

England push Italy into playoffs



UNDATED, Oct 12 (agencies): Germany, Netherlands, England, Denmark, Austria and Scotland secured their tickets on Saturday for next year's World Cup finals on the final day of the European qualifiers.

All went through as European group winners except the Scots who earned their berth as the best of the nine group runners-up.

The other eight runners-up — Italy, Russia, Belgium, Ukraine, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Yugoslavia — will take part in play-offs for the final four European places.

The unseeded draw for the play-offs will be made in Zurich on Monday.

England qualified after they held 10-man Italy to a 0-0 draw becoming the first country in 16 matches to take a World Cup point off the hosts in Rome.

England, who lost 1-0 to the Italians at Wembley in February, finished top of group two with 19 points after successfully defending the one point lead they held going into the match here.

Italy, who now move into the play-offs after finishing as runners-up and are in danger of missing out on their first finals since 1958, had Juventus midfielder Angelo di Livio sent off towards the end of the second half for a second bookable offence.

But both sides had a chance to win it in a thrilling last 60 seconds of injury-time.

There had been crowd trouble during the first half, but the situation calmed after the break. Italian police having used baton charges to separate the fans.

England fully deserved their draw after standing their ground in midfield and holding up well at the back as Italy went on an increasingly frantic search for a winner.

Italy, playing with an attacking 4-3-3 formation that was re-shuffled twice up front in a desperate attempt to score, paid the penalty for a series of rash fouls which them time and earned England free-kicks.

Ian Wright, who was felled mercilessly throughout the game, rounded Italian goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi at the death, but his narrow angled shot into an empty goal hit the post.

Then Christian Vieri rose for a powerful header in the final seconds which caught David Seaman flat-footed on his line, but which mercifully for Glenn Hoddle's men went narrowly wide.

Along with Di Livio's red card Italy were also to regret the moment when substitute Alessandro del Piero went down in the penalty area after contact with Tony Adams.

Instead of earning a spot-kick, the Juventus playmaker was booked for diving.

Triple world champions Germany overcame the shock of their life scraping through to a 4-3 win over minnows Albania in Hanover — it was enough to qualify automatically.

The modest result was enough to keep Germany, unbeaten in their last 18 matches, at the head of Group Nine however, two points ahead of Ukraine, who won 2-0 in Armenia and now enter the runners-up play-offs.

Germany had striker Oliver Bierhoff to thank for a double strike allied to Olaf Marschall and Thomas Helmer's veteran defender Juergen Kohler, Ligi Tare and their captain and former Celtic midfielder Rudi Vata.

Germany fans could not believe their eyes when a completely unchallenged Kohler stooped down and headed the ball perfectly into the left corner of his own net in the 55th minute.

Germany, who fielded three strikers for the game, breathed a sigh of relief when Helmer popped up to head home in the 64th minute which Albania's keeper Foto Strakosha could only get his fingertips to.

Veteran playmaker Thomas Hassler created the second nine minutes later, duping three Albanian defender and crossed to Bierhoff who also headed into the back of the net.

But Albania, who finished last in the group, refused to accept their fate and Tare, a tall

red headed striker from Fortuna Dusseldorf in the German Second Division, had the Germans on the back foot again when he equalised in the 80th minute.

Once more Kohler was outwitted as Tare beat him to the ball and clipped the ball past keeper Oliver Kahn with the outside of his left foot.

The resilient Albanians came back again to take the lead as Kaiserslautern's former East German international Olaf Marschall stabbed home a Michael Tarnat cross.

But then Germany let the Albanians back into the extraordinary match with some more dreadful defending as nine Germans allowed Vata to turn and slip a shot into the net.

The Turks needed to win, the Dutch wanted to end in style so the 0-0 draw in their last qualifier in Amsterdam was a disappointment for both.

The Turks required a victory to have a hope of qualifying.

draw in Athens that sent 70,000 despondent Greek supporters trudging home with their heads bowed.

The draw left the Danes top

Qualifiers at a glance

Twenty of the 32 nations have qualified for the 1998 World Cup in France, June 10-July 12:

Host: France
Defending Champions: Brazil

Europe (14): Cameroon, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Asia (3 or 4): None

CONCACAF (3): None
South America (4): Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay.

