

Susanti's sixth

SOLO, Indonesia, July 20: Olympic gold medalist Susi Susanti today scored her sixth Indonesia Open victory by effortlessly trashing the country's rising hope Meluawati 11-4, 11-5, reports AFP.

Susanti's win in the championship was achieved without any serious challenge as players from China were absent from the Indonesia Open this year.

The Chinese contingent pulled out of the game at the last minute following visa difficulties faced by some of its members.

Except for South Korea's Lee Joo Hyun, who she beat in the semifinals.

Susanti dictated the pace and the play in the first set against Meluawati, forcing long, taxing rallies. Susanti took the first set 11-4.

Her strategy, however, did not work early in the second set, when Meluawati turned to aggressive play that kept pressure on her.

The Indonesian ace shuttler, however, forced her junior back to the long rallies that forced a lot of errors from Meluawati and wrapped up the second set with 11-5.

"Perhaps they are all young players who still need more experience, more experience in competition abroad to get more confidence," Susanti said after the game on why she remained mostly unbeaten by her compatriots.

In the all-Indonesia mixed doubles, world's second ranked Trikus Haryanto and Minarti Timur made it a fast, 48-minute affair to defeat Bambang Suprianto and Rosalina Ruseu, in a straight set 15-11, 15-6.

Francis Jr's finest hour

LONDON, July 20: Dean Francis went one step better than his father at the Wembley arena on Saturday by winning the British supermiddleweight title when he stopped David Starie in the sixth-round of a scheduled 12-round contest, reports AFP.

And he could well be fighting for the world crown before the end of the year.

Francis' father, Trevor Francis, who won the WBA welterweight title in the same Wembley arena in 1972, failed to take the British welterweight crown during his career when he was beaten in a little fight by Pat Thomas.

But Francis Jr took his chances against Starie, who was making his first title defence.

A small cut opened on Starie's right cheek towards the end of the third round, and a gash appeared on his right eyebrow in the fifth.

Francis completed his demolition in the next round, landing with three sharp lefts, to send Starie down for a count of six.

Although the previously unbeaten champion managed to box on — he was still clearly dazed and when more big punches sent Starie down for a second time the referee wisely called a halt.

"I knew I was going to win. It's my dream come true," said Francis after his triumph.

"I knew I could beat him but I needed to prove it, he's a clever boxer, he picked his punches and he was catching me early before I got on top."

Warren said: "It was a good performance and Dean could be involved in a world title fight by the end of the year, either against Steve Collins, the WBO champion WBC champion Robin Reid.

Kuwait backs Rome's bid

ROME, July 20: Kuwaiti Prince Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), on Saturday sent Rome an optimistic message on its for the 2004 Summer Olympics, reports Xinhua.

The Prince said during his visiting tour to the Italian capital that the city has been well conditioned to stage Olympics.

It boasts of all the match venues and sporting facilities an Olympic Games would need, the IOC delegate evaluated, and what's more, it has experience in hosting international meetings.

The Kuwaiti cited the 1990 World Cup success as an example for the city's ability to handle big sports events.



Groundsmen bring out the covers as rain spoils the India-Pakistan match in their Asia Cup encounter in Colombo yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

Sky opens to save Pakistan

COLOMBO, July 20: Pakistan escaped from the havoc caused by Indian seamer Venkatesh Prasad today when rain and bad light forced the crucial Asia Cup one-day match between the teams to be abandoned, report agencies.

Prasad ripped through the Pakistan top order, taking four wickets in five overs, as India, who elected to field in overcast conditions, reduced Pakistan to 30 for five from nine overs.

Bad weather, however, prevented any further play and the match — the winners of which will almost certainly advance to the final — will be played afresh tomorrow.

Prasad started with three wickets but struck with the last delivery of the first over as Saeed Anwar offered no stroke to an incoming ball and was declared leg before wicket.

Television replay, however, showed the ball hitting the batsman high on the thigh.

