

Players' protest

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: Top tennis stars playing at the Ford Australian Open Wednesday signed a protest letter over the decision to close the roof at Melbourne Park Centre Court this week...



MELBOURNE, Jan 23: The teenage Swiss sensation Martina Hingis has set up a dream final against French beauty Mary Pierce here on Saturday.

Both ladies won their matches in style against Mary Joe-Fernandez and Amanda Coetzer respectively.

Pierce, who was the 1995 champion here was the first to reach the final for the second time in her career brushing aside what could be a serious challenge from the giant-killer Amanda Coetzer of South Africa.

It was a day of jubilation for 16-year-old Martina Hingis who is tipped by the pundits to lift the title this year.

In the three matches that Pierce and Hingis played against each other so far Pierce won all in straight sets. This will be their fourth meet and Hingis hopes to turn the table on Pierce.

Hingis, Pierce in final

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

not too bad that I fell from the horse.

In fact, her final opponent, Mary Pierce, has more of a claim to major change.

While Hingis has reached at least the semifinals of her last eight tournaments, winning three, Pierce hasn't reached a semifinal since Hamburg last April, when she improved her

"I didn't know where she was hitting the ball, I just couldn't read it very well," she said.

Pierce isn't counting on that advantage when she plays Hingis.



MARY PIERCE



MARTINA HINGIS

FINALISTS' FACT-FILE

Following are the profiles of Martina Hingis and Mary Pierce:

Table with 3 columns: Attribute, Martina Hingis, Mary Pierce. Rows include Age, Nationality, Plays, Rank, Highest career rank, Head to Head, Head to Head on Hard Court, Last meeting on any surface, 1996 W/L, 1997 W/L, Total Career W/L, Grand Slam, Grand Slam Semifinal W/L, Grand Slam W/L, Matches W/L at Ford Australian Open, 1997 \$, Career \$, Career Tour Titles, Career Hard Court Titles, Coach, Best result at Ford Australian Open.

record against Hingis to 3-0. No 3 after winning the Australian in 1995, she has slipped to No. 22 because of injuries and poor form.

"I just feel like my game is getting better and better with every match," she said.

Coetzer, who ousted Graf in the fourth round, battled back from 1-5 to 5-5 against Pierce, but then found her opponent too tough.

Fernandez indeed found Hingis ready and waiting for nearly everything she hit.

"I tried throwing up some high balls and I tried attacking," said Fernandez, a 1990 and 1992 Australian Open finalist. "I made a few too many unforced errors on my forehand, going for shots, because she makes you go for more than you have to because she's so quick."

Hingis' only letdown came after she had taken a 5-1 lead in the second set. Toward the end of a 10-minute game with five deuces, and two match points, Hingis argued a linesman's ruling that a shot by Fernandez was good and ended up losing two straight games.

"I just got a little angry because of the calls," Hingis said. "But it was always clear. I was always leading in the whole match."

Hingis made no mistake on her third match point, breaking Fernandez for the sixth time of the match with a forehand crosscourt.

Looking ahead to Pierce, Hingis said, "I think I'm a little better mover but she has much more power from the baseline, so we'll see."

Hingis also will be playing in the women's doubles final. She and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus beat top seeds Gigi Fernandez and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 Thursday, advancing to a championship meeting with Lindsay Davenport and Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic.

Victory in that match wouldn't be Hingis' first Grand Slam doubles titles, however. She and Sukova won at Wimbledon last year.

Pierce is the first unseeded women's finalist in the Australian since Chris O'Neil won in 1978. The last unseeded women's finalist in one of the majors was Mima Jausovec of Yugoslavia, who lost to Chris Evert in the 1983 French Open.

Mithu-Ainul Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: Upshahar Housing Estate Cricket Club moved into the final of the 10th Mithu-Ainul Smriti Cricket tournament with a marginal one-run victory over Sohag Smriti Sangha here today.

Electing to bat first, Upshahar boys were all out for 189 in 30 overs.

In reply, Sohag Smriti Sangha were restricted to 188 for nine in their stipulated 35 overs.

In the final, Upshahar Housing Estate will meet the winners of tomorrow's second semifinal between Jagrata Sangha and Golden Sun Sunshine Cricket Club.

BOA course

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) organised a course for the sports journalists here yesterday, reports BSS.

