

by the people.

The economic agenda should be her prime target. India is an economic power and geopolitically, it is in our national interest to build healthy relationship with that country. Anti-Indian rhetorics would take us nowhere. The new government's priority should be to build a viable economic alliance with all nations of the Indian subcontinent including Pakistan. China has already given tacit approval to such an idea. SAARC should merge with ASEAN and APEC in the 21st century. Let us also make sure that our respective countries do not indulge in training rebels from other countries. Afganistan stands out as an example of what can happen to countries that sponsor such activities. Violence

and instability in Pakistan is a result of that country's interference in the internal matters of another country. Such trends should not be imported from foreign lands in our own national interest. The PM has done a good job in this regard

Bangladesh's prospect as a Vietnam or Singapore of the South, in the 21st century is not unlikely. Khaleda Zia's stance so far has been to agitate and misled the people. If our electorate has come of age I see no reason why her undemocratic aspiration will not be nipped in the bud. She must pick the parliament as her centerpiece to voice her anger and allegations. Awami League has been in power for less than 6 months out of the 5 year mandate they won through the exercise of democracy. Khaleda should behave more responsibly inside the parliament instead of acting like a greedy lady bent on reclaiming her lust for power and ill-gotten wealth even at the expense of jeopardising

We all must focus on building and strengthening our economic infrastructure without bowing to vested interest groups some of whom are annoyed at some of the bold reform measures enacted by the AL government. Economic development can occur only when reforms(that are long overdue) in every sphere of the statecraft has been carried out. In the process it is bound to encounter resistance from the looter and plunderer class who are a stumbling block to the entrepreneurial spirit. There should be no compromise with this particular group who trive on by exploiting the trust of the people. Let the new breed of young entrepreneurs come up with creative ideas to contribute in nation building and thus take Bangladesh to the doorstep of a promising 21st century.

# Politics in Bangladesh

Sheikh Mizanur Rahman rahmans@kms.ac.jp Osaka, **Japan**:

As a Citizen of Bangladesh we are very much worried about the future of the country. Since the Independence of the country in 1971 we can not see a stable govt, which can run smoothly for the welfare of this nation. This is very unfortunate for us. Whoever wins the election take the govt. and will be charged for corruption and misuse of power by the opposition. Why the govt. and the opposition can not move together for the prosperity of the poorest nation of the world? The tendency of the opposition party is always to oppose the govt. right or wrong. This is very funny and disturbing. Any one can easily see those persons who are in power during the previous govt. joining the next govt. only changing the party banner. It does not bring any fruit for the nation. We have to face lot of problems when we are in a foreign country, we have to bow our head when we are talking about our nationality. We want to be proud of our nationality. As a citizen of Bangladesh I want to appeal both the govt. and the opposition to work together for the prosperity of Bangladesh. Let us build a safe and happy Bangladesh. Do not oppose only for oppositin, sometime show your integrety in some decision of the govt. too. Show us some example that the govt. and the opposition can work together for the development of this poor country.

## Experience at ZIA

T. Karen email: unknown

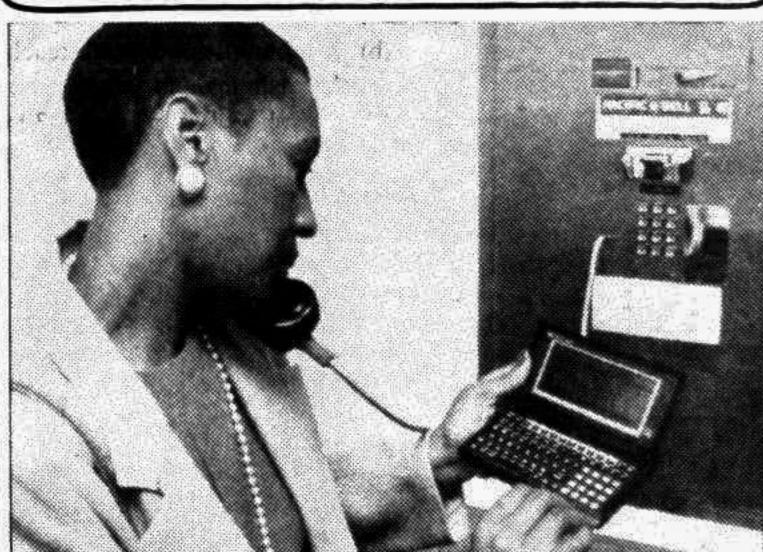
USA: I visited Bangladesh in August of '96. I was very dissapointed and bewildered to see the behavior of people at the Dhaka International Airport This goes for the people working at the airport and the "hooliganism" by the pasengers I observed, as I was waiting to catch my next flight. What was the reason for that? I think you know what I am talking about if not please take time to experience it yourself. Is this kind of behavior due to poverty, lack of education, impatience or just part of every day life?