In his second over, Prasad trapped Amir Sohail leg before with the fourth ball and had Inzamam-ul-Haq picked up brilliantly in the gully by Rahul Dravid off the last.

Pakistan were 10 for three when rain and bad light stopped play, but there was little respite

from Prasad when play resumed three hours later.

Salim Malik, who made 10,

attempted to cut another incoming ball and only managed to edge a simple catch to Mohammad Azharuddin at second slip.

Prasad's new-ball partner Abey Kuruvilla, bowling off a short run-up to control the swing, then found the edge of Rameez Raja's bat to present Azharuddin with his second catch.

Light rain took the players off the field for a second time and the umpires decided to abandon play because there was no time left to accommodate a minimum of 25 overs a side.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard of Pakistan's innings against India in the Asia Cup match called off due to rain at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday:

PAKISTAN				
Anwar Ibw b Prasad	0			
Sohail Ibw b Prasad	1			
Rameez c Azharuddin b Kuruvilla	5			
Inzamam c Dravid b Prasad	0			
Malik c Azharuddin b Prasad	10			
Moin not out	4			
Afridi not out	0			
Extras (lb-3, w-6, nb-1)	10			
Total (for 5 wks in 9 overs)	30			
Fall of wickets 1/3; 2/10; 3/10; 4/23; 5/29				
Bowling: O M R W				
Prasad	5	1	17	4
Kuruvilla	4	0	10	1

PRASAD ... 4 for 17

Corretja stays on course

STUTTGART, Germany, July 20: Third seed Alex Corretja of Spain and Karol Kucera of Slovakia both scored straight-sets semifinal victories at the 1.04 million dollars Mercedes Cup today as sun finally arrived at the rain-plagued event, reports AFP.

The winners were to face off for the title — and a cheque for 157,000 dollars and a Mercedes SLK sports car — later on Sunday.

After bad weather on Friday and Saturday, which put the event a day behind schedule, neither player wasted any time in moving ahead when the semifinals got underway today morning at the Weissenhof Club.

Corretja, aiming for a third title after compiling the year's best record on clay of 36 wins, 12 defeats, beat compatriot and training partner Albert Costa, seeded ninth, 6-4, 6-4 in 78 minutes.

Unseeded Kucera needed 10 minutes less to prevent a fourth all-Spanish final on the ATP Tour this year as he posted a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Spaniard Albert Portas, winning on the first of three match points.

The Slovakian, 45th in the world and coached by former great Miloslav Mecir, broke once in each set against Portas, who started the week with an upset of top seed and two-time champion Thomas Muster of Austria.

Kucera, 23, owns only one singles title in his career, from

Rosmalen, Holland in 1995. Corretja was never threatened by Costa, who is recovering from a back injury which sidelined him for several weeks after the French Open.



Colombian soccer star Carlos Valderrama, escorted by a body guard, leaves the field after a light practice prior a World Cup qualifier against Ecuador in Barranquilla on Sunday. — AFP/UNB photo

Canadians yet to pick up steam

ABBOTSFORD, Canada, July 20: A lacklustre two days of performances by Canadian athletes in their national championships Saturday thanks to three sprinters — led by Donovan Bailey — and a couple of women's 1,500 metres competitors, reports AFP.

Event after event had ended without any Canadian athlete achieving even the world standard in their event but on Saturday two women from British Columbia — Lesh Pells and Robyn Meagher — thrilled the local crowd with world standard performances in the final of the 1,500m.

Pells won the race in 4mins 07.2 secs, with Meagher clocking 4:07.68. Third-placed Kathy Butler missed the world-standard time of 4:09.00 by just 79/100 of a second.

Then, half an hour later, Donovan Bailey wooed the crowd in the 100m final with a time of 10.03 seconds, second, at 10.10, was Robert Esmie, followed by Burny Surin who clocked 10.15. Just 0.06 seconds better than the world standard of 10.21.