Scottish win left. Sweden out of the World Cup with 21 points despite a 1-0 victory over Estonia.

Scotland's 2-0 victory in Glasgow, courtesy of headed goals by Kevin Gallacher and Gordon Durie, gave them the best runners-up record in the nine-group qualifying competition.

The Scots had to wait a few hours to celebrate until Spain beat the lowly Faeroe Islands 3-1 in Gijon. Had Spain faltered, the Spaniards would have gone through with the best second-place record and Scotland would have been forced into the playoffs.

Hungary clinched a playoff spot with a 1-1 draw in Helsinki against Finland with a lucky goal in the 92nd minute.

Finland's dreams of advancement were crushed just a minute before the final whistle. With the ball bouncing around the penalty area after a corner kick, Hungary's Vilmos Sebok managed an off-balance



England captain Paul Ince (C), who kept the Italian defence on their feet, tries to steal a march over his Italian counterpart Paulo Maldini (R) during their World Cup qualifier in the giant Olympic Stadium in Rome on Saturday. The match ended in a goalless draw.

— AP/UNB photo

They are now eliminated. The Dutch guaranteed top spot in Group Seven, having virtually done so after their previous game, but failed to avenge a 1-0 defeat in Turkey in April.

On the pitch, the sides appeared to forget their roles, the Turks defended in depth, while the Dutch pressed.

The match was an unproductive affair. The Dutch had the vast majority of possession but concerted Turkish pressure left them unable to reproduce the sweet combinations of their last game, against the Belgians.

The last touch was lacking. Denmark earned their place eliminating Greece with a 0-0

of Group One with 17 points, two more than Croatia.

Greece were third with 14 points. The Austrians knew by half-time they had qualified for the World Cup. The Scots had to wait a few more hours after the final whistle of their game before they could open the single maize in celebration.

Austria crushed Belarus in Vienna with two goals each from Toni Polster and Peter Stogger before halftime in a 4-0 victory to clinch top place in Group 4.

The result gave Austria 25 points from 10 games while Scotland finished second with 23 after their victory. That

shot. It was deflected by Finland's Sami Mahlio, standing at the post, but the ball hit goalkeeper Teuvo Mollanen in the back and caromed into the goal.

Ireland clinched a playoff spot by becoming the first team to get a point off Romania.

When George Hagi powered a 35-metre free kick past goalkeeper Alan Kelly at Lansdowne Road, it looked as if Romania would make it 10 wins from 10 matches.

But veteran striker Tohy Cascarnio headed home a corner six minutes from the end for a 1-1 tie to end Romania's all-conquering streak. It also ensured the Irish finished second ahead of Lithuania, who won 2-1 at Macedonia to stay third.

Belgium also got through to the playoffs with a 3-2 win over Wales. In other games Russia defeated Bulgaria 4-2 to get a playoff berth. Croatia earned a playoff spot beating Slovenia 3-1. Ukraine got into the playoffs beating Armenia 2-0.

In Zurich Kubilay Turkciyilmaz scored three times, two of them penalties as Switzerland ended a disappointing qualifying campaign on Saturday with a 5-0 thrashing of Azerbaijan.

The victory avenged a 1-0 defeat in Switzerland's opening qualifying match a year ago but the goal spree did little to boost their standing in Group Three. They finished fourth with just three wins in eight matches.

Spain beat the Faroe Islands 3-1 in Gijon to wrap up Group Six thanks to a fine double-strike by Barcelona midfielder Luis Enrique.

But the Spaniards, who had already guaranteed a place in the final stages, disappointed fans who had been expecting a goal feast against one of the weakest national sides in Europe.

Champions' Trophy Pak misery compounded

ADELAIDE, Oct 12: Australia maintained their perfect start to the Champions' Trophy today by beating last year's finalists Pakistan 5-3 on the second day of the annual men's hockey tournament, reports Reuters.

Australia, who are bidding for a record seventh title, followed their 3-0 win over Spain on Saturday with a hard-fought second-round victory to move to the top of the six-nation standings.

