

Mihailovic's ban reduced

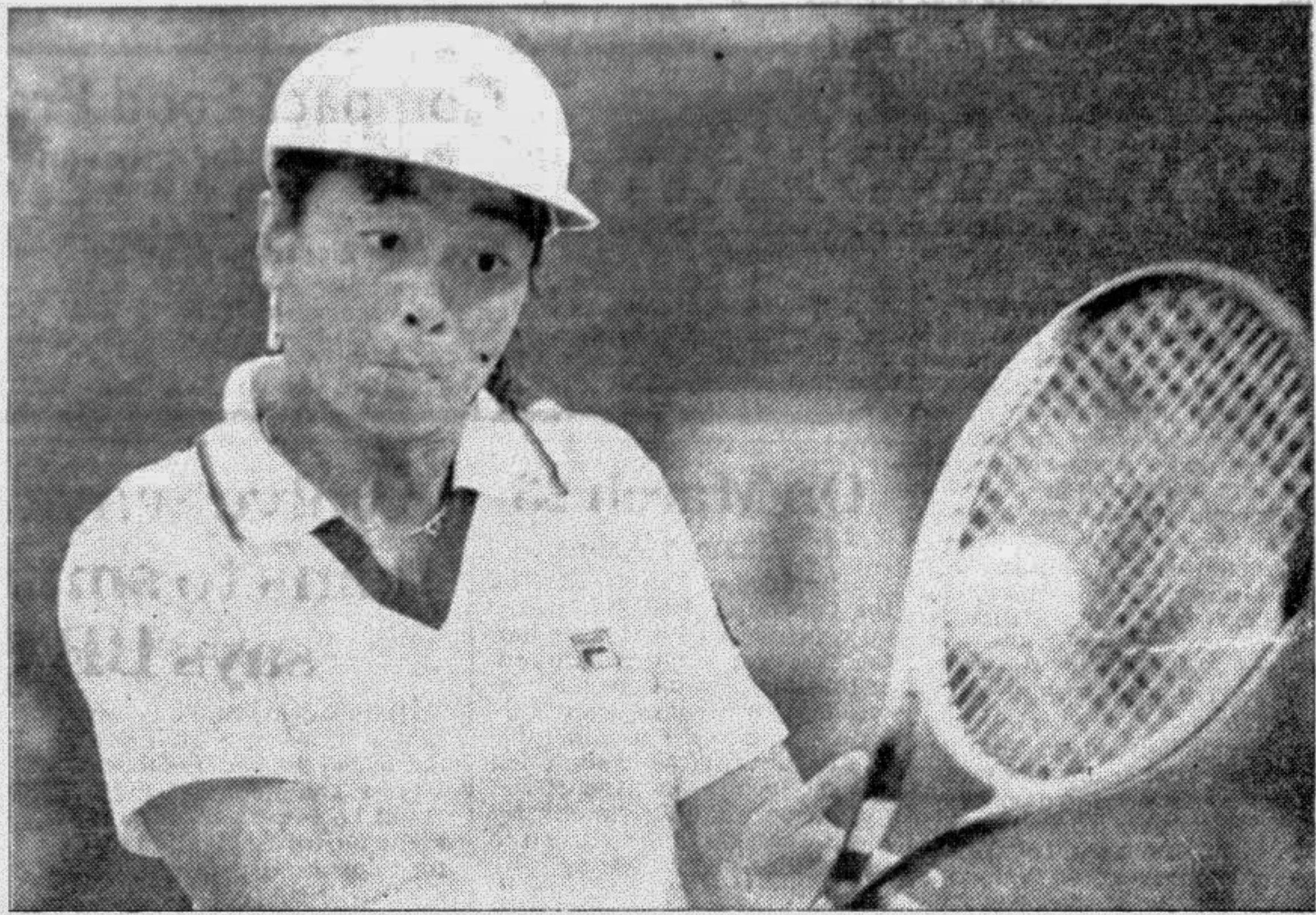
ROME, Mar 22: The Italian soccer federation has halved a controversial four-match ban on Sampdoria defender Sinisa Mihailovic after a referee had a change of heart, an official said today, reports Reuter.

Yugoslavia's Mihailovic was given the severe ban earlier this month following a Sunday league match, when he kicked the ball in the direction of the referee and insulted him after a penalty had been awarded to opponents Atalanta.

Sampdoria's general director Emiliano Salverezza called the ban "shameful and squalid" and the club's fans held a minute's silence at the start of last Sunday's league encounter to protest against the punishment.