But Bailey, now recognised by Canadians at least as the world's fastest man after the June debacle over 150 with American Michael Johnson, was far from happy with Saturday's performance.

"I'm just glad to get out of it not hurt," he grumbled afterwards.

"I shouldn't feel like this two weeks before the world (in Athens). I just don't feel like me. But I've come through in the clutch before."

Esmie's second-place timing of 10.10 seconds was a personal best while Surin, once Canada's top sprinter, was visibly disappointed with his 10.15 second and third place.

Komen runs fastest 2 miles

HECHTEL, Belgium, July 20: Kenyan Daniel Komen set a new world best of 7min 58.61sec over two miles at an athletics meeting here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Komen, who also holds the world record for the 3,000m, easily bettered the previous record of 8:01.80 set by Ethiopia's Haile Gebrselassie on May 31.

"I thought I could get under eight minutes and the pace-makers and conditions were perfect," said the Kenyan.

Komen added that he was hoping to record a time of '12 (minutes) 34 or 35 (seconds)' in the 5,000m at the World Championship in Athens next month. Gebrselassie is also the current world record holder over that distance with a time of 12:44.39 set in 1995.

Egypt atop

BEIRUT July 20: Egypt pulled out all of the stops at the Pan-Arab Games here on Saturday and surged into a big lead in the medals table after adding another 13 golds to their haul, reports AFP.

They now have 36 golds while closest rivals Algeria, who won six more events on Saturday, have 23.

Egypt's latest successes came in weightlifting (6), men's volleyball, shooting, judo (3) and boxing (2).

Although Leila Zeitounne won the 48 kg category in the women's judo — Algeria's other triumphs on Saturday were restricted to boxing where they had five champions.

Euro Youth Olympics on

LISBON, July 20: The fourth European Youth Olympic Games kicked off here Saturday night at the Lisbon University Students Stadium, reports Xinhua.

Around 2,500 athletes from 47 European countries take part in the championships, which features 10 competitive events including track and field, basketball, cycling, handball, football, gymnastics, judo, swimming, volleyball and yachting.

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch alongside Portuguese President attended the opening ceremony.

Gatting settles old scores



LONDON, July 20: Australia's bowlers were made to struggle as Middlesex's former England captain Mike Gatting exacted some revenge on Shane Warne at Lords on Saturday, reports AFP.