practical purposes, or persons who are not Bangladeshi Bengalees. As far as I can ascertain, it means anyone who does not belong to the Indian subcontinent. My inquiries tell me that generally a "foreigner" is someone from the US. Europe Germany, or any other mainly 'white' country. Landlords believe that these people make reliable tenants as they pay the rent on time, and they are less likely to damage the property. Further, they are temporary residents and there is slight or no possibility of them attempt

Perhaps these are valid reasons, and perhaps some landlords have had unpleasant experiences with local tenants. but a refusal to even negotiate a rental agreement with a poten tial tenant on the grounds that he or she is "Bangalee" is a form of discrimination. In some countries this kind of behaviour is absolutely unacceptable, and if my friend was fortunate enough to live in such a country, she could have sued the landlord for a large sum of

ing to take possession of the

premises they have rented.



## **Boston's AMRF proposes** a Child Survival Project in Bangladesh

Abdul Momen momen@tivgbbs.com New York, USA:

Boston's AMRF (American Medical Resources Foundation) submitted a proposal to establish a Child Survival Project in Bangladesh. The child, infant and pregnant mothers' mortality is very high in Bangladesh. Bangladesh alone contributes

4% to the total infant (<1 years)

mortality in the world. Each year 17 million children, onethird of the world's total, die only in three South Asian countries: Bangladesh, Pakistan and

AMRF has been donating used and fully operable medical equipment to poor people of the developing countries for last eight years. Their total donations amounts to \$96 million covering 100 million people.

They have completed 150 projects in 63 countries including two projects in Bangladesh. The two projects in Bangladesh were successful due to help from Boston's America-Bangladesh Friendship Society (ABFS). Now AMRF proposes to undertake a Child Survival Project in Bangladesh initially in Zakigoni. Sylhet as infant, child and maternal mortality rates are very high in the area.

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.

# Disclaimer

expressed in these columns.

The Internet is a global medium of communication and

The Daily Star is not responsible for the opinions

# lives and are 'foreign' for all money.

# The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Thursday 23rd 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 song 3:20 Recitation from the Geeta 3:25 Re-telecast of selected programme from TV Archive 4:10 Sports programme 4:45 Tom And Jery 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 National Television School Debate 6:30 Roder Alo Meghar Chhaya 6:50 Religion and Life 7:00 The News 7:25 Sandha Malatee 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Arabian Nights 9:00 Ai Prethibee 9:05 Chhaya Chhanda 10:00 The News 10:25 Switch 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Friday's programme summary 11:40 Close down

## BBC

06:00am BBC World News 06:30 BBC World Newsnight 07:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia Today /24 Hours 10:00 BBC World Headlines 10:05 World Focus Pole to Pole 11:00 BBC Newsday 02:00 BBC World Headlines 02:05 World Focus Global Report 03:00 BBC World News 03:30 Time Out The Travel Show -- Holiday 04:00 BBC Newsdesk 06:00 BBC World Headlines 06:05 Horizon 07:00 BBC World News 07:15 World Business Report 07:30

BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 08:30 Time Out: Top Gear 09:00 BBC World Headlines 09:05 World Focus: Pole to Pole 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Film '97 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 12:00 The World Today 02:00 BBC World Headlines 02:05 Assignment 03:00 BBC World News 03:30