The federation's disciplinary committee reduced the ban to two games after the match referee Salvatore Racalbuto changed his report to say that Mihailovic had kicked the ball "towards" him "in a non-violent fashion" and not "against" him, as he had previously written.

Mihailovic will have to sit out this weekend's match against Placenza but will be back for Sampdoria's subsequent league game against Parma.



Canadian Patricia Hy-Boulais plays backhand against top seed Swiss Martina Hingis during their second round action at the Lipton Championships in Florida on Mar 21. — AFP/UNB photo

Hingis, Seles put to tests



KEY BISCAIYNE, Florida, Mar 22: Former and future world number one Monica Seles and Martina Hingis had to go the distance in their opening matches at the 1.75 million dollars WTA Lipton Championship Friday, reports agencies.

Seles, playing her first match since November due to a broken finger, outlasted 45th-ranked Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

Hingis rallied to beat 59th ranked Patricia Hy-Boulais of Canada 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

"I was fighting against myself," said Hingis after stretching her unbeaten record in 1997 to 24 matches.

Seles won the Lipton in 1990 and 1991. She was sidelined for two years after being stabbed in the back by a deranged fan during a match in Germany in 1993.

Seles lost her share of the No 1 ranking last November and has slipped to fifth. She sheepishly admitted that while her finger feels fine, she's not in the best of shape.

"I haven't done anything," she said. "I haven't done too

much but practice a lot the last two weeks. The next four or five weeks I'm playing tournaments, and I'll have time to focus on tennis, no distractions."

Seles struggled with rusty timing against Sawamatsu but also showed flashes of the form that has won nine Grand Slams. She spanked baseline winners from both sides and twice topped 100 mph (160 kph) with her serve, a weakness last year because of a chronic shoulder ailment.

Seles raced to a 4-0 lead in the final set, twice breaking Sawamatsu's serve at 15. When the victory was complete, she gave the crowd a wave and a smile and signed autographs on her way off the court. She next plays American Amy Erazier or Germany's Barbara Rittner.

Hingis lost her first match here last year to Japan's Nana Miyagi, and there were moments on Friday when she looked as though she might go the same way again. She was certainly pleased to get through against Sawamatsu.

"It's good to win a match like this," Hingis said. "If I want to still compete in this tournament, I will have to play better

in my next match."

Hingis now faces a third-round showdown with either 16-year-old American Venus Williams, or former teenage star Jennifer Capriati, who is making a comeback after drug and legal troubles.

Hingis came out on court under threatening skies after a rain delay of more than five hours and quickly showed frustration at the wind and her own errors.

She slammed one ball to the far end of the court in the fourth game and another into the stands two points from the finish of the first set.

Hy-Boulais broke Hingis for a 2-1 lead with a forehand winner beyond the Swiss girl's reach, then broke again for a 5-2 edge. Hingis answered by breaking back but then squandered the set on two shots beyond the baseline.

Hingis rallied in the second set, breaking Hy-Boulais' final three service games to even the match.

She needed three deuces to hold serve in the first game of the third set then broke Hy-Boulais in the next game and the final game to win.

Martina not satisfied



KEY BISCAIYNE, Florida, Mar 22: Martina Hingis says she has earned her upcoming world number one ranking and should not be considered a fill-in for injured German star Steffi Graf, reports AFP.

Graf was unable to seek her fourth consecutive WTA Lipton Championships title here because of a knee injury.

As a result, she will lose enough points to ensure the Swiss 16-year-old becomes the youngest number one ever.

"It doesn't matter to me," Hingis said. "If she can't play at

this tournament, it is not my problem. She has to be prepared and try to play at these tournaments."

"If she is not able to, someone else will step there."

That someone has been Hingis, who is 24-0 this year and has won four WTA titles including her first Grand Slam crown at the Australian Open.

But Hingis still resists the urge to crown herself the 'queen of tennis' in Graf's absence.

"Right at this moment I can't say that," Hingis said. "I want to say that I have won four tournaments in a row. I didn't play badly. Why can't I say that?"

"In every sport it's a goal to be the best. It's what I have worked for all my life. It feels great to be number one. It's like a little dream comes true now."

Hingis has beaten Graf only once last year at the Italian Open. They were set to meet in the Pan Pacific Open final before Graf dropped out with an injury.

They last played at the WTA championship finals in New York last November when a cramping Hingis forced Graf to five sets to a fall.

"If Steffi is coming back, I would like to play her once again," Hingis said. "It has been a long time, since New York."

Hingis has vowed not to be changed by success. But like Peter Pan she is finding she cannot stay a child forever.