They go into their silky-smooth, free-flowing style and we, your credit, managed to turn that around," said a delighted Australian coach Terry Walsh.

"The way we moved, had led the ball and co-operated with one another was more the way we want go."

"Some of the goals were sensational and you won't get better goals in any discipline of any sport."

Atlanta Olympic champions the Netherlands squandered a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2 with Germany, the 1992 Olympic gold medalists.

The Dutch raced to a 2-0 lead after just eight minutes through Stephan Veen and Remco van Wijk only for Christian Meyerholer to cut the deficit after 51 minutes and Jan-Peter Tewes to give the Germans a share of the spoils with a equaliser in the final minute.

The result left both teams tied for second place on four points, two behind Australia.

"It is never nice if you see a win slip through your fingers one minute before the end of a game," a disappointed Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans said.

In today's other match, Spain made amends for their loss to Australia with a decisive 6-2 win over Asian champions South Korea after trailing 1-0 at the break.

"In the second half we had to change something because if we didn't we would have lost," Spanish coach Toni Forrellat said.

"So we decided to go out and enjoy the match."

Italians down in dumps

ROME, Oct 12 (AP): Day-after despair was mixed with rare praise Sunday of the opponent as Italians reacted to their national soccer team's 0-0 draw against England in a World Cup qualifier.

The result in Saturday's match here put England into next summer's World Cup finals and left Italy, a three-time titlists and 1994 runners-up, needing to win a playoff to advance.

The game made the front page of most Italian papers.

"Italy, what a shame," blared the front-page headline in TuttoSport.

"Italy," was the banner in Corriere dello Sport, which called the Azzurri "a monotone team... completely incapable of understanding if it had to attack or defend."

Another daily, Milan-based Gazzetta dello Sport, took the rare tack of speaking well of a foe.

"Today, Italy is inferior to England; it doesn't have its sense of security, its control of play and not even — listen to this — its adaptability," the paper wrote.

The lions who once knew only how to launch the ball and run under it, tackle, cross and mix it up, now dribble with skill, take control of the action, take possession with elegance and look for the winning chance."

The draw extended Italy's winless streak to five matches, the longest in 14 years.

And the newspapers, while not making the ritual call for the firing of a coach — in this case, Cesare Maldini — were wary of the upcoming playoff, for which the draw among qualifying group runners up takes place Monday in Switzerland.

"And now what's left to do? Get lucky in the playoff draw. Among the other second-place teams there are countries no weaker than we are," Corriere dello Sport said.

The players were no more optimistic.

Uzbekistan hold Japan



TASHKENT, Uzbekistan, Oct 12: Second-half substitute Wagner Lopes scored with a minute remain and saved Takeshi Okada's debut as coach of Japan with a 1-1 draw against Uzbekistan in Group B on Saturday, reports AP.

The draw did little for either sides World Cup chances.

Japan, who fired manager Shu Kamo on October 5 after a 1-1 draw at Kazakhstan, remained in third place in the Group with a 1-2-2 record and six points, seven behind leaders South Korea and one behind the United Arab Emirates, who have played one less game.

Uzbekistan improved to only 0-2-3 and remained in last place.

Only the group winners qualify for the World Cup. The runners-up face off in a play-off with the winner qualifying and the loser having to play Australia for one last chance at the 32-team field.

Kzuyochi Muira, who had one goal disallowed in the first half, finally set up the equaliser in the 89th minute, sending a ball from 25 metres into the penalty area to Lopes, who scored from 4 metres (yards).

Muira's first-half goal in the 25th minute was disallowed because of an offside violation.

Ten minutes later Uzbekistan took the lead when defender Bakhtiyor Kambaraliev got the end of a corner kick.

In the second half, Uzbekistan held back their attack, opting to defend their only goal.

Okada sent Lopes in for Hiroaki Morishima in 54th and Elauke Nakanishi for Hiroshi Nanami in the 69th, two moves that appeared to spark Japan's attack.

The game was played in front of some 48,000 spectators, including about 2,000 Japanese who flew in for the match.