6:00am Frame By Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 8:00 Frame

04:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24 Hours CHANNEL V



The X-Files on Star Plus, Tonight at 10:30



by Frame 9:00 Jump Start VJ

Alessandra 10:00 Frame By

Frame 11:30 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 BPL Oye 4:00

Planet Ruby 4:30 Big Bang VJ

Alessandra 6:00pm Rewind VJ

Sophiya 7:00 By Demand VJ

Trey 8:00 Planet Ruby 8:30

The Vibe 9:00 Videocon

Flashback 9:30 Top of the Pops

10:00 First Day First Show

10:30 Soul Curry 11:00 Classic

Rock 12:00mn Big Bang VJ

Alessandra 1:00 Haysah 2:00 By

Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang

VJ Alessandra 4:30 BPL Oye

5:30 Jump Start VJ Alessandra

Time Out: Tomorrow's World

# STAR PLUS

6:00am Home and Away 630 The Sullivans 7:00 Aerobics Oz Style 7:30 Star News 8:00 Sky News 8:30 Star News 9:00 Sky News 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 10:00 Master Chefs Of Florida Culinary Institute 10:30 E!TV 11:00 Kate & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 21 Jump Street 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:00 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Tehkikat 3:30 Khandaan 4:00 Home and Away 4:30 Land of the Giants

Beauty 6:00pm Kate & Allie 6:30 Master Chefs Of Florida Culinary Institute 7:00 Destinations "Philippines" 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 9:00 Ghutan 9:30 Star News 10:00 Are You Being Served? 10:30 The X Files 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00mn Santa Barbara 1:00 Baywatch Nights 2:00 21 Jump Street 3:00 Quincy 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:00 Barnaby Jones

5:30 Adventures of Black

## STAR SPORTS

6:00am Live the 1997 Australian Open Day 11 From Melbourne, Australia 2xWomen's Singles Semi Finals & 1xMen's Singles Semi Finals 1:00 Indian Football Bharat Petroleum Santosh Trophy 2nd Semi Final From Jabaipur 3:00 World Wrestling Federation Raw-192 4:00 US PGA Tour Bob Hope Chrysler Classic Day 4 6:00 SEA Touring Cars Rds 13&14 6:30 Live India Tour Of South Africa Triangular Series India vs South Africa From Bloemfontein South Africa 2:30 Australian Open Day 11 Highlights 3:30 World Wrestling Federation Raw 4:00 Spanish F'ball League H/L 5:00 Watersports World

## STAR MOVIES

7:30am Future Shock : A Boy And His Dog 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Classic A Matter Of Life And Death PG (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 : A Little Night Music 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Adventire: When The Bough Breaks 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Classic: Bachelor Of Hearts 12 5:30 Comedy : Short Changed 15 7:30 Comedy Alice 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:00 US Top Ten 9:30 Romance: Night And The City 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Comedy: Honeymoon In Vegas 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 1:30 Horror: Sister, Sister 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 3:30 Comedy Emerald City 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 5:30 Classic : Sons And Lovers 15 (Hindi Subtitles)

## ZEE TV

5:30 Suno Bhai Sadho 6:00 News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 ZED 8:30 All Out For No Loss 9:00 Ghumta Aaina 9:30 Hindi Feature Film Show 12:00 Gaane Anjaane 12:30 Chahat Aur Nafrat 1:00 ZED 1:30 Asian Sky Shop 2:00 Hum Paanch 2:30 Tara 3:00 Raahat 3:30 Low Call Show 4:00 Helpline 4:30 Mere Ghar Ana Zindagi 5:00 ZED 5:30 Teer Kamaan 6:00 Nestle Jhatpat Khana 6:30 Hum Honge Kamyaab 7:00 Gaane Anjane 7:30 Raahat 8:00 V3+/Zara Si Jhalak 8:30 Chutki Baja Ke 9:00 Yeh Kahan Aa Gaye Hum 9:30 Dastaan 10:00 Gravera Ki Umeed 10:35 News 11:00 Pakeezah /Ek Nazar 11:30 Hum Paanch 12:00 Tara 12:30 Parampara 1:00 Apcolite Aap Ki Pasand/Shapath 1:30 Hi Zindagi Bye Zindagi 2:00 Celeste 2:30 TMM 4:00 Zee Horror Show Suhana Safar 5:00

## EL TV

07:30 Pyar Hi Pyar 08:30 Jeevan Ki Rang 09:30 Dance Dance 10:30 The Music Show-Real Countdown 11:00 Nukkad

#### Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Tops 12:30 Brigadier Balwant 1:00 Suhana Safar 1:30 Aabshaar (Music Programme) Nazrane 2:00 Special 3:00 Amar Prem 3:30 Chehre 4:00 Akanksha 4:30 Song Yatra 5:00 Dear EL 05:30 Special 6:30