The little girl is becoming a woman and unbeatable at the same time.

"Everyone expected her to someday get to the top, but definitely not this quickly," Olympic champion Lindsey Davenport said. "Since the US Open, she has really grown up a lot, changed her game and gotten a lot of confidence."

"She is not only great on the court but off the court she seems to have a great balance," Seles said.

Rain plays foul at Eden Park

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Mar 22: Heavy morning rain forced the postponement of Saturday's opening limited-over cricket international between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at Eden Park, reports AP.

The match will be played Sunday if the weather improves, officials said.

Rain left large puddles on the outfield Saturday morning and umpires Doung Cowie and Brent Bowden abandoned any hope of play 75 minutes after the scheduled start time.

The second game in the three-match series will be played in Christchurch on Tuesday with the third scheduled for Wellington on Thursday.

Kenny confirms Ginola's plan

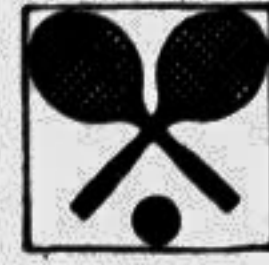
NEWCASTLE, Mar 22: Newcastle manager Kenny Dalglish confirmed Friday that French winger David Ginola has asked for a transfer, reports AP.

Ginola, who has not been a regular starter under Dalglish, stayed in France after Newcastle's exit from the UEFA Cup against Morocco on Tuesday night.

The Frenchman reported for training Friday, and Dalglish said he could be in the lineup for Newcastle's league game at Wimbledon on Sunday.

Dalglish said no decision has been made on Ginola's transfer request.

An act of unification?



KEY BISCAIYNE, Florida, Mar 22: (AFP) Romance is in the air between the ATP and WTA Tours with future dates together being discussed after enjoyable past encounters.

Directors of both pro tennis tours are talking here this weekend at the 4.45 million-dollar Lipton Championships about playing more events like this that combine men's and women's fields.

"You don't need to be a brain surgeon to figure out that tennis should have more such events," said Butch Buchholz, Lipton's tournament director and a long-time supporter of unified events.

Davydov's distinction

MOSCOW, Mar 22: Anatoly Davydov, 43, became the oldest player to appear in the Russian Premier league when he turned out in this week's season opener for Zenit St Petersburg, reports Reuter.

He then went one better for the record books when his son Dmitry, 22, came on as a last-minute substitute in Monday's 1-0 win over Fakel Voronezh. It was the first time a father and son had played together in Russia's top division.

The previous Russian age record was a mere 39, set by Lada Togliatti goalkeeper Alexander Balakhnin in 1994.

"Combined men and women events like the Grand Slams attract more television and general interest from fans than the average tour event."

The Lipton and last week's Evert Cup in Indian Wells, California, are the only two events outside the Grand Slams with simultaneous men's and women's tournaments.

The ATP and WTA each have nine tournaments, including here and Indian Wells, at a level just below the Grand Slams and season finals. The WTA would like to combine fields at up to three more outdoor events.

"Feasibility of this and other related issues, as well as the timing of any implementation, are being reviewed," a WTA statement said.

Rome and Hamburg, two French Open tuneup tournaments, would be easiest to combine. Women now play in each city one week before the men in May.

Another possibility is Canada, where the women and men alternate years between playing at Toronto and Montreal. This year the WTA is in Toronto in August, two weeks after the men play in Montreal. Both are US Open tuneups.

There are concerns about loss of identity and potential overshadowing of one field by the other. But the possible benefits of working together are also great in dealing with sponsors and television contracts.

Buchholz sees greater unification of the women's and men's tours helping fans make sense of the often jumbled global tennis scene, provided

the tennis powers are willing to surrender some of their independence.

"I would like to see the ATP and WTA form a partnership," he said. "The ranking systems could be the same for both."

Buchholz suggests having Fed Cup and Davis Cup matches the same weekend.

"That way there would be some form to the tennis calendar," he said. "I don't think the average fan can understand 88 separate men's tournaments and 66 separate women's events."

Romanian athlete in stew

BUCHAREST, Mar 22: Romanian junior world champion Andrea Burlacu failed a doping test this month, the Romanian athletics federation said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Burlacu, 400 metres gold medalist at the 1996 Junior World Championships in Sydney, tested positive when the first sample was analysed.

The 20-year-old athlete risks a two-year ban if the second sample shows a similar result.

"Burlacu was found positive earlier in March with metandienon metabolite," the federation said in a statement.

Any sanction will depend on the findings from the second sample. Burlacu, 20, risks a two-year ban if the second sample is positive.