More than 20 journalists from different newspapers and agencies took part in the course, conducted by Dr Wing Ki Low - an Olympic expert from Hong Kong.

BOA president and Chief of the Army Staff Lt. General Mohammad Mahubur Rahman gave away the certificates among the participants.

Uphill task for Indians

Sports Reporter

India were 107 for three in 20.4 overs chasing 271 for victory in the inaugural match of the triangular one day series at Bloemfontein, according to the Star TV-live coverage, monitored here last night.

Earlier batting first, hosts South Africa amassed 270 for four from their stipulated quota of fifty overs.

Zimbabwe are the other participants of the three-nation over limit meet.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the South African innings in the one-day international against India:

Table with 4 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Rows include Hudson c Tendulkar b Prasad, Kirsten c Singh b Prasad, Kulsener run out Srnath, Cullinan c Jadeja b Kumble, Rhodes not out, Cronje not out, Extras, Total: (for 4 wickets in 50 overs) 270. Fall of wickets: 1/36; 2/54; 3/165; 4/168.

(Incomplete)

Acme Div II cricket results

Sports Reporter

Young Pegasus Club, DOHS, Spread Eagles, Kathalagan Cricket Club and Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangstha won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches held in different venues of the city yesterday.

Young Pegasus registered an impressive five-wicket win over the East End Club at the Mirpur Outer Stadium. Batting first, East End mustered 181 for nine in a 40-over-a-side match.

Young Pegasus scored 184 with three overs to spare and five wickets in hand. At the T&T ground, DOHS handed Amoryoyt Club 67-run defeat with Shuvo scoring highest 60 for the winners.

Spread Eagles thrashed Nabin Sangha by seven wickets at the Uttara Club ground. Nabin Sangha were caved in 27 overs for a paltry 100 with Biplob notching four wickets. In reply the victors scored 102 playing only 15.3 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Club Ground, Kathalagan out-gunned Uddi Club by 69 runs. Batting first Kathalagan rattled up 183 in 36.4 overs losing all of their wickets. In reply Uddi Club were shot out for 114 in 34.5 overs.

Khelaghar SKS outplayed Mill Barrack CC at the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Ground, thumping down a seven wicket defeat. Chasing a good total of 207 to win, the Khelaghar SKS mustered 213 in 35.5 overs with seven wickets in hand.

Natore football

From Our Correspondent

Natore, Jan 23: Rajshahi District Football Players Association beat Khulna Newprint Club by two goals to nil in the inaugural match of the Sobhan Shahjahan Smriti football tournament at the Kanakhal stadium here today.

Striker Tota scored both the goals for Rajshahi in the 42nd and 65th minutes.

Masumpur Krira Chakra of Sirajganj will take on Jalpurhat Football Players Association in tomorrow's match at the same venue.

Snooker tournaments from Feb 24

The 13th national snooker championship and the second Ashok Leyland national junior snooker championship will be held at the Dhaka Club billiards room from February 24, says a press release.

Interested players have been requested to send entries through their respective clubs to the general secretary, Bangladesh Billiards & Snooker Federation within February 8.

Nirman cricket in Jhalakati

JHALAKATI, Jan 23: Nirman schools cricket tournament began here today at the local stadium, reports UNB.

In the inaugural match, Udbodhon High School defeated Naikati High School by 3 wickets.

Spaniard stuns Chang

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: Carlos Moya's giant-killing run at the Australian Open reached new heights today when he overwhelmed world number two Michael Chang in straight sets to reach his first Grand Slam final, reports Reuter.

The unseeded Spaniard, ranked 25 in the world, surpassed his sensational first round victory over defending champion Boris Becker to brush aside Chang 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 in just over two hours.

"Today I did something big. I played in an unbelievable way," Moya told reporters after his emphatic victory.

In only his fourth Grand Slam tournament, Moya has

reveled in the slow hardcourt conditions and the extreme summer temperatures.

Today, he established his dominance on the baseline, neutralising Chang's challenge with successive forehand winners. As his grip on the match tightened, the Spaniard came in to the net, distracting a surprisingly nervous Chang whose usually reliable baseline game was littered with errors.

"I knew before the match that I had to take risks to beat him. If you stay on the baseline against him, you lose," said Moya, who has won just two tour titles, both on clay.