Chaat 12:00 Newsline 12:30 Special 1:30 Tarane Aur Fasane 2:30 Party Time PTV 8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/

11:30 Shatrani 12:00 Top of the

Sorry Meri Lorry 7:00 Bengali

Serial 8:30 Public Dimand 9:30

Gambler 10:30 Humrahi 11:00

Casper Number-1 11:30 Filmi

Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Cut Piece 9:20 Aahang & Roshni 9:45 Phool Chandi 10:05 Sona Chandi (Drama Serial) 10:30 Buttons &

IAN FLEMING'S

LET'S KEEP THIS NASTY LITTLE SCENE BETWEEN OURSELVES, SHALL WE....

11:55 Tele Play (Drama Serial) 12:45pm Qawaali 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem & Bismillah 1:15 Mugaddar (Drama Serial) 2:00 Putihar (Drama Serial) 2:45 Perspective & Health Forum 3:40 Taleemi Maloomat 4:35 Aurat Aur Qanoon 5:05 Home Economics 5:25 Humaray Saath 5:55 Varna (Drama Serial) 6:25 Aiou Courses 7:05 Muqabil Hai Aaina 7:20 Ainaik Wala Jinn 7:45 English News 8:05 Jawaan Sangeet 8:45 Eendhan (Drama Serial) 9:00 Break for Headline News 10:00 Khabarnama & Commercial News 10:35 Mast Mast Sanyo 11:15 Urdu Feature Film & Khas Khas Khabrin/

Rustys (Eng. Film) 10:55 Milli

#### Chamatkaar (Serial) 1:00 Anarth (Serial) 1:30 The Young And The Restless 2:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 5:30

The Three Stooges 6:00 Dennis the Menace 6:30 Yadon Ki Barat 7:00 Premier 7:30 | Dream of Jeannie 8:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fourtune (Game Show) 8:30 Buddha (Serial) 9:00 Sidhi (Serial) 9:30 Hospital 10:00 Aahat 10:30 Janee Kaha Mera Jigar Gaya Ji (Serial) 11:00 The

PROBLEM.

SONY ET

8:30am Yaadon Ki Baarat 9:00

The Three Stooges 9:30 Dennis

The Menace 10:00 | Dream Of

Jeannie 10:30 Surf-Wheel Of

Fortune (Game Show) 11:00

O'Maria (Serial) 11:30 Apne

Jaise Types (Serial) 12:00 5

Star Xpressit 12:30pm

12:00 Pehli Mulakat 12:30 Sunday Ki Sunday 1:00 Nirlop Rasoi Show 1:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fourtune (Game Show) 2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed

Young And The Restless 11:30

Yeh Sadi Nahi Ho Sakti (Serial)

## DD 7

10:30 Janmadin 10:35 Classical Music 11:00 Dance 12:00 ETV Programme 12:30 Monorama Cabin 1:00 Janani (Serial) 1:30 Trishna (Serial) 2:30 Darpan (Serial) 3:00 Eto Tuku Basha (Serial) 3:30 Shreoshi (Serial) 4:30 Thursday Bengali Film 5:30 News 7:00 Pallisama (Serial) 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Bhanga Aaina 8:30 Devi Chudhurini (Serial) 9:00

ZEE CINEMA 6:45 Songs 7:00 Khoon Ka Badla Khoon 9:00 Zandu Filmi Baatein 9:30 Hum Hindustan

Janmabhumi (Serial) 9:30

Monorama Cabin (Serial) 10:00

Bengali Movie Club Film Show

1:00 Closed

(Sunil D) 12:15 Reruns 12:30 Hathkadi (Sanjeev K Shatrughna S. Reena R) 3:15 Chalo Cinema 3:45 Wagt Ki Deewar (Sanjeev K. Neetu Singh) 6:30 Mahakale Devru (Kan) 9:15 Cinema Cinema 9:30 First Take 10:00 Phool Bane Angaare (Rekha, Flajnikant) 12:45 Unda Rajva (Tel) 3:30 Hit Thai Hit Hai 4:00 Nadan (Sunil D. Reena R. Jetendra)

I WAS USING A

MEXICAN JUMPING

BEAN FOR A

SOCCER

BALL

## Tom and Jerry



James Bond