She won the 400 metres at the 1996 Junior World Championship in Sydney.



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Tender Notice

For execution of the undermentioned works of Bangladesh National Museum, sealed tenders are invited from Directorate of printing, stationery, forms & publication enlisted 'A' & 'B' category press contractors for the work at Sl. No. 1 and established auto-rickshaw body manufacturing/supplying firms for the work at Sl. No. 2. Contractors shall have to apply in their respective pad and produce the original licence at the time of purchasing tender schedule. At the time of submitting tender, photo copies of up-to-date enlistment licence, Income Tax clearance certificate of the preceding year & experience certificate of relevant work (signed by the Executive Engineer/equivalent officer concerned) attested by 1st class gazetted officer should be submitted with the tender. Otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled. Tender will be sold at the undermentioned price from the Engineering Section, Accounts Section & Reception Centre of Bangladesh National Museum and Ahsan Manzil Museum office during office hours up to 29.3.97 and will be received in the tender box maintained at the said places up to 12:00 Noon of 30.3.97. Besides, tender can be sent by post/courier service within the prescribed time under sealed cover addressed to Secretary, Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbag, Dhaka. After the prescribed time, tenders sent by post/courier service cannot be acceptable under any circumstance. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 12:15 minutes in presence (if any) of the tenderers. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Sl No	Name of work	Price of tender	Time limit for work
1.	Work of Printing Fine Arts Journal of Bangladesh National Museum and printing visitors entry ticket of Zia Memorial Museum. Estimated cost: Tk 1,49,600/-	Tk 200/-	15 (fifteen) days
2.	Work of manufacturing body of Bajaj 3-wheeler made in India auto-rickshaw. Estimated cost: Quoted by contractor	Tk 50/-	15 (fifteen) days

Md Mizanur Rahman
Secretary
Bangladesh National Museum

DFF-6201-16/3
G-7/95

Sunday 23rd March

(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes).

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement
3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Cartoon 3:45 Rerecast of Drama
4:00 News in Bangla 4:50 Maram 5:25 Sports Programme 6:30 Apar Doctor 6:55 Open University 7:00 The News 7:10 Gonorantner Abhijata 7:25 Gintola 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 71 Dinipi 8:35 Balun Dakhy 9:00 Film: Series: Queen 10:30 News in English 10:30 Chayachanda 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 News 8:30 India Business Report 9:00 BBC World News 9:25 This Week 10:00 BBC World

Headlines 10:05 World Focus: Horizon 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: Correspondent 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 4:00 BBC World Headlines 4:05 World Focus: Everyday 5:00 BBC World News 5:20 Window On Europe 6:00pm BBC World Headlines 6:05 World Focus: Pandora's Box 7:00 BBC World Headlines 7:05 Breakfast with Frost 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 Time Out: Holiday 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 World Focus: Horizon 10:00 BBC World News 10:20 Earth Report 10:30 Time Out: Film 97 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Time Out: Top Gear 12:00am BBC World News 12:20 On The Record 1:00 BBC World News 1:20 Window On Europe 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 World Focus: Under The Sun 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 4:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24

Hours 05:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24

CHANNEL V

6:00am Frame by Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Big Bang Week end VJ Alessandra 11:00 BPL Oye! 12:00 Leonardo Mangta Hai 12:30 Liberty First Day First Show 1:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 2:00 Speak Easy 2:30 Videocon Flashback 3:00 Asian Top 20 VJ Trey 4:30 The Vibe Weekend VJ Luke 6:00pm 7:00pm Soul Curry 8:00 The Indian Top 10 8:30 Malibu Jammin 9:00 Big Bang India Featuring Pentagram 10:00 Launchpad VJ Samira 11:00 House Of Noise VJ Luke 12:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 The Ride 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Launchpad VJ Samira 5:30 VJ Alessandra

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Action: Melvin Purvis - G-Man 12 9:30 Family: Once Upon A Forest G 11:00 The Bhaskar Ghose Show 11:30 Classic: The Island Of Lost Souls 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Classic: Peyton Place 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Sunday Show Time: Pee-Wee's Playhouse PG 4:30 Sunday Show Time: The Typewriter, The Rifle, and the Movie Camera 5:30 Sunday Family: Double Feature: Who

STAR SPORTS

6:30am World Wrestling Federation Blast off 8:00 Live Rugby World Cup Sevens 1997 4:30 NBA Game Of The Week Detroit @ Chicago 6:30 Inside PGA Tour 7:00 1997 NCAA Men's Basketball Championships 1st Round-Game TBC City TBC

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