Chang made a third-set challenge, building up a 3-1 and 40-15 lead on his serve, but Moya managed to step up his game.

"I kept going and broke him back and that was one of the keys. That was the only point he was leading," Moya said.

Chang showed rare moments of emotion and stared repeatedly at his racked as the confident Moya headed to victory.

"To be honest, I don't think I was quite as sharp as I have been. I made a few more errors today and it hurt me," said Chang, a beaten finalist in Melbourne last year.

The stocky American consistently drove the ball either long or into the top of the net and missed several simple smash volleys that he would normally drive home.

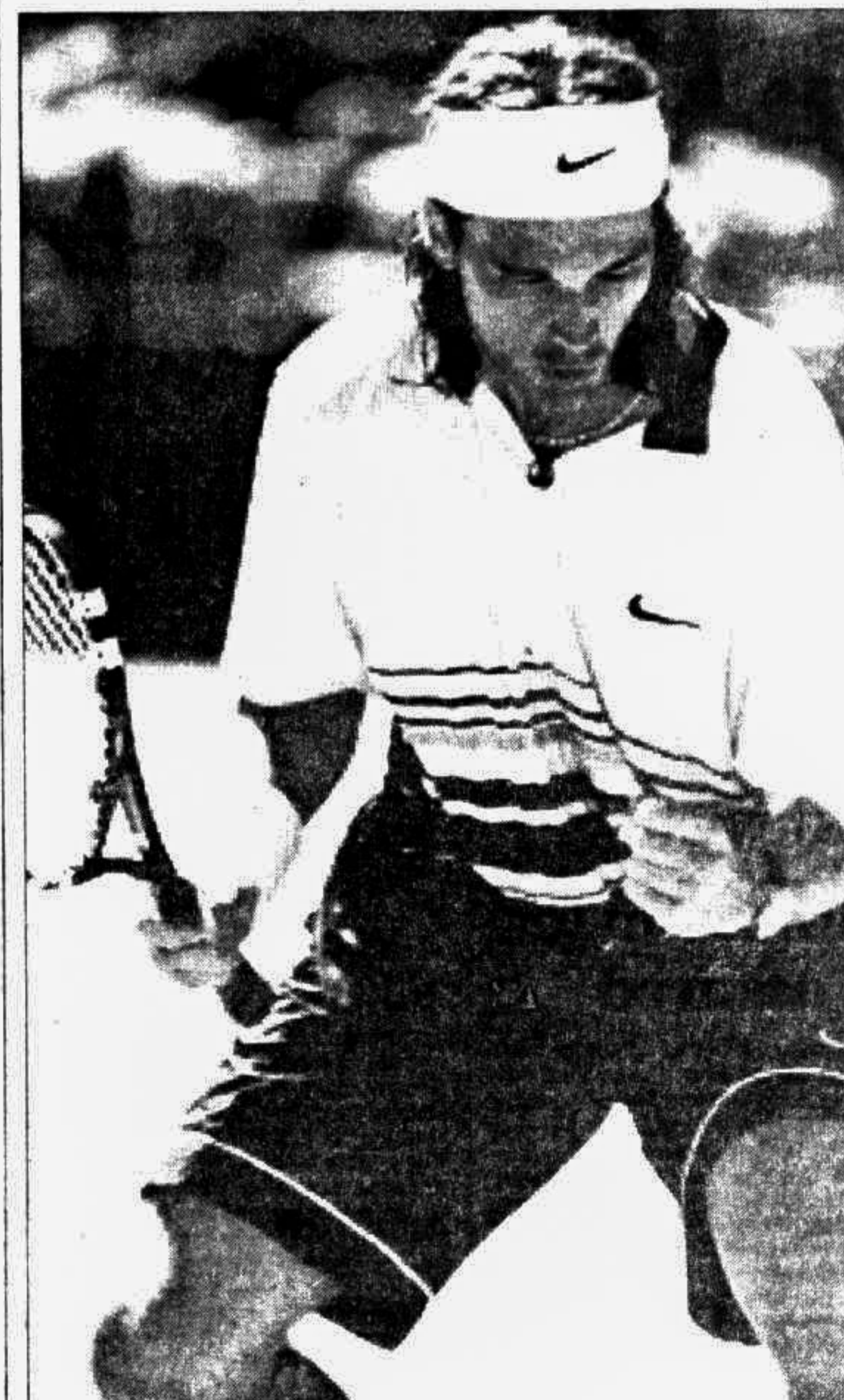
The Barcelona-based Moya raised his arms in triumph and saluted the crowd's standing ovation after sealing the victory with his second match point.