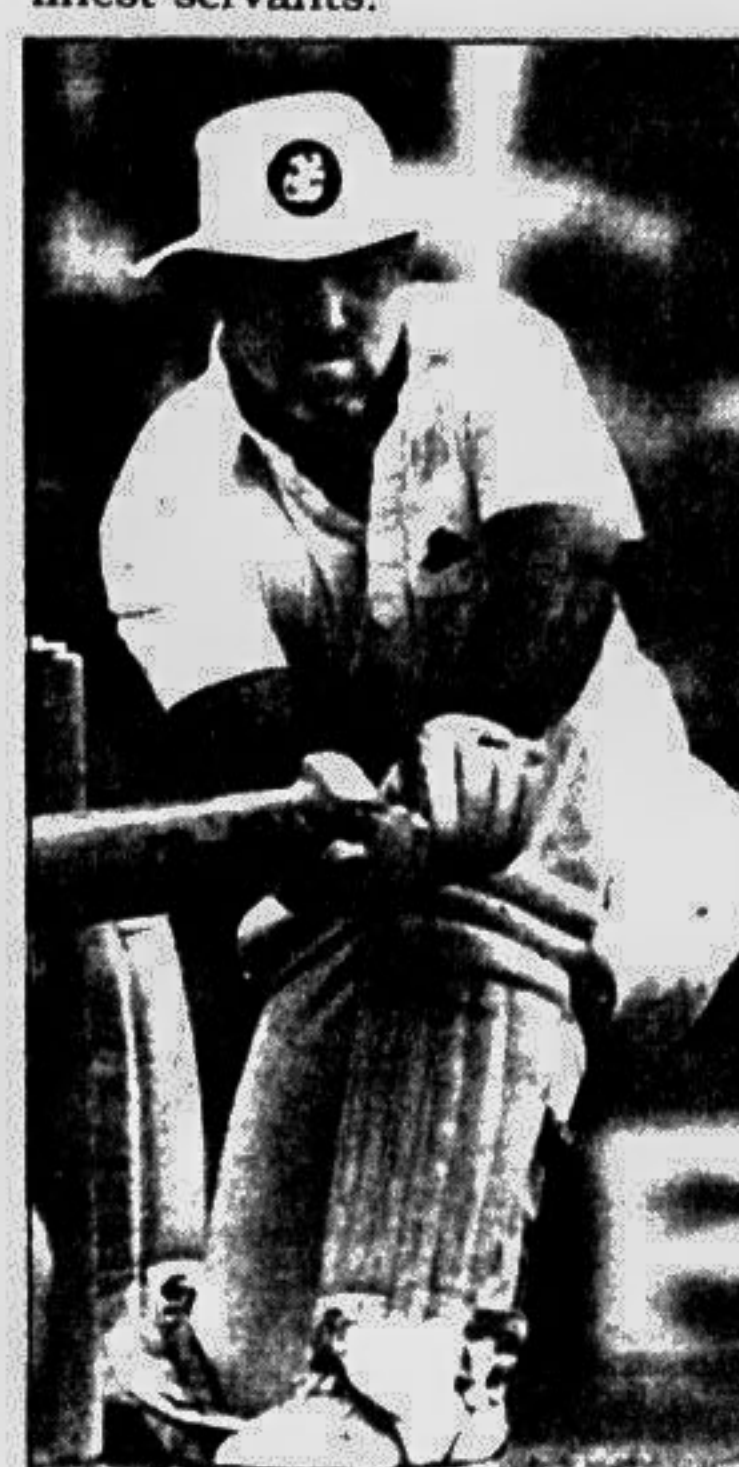
But the 40-year-old Gatting, who captained England to their last Ashes success in 1986-87 and is now an England selector, fell 15 agonising runs short of his 93rd first class hundred.

In surely his last match against Australia, Gatting was yanked by Glenn McGrath just when it seemed that he would knock off the necessary runs to edge closer to joining the elite club of century-makers.

McGrath, the eight-wicket destroyer of England's first innings in the rain-hit Lord's Test, was fresh and into the second ball of a new spell he shattered the wickets when he was too quick for Gatting's reactions.

Despite his advancing years, the quality of Gatting's 200-minute, 156-ball innings was evidence enough to suggest that there are plenty of runs still to

come from one of Middlesex's finest servants.



GATTING ... 85

He was obliged to face his first ball from Warne, reviving memories of the leg-spinner's 'ball of the century' in the Old Trafford Test four years ago.

He comfortably negotiated it, and proceeded to strike six of his fifteen fours at Warne's expense.

A vibrant stand of 120 in 212 deliveries with new captain Mark Ramprakash, who hit 76 in 166 minutes and 140 balls with 10 fours and a six into the mound stand off Warne, put Middlesex in the favourable position of 169 for two.

Gatting then added 72 in 25 overs with the 18-year-old rising star Owais Shah.

Shah, who toured Australia with England A last winter, played a series of confident, fluent drives in making 28 before unwisely attacking Warne on the stroke of tea for Mark Waugh to make a difficult slip catch look easy.

Middlesex were eventually prized out for 305 just before stumps with McGrath returning four for 61 and Warne one for 76 in the first serious tweeking of his spinning finger since jetting back from a brief return trip to Australia.

Careless run costs Essex



LONDON, July 20: A direct throw from Rob Bailey to run out Paul Grayson stopped Essex from going top of the English county championship and sealed a dramatic 15-run victory for struggling Northamptonshire on Saturday, reports AFP.