"I'm sure the draw has made our qualifying chances faint

but we'll fight as long as there is a chance," Okada said. "I want to believe the last-minute goal could do a miracle for us."

SARABIA BEAT QATAR
In Riyadh Fahd Muhalel scored in the 66th minute and gave Saudi Arabia a 1-0 victory over Qatar to move them within a point of Iran and the lead in Group A.

Saudi Arabia had another goal disallowed in the 15th minute, a score nullified because of an offside violation.

Saudi Arabia improved to 2-1-1 and seven points, while Qatar dropped to 0-1-3 midway through its second-round schedule.

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Both teams Saturday played the first half cautiously and without any apparent desire to go forward.

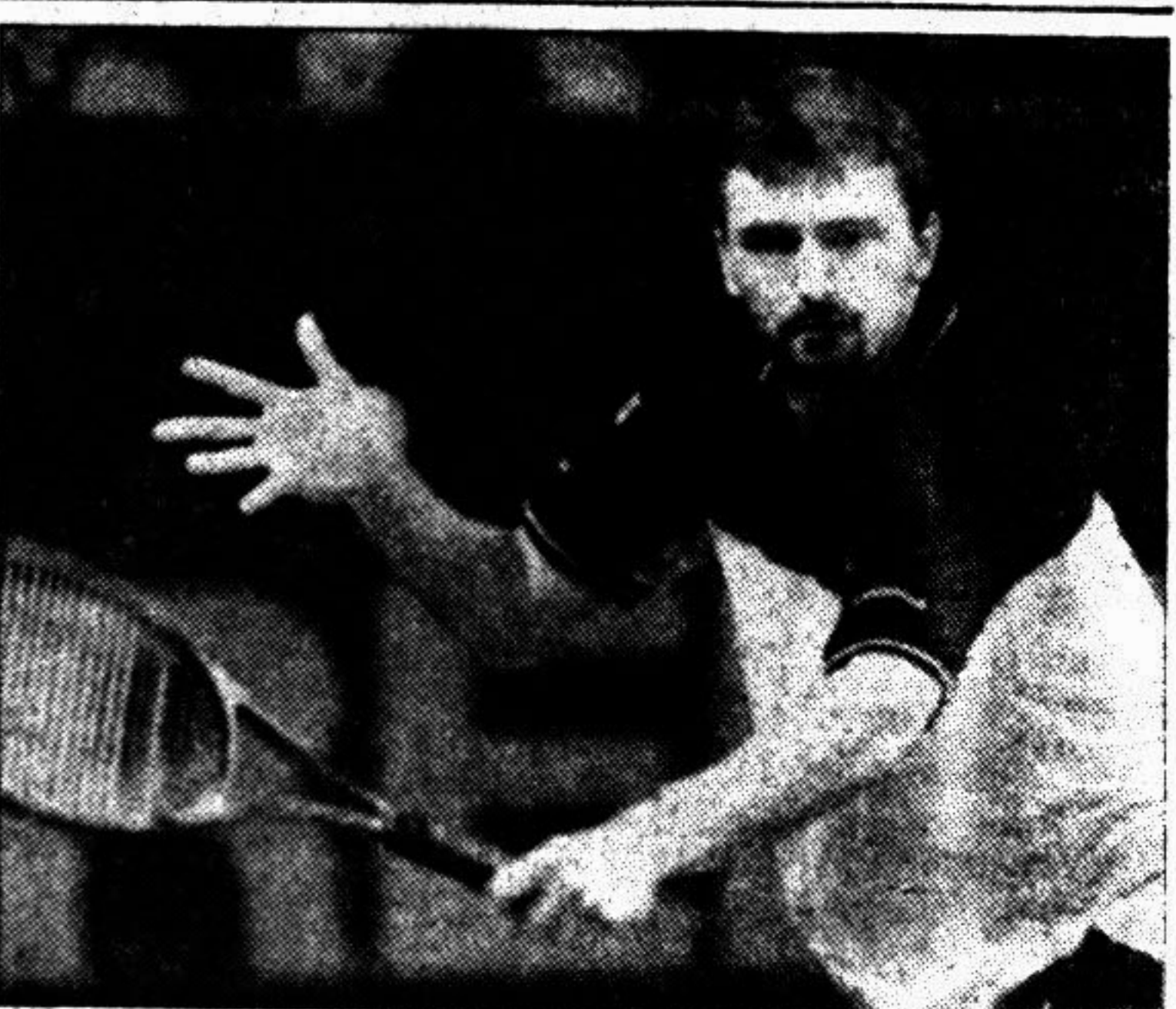
Saudi Arabia host Kuwait next Friday while Iran are at home against China. Saudi Arabia and Iran face off in Riyadh on Oct. 24 in a match that likely will have a large factor on who wins the group and the automatic berth.