The 20-year-old underdog, his long brown hair held back by a bandanna, has captured the hearts of Melbourne's teenage girls and the imagination of a sport-loving public hoping to see the birth of a new hero.

Today Moya did not let either party down, crushing Chang to silence those who once rated him a mere claycourt specialist unable to adapt to other surfaces.

Moya, who did not advance beyond the second round in last year's four major tournaments, exposed Chang's weak serve, breaking the American on eight occasions.

Although he has not won a Grand Slam title since lifting the French Open as a 17-year-old in 1989, Chang had played the most consistent tennis of any major name in Melbourne.



Spaniard Carlos Moya exults after beating Michael Chang of the United States in an Australian Open semifinal in Melbourne yesterday. Moya won 7-5, 6-2, 6-4.

— Reuter/UNB photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Secondary Education Development Project

458, Senpara Parbata, Section-14 Mirpur, Dhaka-1216

Appointment Notice

Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladesh nationals for filling in the undermentioned posts at the respective offices for the duration of the project (duration of the project is up to December, 1999) under the Secondary Education Development Project of the Ministry of Education.

Table with 4 columns: Sl No, Name of post, pay scale & age limit, Number of posts, Educational qualification & experience. Rows include Accountant, Junior Assistant-cum-Typist, MLSS, Cleaner.

Candidates should reach their application addressing the undersigned and stating the undermentioned particulars to Project Director, Secondary Education Development Project, 458, Senpara Parbata, Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216 by 15.2.97 during office hours.

- a) Name (in block letters); b) Father's/husband's name; c) Present address; d) Permanent address (with home district); e) Correspondence address; f) Date of birth; g) Age of candidate on 15.2.1997; h) Nationality; i) Religion (caste); j) Educational qualification; k) Experience.

The undermentioned papers should be enclosed with the applications: 1. Recent 2 (two) copies passport size attested photographs. 2. Nationality certificate from Union Parishad or Paurasabha Chairman. 3. Character certificate from 2 (two) first class gazetted officers. 4. Experience certificate. 5. Attested true copies of all educational qualification certificates (attested by 1st class gazetted officer). 6. Pay Order/Demand Draft for Tk 50/- from any scheduled bank branch in Dhaka city in favour of Project Director, Secondary Education Development Project, 458, Senpara Parbata, Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. No affidavit on age is acceptable. Candidate in service of any Govt/Semi Govt/Autonomous/approved private organisation should apply through proper channel. All Govt rules will be followed in selecting candidates. The authority, if required, may decrease or increase the number of vacant posts. The authority will reserve full right to accept, select & reject the applications. Any kind of recommendation will only justify disqualification of the candidate.

Project Director Secondary Education Development Project 458, Senpara Parbata, Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার স্বানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, মুলদা

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন ১২১, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ শাহাবাদ, ঢাকা-১০০০

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide. Includes sections for Friday 24th January, Morning Session, Evening Session, 2-30 Opening announcement, Al Quran, programme summary, 8:10 News in Bangla, 8:15 Patriotic, 8:20 Alor Dishan, 8:45 TV Coaching, 9:30 Spoil Binder, 10:00 The News, 10:05 Natun Kum, 11:30 Debate, 12:30 Programme summary of the evening session, close down, Evening Session, 2-30 Opening announcement, Al Quran, programme summary, 2:40 Recitation from the Tripitak, 2:50 Patriotic Song, 3:00 Bengali Feature Film, 3:10 News in Bangla, 5:00 News in Bangla, 5:40 Picket, 6:00 Open University, 7:00 The News, 7:25 Malancha, 7:45 Modern Songs, 7:45 Aparanchar Chhiti, 8:00 News in Bangla, 8:45 Drama of the week, 9:01 Parabasse, Script: Morshed Chowdhury, Producer: Barkat Ulla, 10:00 News in English, 10:25 The X-Files, 11:30 News in Bangla, 11:35 Saturday's programme summary.