Essex, chasing a target of 306, were reduced to 225 for eight in the third over after tea.

But they were taken to the brink of an improbable triumph by Grayson who hammered eight fours and a six in his 62, putting on 52 for the ninth wicket with Neil Williams before Bailey's brilliant intervention.

It was only Northants' second county championship success of the season, but followed their recent victory over Kent at Maidstone.

Surrey beat Hampshire by nine wickets at Guildford to

record what was also their second championship victory of the season.

Having bowled out Hampshire for 251, the Benson and Hedges Cup winners needed 80 minutes in total to score the requisite 78 runs.

The only casualty was Mark butcher who fell top-edging an attempted sweep off Shuan Udal when he made 20, while Jason Ratcliffe (29/10) and England man Graham Thorpe (26/10) guided Surrey home.

Surrey captain Adam Holoake said: "We've been trying to string some results together but we've been thwarted by the weather and Test calls. But may be now we can begin to build up a title challenge."

Lancashire crushed Sussex by an innings and 18 runs to end an Old Trafford championship drought stretching back two years.

Northants' victory since then have lost 1-6 and drawn eight in Manchester.

Champions Leicestershire stormed to a fine six-wicket victory over Kent at Canterbury, courtesy of an unbroken stand of 225 for the fifth wicket between Neil Johnson and Ben Smith.

Smith scored the winning boundary to finish on 121 not out while South African Johnson scored his second 100 of the season, finishing on 117 not out as the pair halted Leicestershire, to success having come together just before lunch with the visitors 142 for four.

Dorset claimed figures of five for 98, but he was as frustrated as the other Warwickshire bowlers by a gutsy Notts fightback after following on 211 behind.

The home side managed 415 in their second innings leaving Warwickshire with a tall-order of making 205 in 32 overs which, after quickly slipping to eight for three, proved well beyond them.