Goran, Greg face off

VIENNA, Oct 12: Goran Ivanisevic saved four match points and beat Richard Krajicek on a tie-break to set up a final against world number four Greg Rusedski in the CA Trophy tennis tournament on Saturday.

The third seeded Croat, ranked ninth in the world, was oozing with confidence after beating his unseeded Dutch opponent 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (8-6).

Rusedski earlier ousted fellow Briton Tim Henman 6-4, 6-4 with an impressive display of power serving that allowed his opponent few opportunities.



Croatian Goran Ivanisevic plays a backhand during his CA-Trophy semifinal against Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands in Vienna on Oct 11.

— AP/UNB photo

Liatti, Pons raring to go

Italian national heroes Piero Liatti and Fabrizio Pons bring a wealth of local knowledge and experience to the 555 Subaru World Rally Team's assault on the 1997 Rally of Italy. Joining regular World Championship contenders, Colin McRae and co-driver, Nicky Grist, the popular Italian crew have only one objective on home territory — to win the twelfth round of the FIA World Rally Championship and expand 555 Subaru's lead in the Manufacturers Championship, says a press release.

"Right from the start I will be driving to win," said a determined Piero. "I know I can do it." For a driver who has been out of the hot seat for five rallies this may seem ambitious, but the Italian's cool, calm de-

meanour belies the spirited determination that will undoubtedly bring him success he so richly deserves. With countless outings on home soil to his credit, Piero cruised to victory in San Remo in 1995 in a Subaru Impreza 555, and had a double victory in sight last year before he was forced into a cruel retirement when the car failed to start in Parc Ferme on the final leg.

"All of that is behind us now," said Piero. "It felt great to be back behind the wheel of the Subaru Impreza 555 during testing and I feel really good about our chances for the rally. Since I last competed with the team, I have spent a lot of time training — I run, cycle and work out every day. I'm fitter than I've ever been, so I don't see there's much

to stop us."

Commenting on this year's new stages, Piero added: "I know the Piemonte area and the character of these stages will be different to those around San Remo — much more slippery. But I feel good and competing in your own country does make a big difference — it is true that you go faster because of the local support," he concluded.

Competition will be fierce though, and the stiffest will undoubtedly come from teammate Colin McRae who needs outright victory to keep his World Championship hopes alive. The Scot was impressive last year, leading from the fourth stage to win by a 22-second advantage over Carlos Sainz, and there is little to suggest that this year will be any different.

For only the fourth time in the 38-year history of the Rallye Sanremo, the event will run totally on asphalt, dropping the two days of abrasive gravel stages in the Italian mountains. World Championship winning co-driver, Nicky Grist commented: "From the competitors' perspective, the all-asphalt route will improve and compact the event, while leaving the character that makes it special."

Among the competition, Tommi Makinen (Mitsubishi) will be pushing for victory in his bid to seal the World Championship title, but with only three outings and two retirements to his name in Italy, the Finn may not prove to be the dominant force. Conversely, the Ford crews of Carlos Sainz and Juha Kankkunen are showing impressive form and with valuable previous experience in Italy, Carlos, in particular, will be looking to close the eight point gap with Makinen. Didier Auriol in the leading Toyota Corolla World Rally Car, has had three victories in Italy (1990, 1991 and 1994), however the Frenchman will be seeking reliability after a frustrating outing for the team in Indonesia.