McRae signs new contract

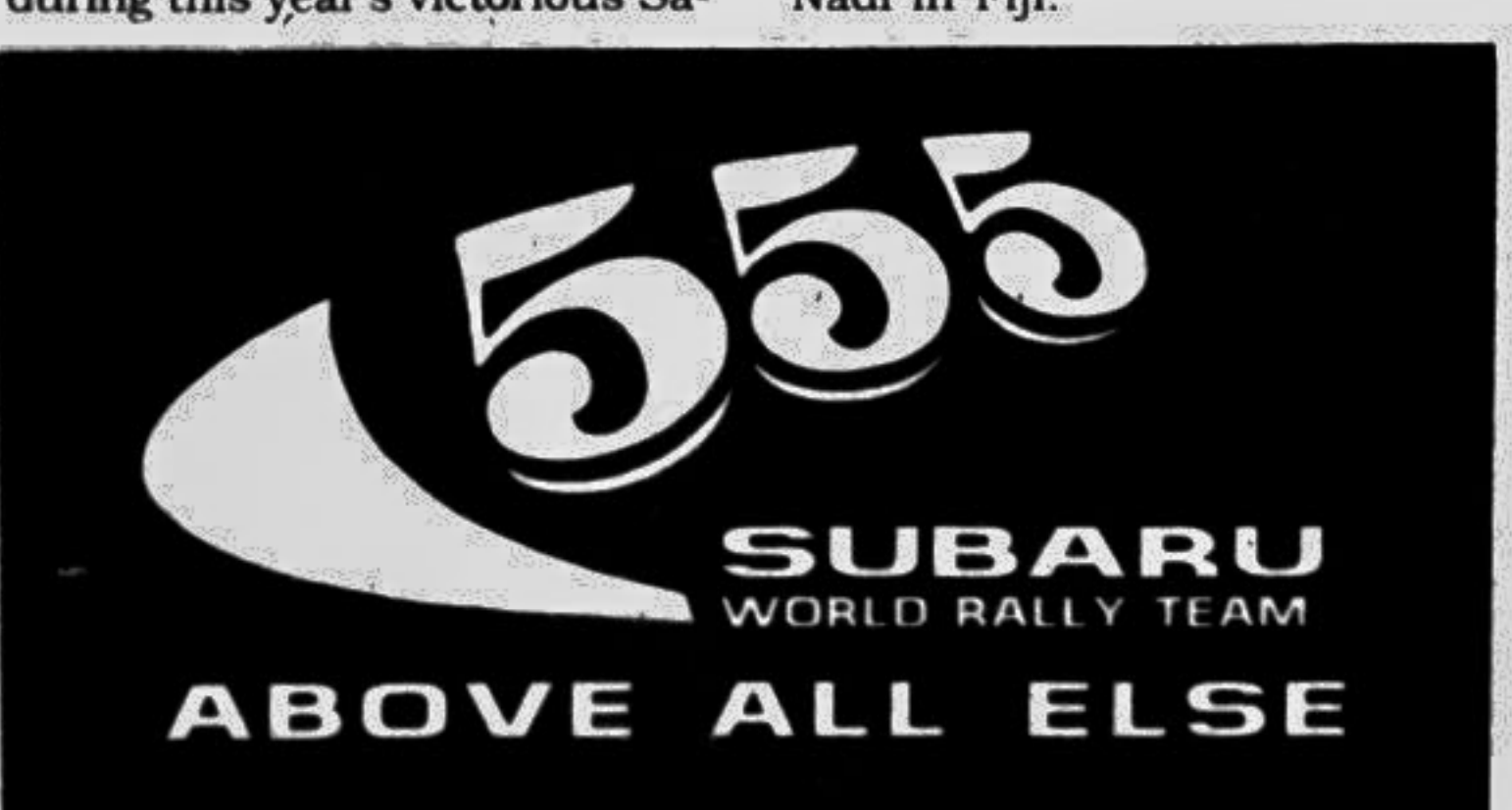
In a quiet, family ceremony at the Popinjay Hotel in Lankark in Scotland on Monday, the 1995 World Rally champion Colin McRae married his teenage sweetheart, Alison Hamilton, says a press release.

The bride, McRae's long-term girlfriend since the age of 14, arrived at the service by helicopter, flown by 555 Subaru World Rally Team principal, David Richards.

A select party of friends and family celebrated the couple's wedding, including a pianist from the Inter Continental Hotel, Nairobi, who became a close friend of Colin and Alison's during this year's victorious Sa-

fari Rally. Whenever Alison was seen in the lobby of the Inter Continental during the rally, she was greeted with a rendition of the wedding march and the couple's new-found friend travelled to Scotland in order to provide musical accompaniment to the day's celebrations.

The couple have departed for honeymoon on the island of Nadi in Fiji.



The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Monday 21st July (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programme) BBC 6:00am BBC World News 6:30 World Living: Top Gear 7:00 BBC World News Inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: Correspondent 11:00 BBC Newsdesk 12:00 BBC Newsdesk 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 World Living: Holiday 3:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report & 24 Hours 4:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight CHANNEL V 6:00am Rewind VJ Sophiya 7:00 Tune in T [V] 8:30 Rewind VJ Sophiya 9:30 Tune in T [V] 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 Videocon Mengia Hai 3:30 Close Up Close Encounters 4:00 Tune in T [V] 5:30 Tune in T [V] 6:30 Tune in T [V] 7:30 Tune in T [V] 8:30 Tune in T [V] 9:00 BPL Oye! 10:00 Liberty First Day First Show 10:30 Tune in T [V] 11:00 Over The Edge 11:30 Tune in T [V] 1:00 Haysah 2:00 BPL Oye! 3:00	Mojo Working BB King 3:30 Mainstage 5:30 V Spot STAR PLUS 6:00am Travel Asia 6:30 Ninasad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:00 Business Agenda 9:30 Nine To Five 10:00 Pierre Franey's Cooking In France 10:30 Video Fashion New York On The Net 11:00 The Wonder Years 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Dynasty 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Priya Tendulkar Show 4:00 Jeena Bhi Do Yaaro 4:30 WWF: Shotgun Challenge 5:30 Doogie Howser MD 6:00 The Wonder Years 6:30 Pierre Franey's Cooking In France 7:00 Living on the Edge 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 Tu Tu Main Main 9:00 Imthianh 9:30 Star News 10:00 Yes Prime Minister 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00am Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News 01:30 The X Files 2:30 Star Trek 3:30 Vega 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 21 Jump Street PTV 08:00 TILAWAT AUR TARJUMA/HAMD/NAAT 08:20 CARTOON 08:30 KHABRAIN 08:45 Abb Pata Challa 09:05 KHAT FARMAISH 09:20 Sargam Sargam 09:45 ILAAJ-BIL-GHIZIA PAKISTAN 10:05 Shab Daigh 10:35 ENGLISH FILM: Goof Troop 10:55 MILLI NAGMA 11:00 KHABRAIN 11:10 The Saint (Eng. Film Roger	STAR SPORTS 9:30am Cliffhangers On Wheels 4x4 Off Road Eggstair 10:30 EPGA Loch Lomond World Invitational 11:30 F1 Powerboats World Championships Quiksilver Pro 1:00 Formula Nippon 1997 Suzuki Circuit 4th Round 2:00 Samsung Nations Cup 3:00 Manchester United's 1997 Tour Of Asia Manchester United V The South China FC in Hong Kong 5:00 Sports Unlimited 6:00pm Trans World Sport 7:00 English Cricket 97 Sunday League (Axa Life League) 10:00 12:00am Thai Premier Cup 3/4 Play-Off 2:00 Sports Unlimited 3:00 Trans World Sport 4:00 1997 World Motorcycle Championships German Grand Prix STAR MOVIES 7:30 Adventure: Covington Cross 15 9:30 Action: Bloodfest 15 11:30 Classic: Carve Her Name With Pride 15 1:30 Miniseries: Pride and Prejudice Part 3 2:00 Documentary: The Typewriter, The Rifle, And The Movie Camera (15) 3:30 Romance: Heartbeat 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Action: Best Seller 15 7:30 Family: Josh And SAM 9:30 This Week That Year 10:00 Comedy: Murie's Wedding 15 12:00 World Cinema: Le Cri Du Hibou 18 (English Subtitles) 2:00 After Dark: Midnight Heat 18 (Moonstone Version) 4:00 Action: Boxcar Bertha 18 5:30 Thriller: Blink 15 (Arabic Subtitles) EL TV 07:00 Yeadon Ki Barar 07:30 Stand By (Trailer Show) 07:40 Ched Chad 08:20 Hassem Pal 08:30 Fat Or Fit 09:00 Awaz Naye Andaz Wohi 09:30 Popoles Club 10:00 Hindi Feature Film 01:00 Hay Ha Ho 01:30 Archie	Moor) 12:00 SHARMA (HAKA SEER) 12:55 OORANA (HAKA SEER) 01:02 BISMAILAH 01:15 Angar (Drama Serial) 02:00 Shehrdar (Drama Serial) 02:50 THE FACE OF CULTURAL 03:15 Roushni 03:30 Paimaney 04:00 Ghardai 04:35 Biology for 10th/Geography/ Chemistry 05:55 INTER COLLEGE QUIZ 06:25 AIOU COURSES 07:00 Taranum (Drama Serial) 07:45 ENGLISH NEWS 08:00 POTLUCK 08:20 Ali Baba (Drama Serial) 08:45 Tum Se Kahen The 'Ep-63 (Serial) 09:00 Break for Headline News 10:00 Khabarnama & Commercial News & Pak Business Update 11:15 Classics Drama Serial: Janglee 12:30 Special: TBA 01:00 KHAS KHABRAIN/CLOSE DOWN. DD 7 10:30 Gane Gane /Janmadin (Birthday Greetings) 10:35 Daily Sope: Oga Priyatama 11:00 Daily Sope: Rajeshwari 11:15 Classical/Folk Songs 11:30 Parliament Hour 12:30 Serial: Chuli Chuli 01:30 Trishna (Serial) 02:00 Kuasha Zakhn (Serial) 02:30 Daily Sope: Oga Priyatama 03:00 Daily Sope: Rajeshwari 03:30 Feluda-30 (Serial) 05:05 Nepali Program 05:30 News SONY ET 08:30 Yaadon Ki Barar (Film Star Magazine show) 09:00 Double O Sp 09:30 Dennis The Menace (Hindi Dub English Film) 10:00 I Dream Of Jeannie (Hindi Dub English Film) Lary Hugman 'Dallas Famous' 10:30 Bewitched 11:00 Taak Jhank 11:30 Gaane Jaane Mene 12:00 Fasole 12:30 Premier 01:00 Aahat 01:30 The Young And The Restless (Hindi Dub Eng. Serial) 02:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 05:30 Double O Sp 06:00 Dennis The Menace (Hindi Dub English Film) 06:30 Yaadon Ki Barar (Film Star Magazine show)	07:00 I Dream Of Jeannie (Hindi Dub English Film) 07:30 Bewitched 08:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune (Game Show) 08:30 Humse Barker Gong 09:00 Dekh Tamasa Dekh 09:30 Chamatkar 10:00 Shikast (Serial 'Shammi Kapoor, Kiti Gidwani, Milind Gunaji, Aashish Videthi, Raj Zetsu) 10:30 Kash 11:00 Premier 11:30 The Young And The Restless (Hindi Dub Eng. Serial) 12:30 Star Ki Pasand 01:00 Wear Wolf (Serial) 01:30 Pehli Mulkat (Mag) 02:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune (Game Show) 02:30 Closed ZEE TV 06:00 Jagran 06:30 A to Z of COMPUTER-The Management Course 07:30 Help Line 08:00 Zee News & Business (Rpt) 08:30 Ghumta Aina 09:00 Disney Hour (Cartoon) 10:00 Gaane Anjaane (Film songs) 10:30 Nirma-Hum Panch 11:00 Daak Ghar Apna Ghar (Viewers Forum) 11:30 Umeed 12:00 Suhana Safar (Serial) 12:30 Zaika Ki Safar 01:00 Love Stories 01:30 Silsila 02:00 Hum Panch (Rpt.) (Serial 'Amrita, Rakhi Vijan) 02:30 Kurukshetra (Rpt.) (Serial 'Milind, Ashish Videthi) 03:00 Dard (Rpt.) (Serial 'Nina Gupta) 03:30 Lakme Khubsoorat 04:00 Vaskalat (Rpt.) 04:30 Khana Khazana 05:00 Arman (Serial 'Arundhati, Sabyasachi) 05:30 Khlidat (Serial) 06:00 It's My Show 06:30 Gaane Anjaane 07:00 Disney Hour (Cartoon) 08:00 Paying Guest (Daily Sope) 08:30 TVS-Sa Ra Ga Ma 09:15 Jhalak 09:30 Parbatan (Drama Serial) 10:00 Chhatan #Ep-11 (Drama Serial) Shammi Kapoor, Priyanka) 10:30 The News & Zee Business 11:00 Darar #Ep-128 (Serial) 11:30 Close Up Antakshari 12:00 Roshni/Chudi Baza Ki 12:30 Andaz 01:00 Chahat Aur Nafrat (Serial) 01:30 Sholgun Show 02:00 Paying Guest 02:30 ZEE Arabic: Hi Zindagi Bye Zindagi 03:00 Feature Film
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