The Daily Star TV Guide

Monday 13th October

(All programmes are in local time. There may be changed 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 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Living: Floy 3:30 BBC World News 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: Correspondent 11:00 BBC Newsdesk 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Living: The Travel Show 3:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report & 24 Hours 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight

CHANNEL V

6:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back) 8:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 9:30 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back) 1:30 By Demand VJ Trey 2:30 Liberty-First Day First Show 3:00 Winner — Mangia Hai VJ Megha Reddy (Rw) 3:30 Close-Up Close Encounters VJ Laila 4:00 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back) 5:30 Eveready Red Alert — News Update 5:33 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back) 6:30 Eveready Red Alert — News Update 6:33 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back) 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey-Live 7:30 Eveready Red Alert — News Update 7:33 By Demand VJ Trey-Live 8:00 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back) 8:30 Eveready Red Alert — News Update 8:33 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back) 9:00 BPL Oye # 187 The Show VJ Rajeshwari/Lisa Roy/Ruby Bhatia (India top 20 countdown) 10:00 Liberty-First Day First Show (Trailer show On Hindi Film) 10:30 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back) 11:00 Over the Edge VJ Sophia (N) 11:30 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back) 12:00 BPL Oye # 187 The Show VJ Rajeshwari/Lisa Roy/Ruby Bhatia-Bali 3:00 Mojo Working

3:30 [V] Mainstage

STAR PLUS

07:00 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India (News, Business & Entertainment News) 9:15 Business Agenda 9:30 Bakeman's — Ooh La La VJ Neelam (Countdown Show) 10:30 The Wonder Years 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Video Fashion 12:30 A Test Of Lustiana (Cooking Show) 1:00 Nine To Five 1:30 Series: Dynasty 2:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 3:30 Santa Barbara 4:00 WWF Shotgun Challenge 5:00 The Wonder Years 5:30 Hindi: News Track 6:00 Hindi Songs: Ashok Masala — Meri Pasand 6:30 Hindi Serial: Pina Tendulkar Show 7:30 STAR News 8:00 Small World (Hindi Dub) 08:30 Hindi Serial: Tu Tu Main Main 09:00 Hindi Serial: Imithian 9:30 Star News (English) 10:00 British Comedy: Fawty Towers 10:30 Series: The Jewel Of The Crown #Ep-05 11:30 The Bold And Beautiful 12:00 Santa Barbara 01:00 Star News (Eng) 01:30 The X Files (Rpt/Wed) 02:30 Star Trek 03:30 Vega 04:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Rpt) 05:30 Series: 21 Jump Street

STAR MOVIES

07:30 Sanjuro (12) (E) 09:30 To Catch A Killer (Part-1) (15) 11:00 To Catch A Killer (Part-2) (15) 12:30 Sean Connery's Close Up (15) 01:30 The Secret Of Roan Insh? 03:30 Josh And S.A.M. (15) 05:30 The Tomb Of Ligeia (12) 07:30 Magic Adventure (G) 9:30 This Week That Year 10:00 Last Resort (15) 12:00 Wives (18) (English Subtitle) 2:00 The Tailor Dragon (15) 4:00 The Abominable Dr. Phibes (15) 5:30 Last Resort (15)

04:00 Ghardani 04:35 Biology for 10th/Geography/Chemistry 05:55 INTER COLLEGE QUIZ 06:25 AIOU COURSES 07:00 Tarunam (Drama Serial) 07:45 ENGLISH NEWS 08:00 POTLUCK 08:20 All Baba (Drama Serial) 08:45 Serial 09:00 Break for Headline News 10:00 Khabarama & Commercial News & Pak Business Update 11:15 Classics Drama Serial: Janglee 12:20 Special: TBA 01:00 KHAS KHABARIN/CLOSE DOWN

EL TV

07:00 Yeardon Ki Barat 07:30 Haseen Pal (Trailer Show) 07:40 Sur Tal (02:00 Baja) Darpan (Trailer Show) 08:30 Junglee Toofan Tyre Puncture 09:00 Akbar Biral 09:30 Fat or Fit 10:00 Hindi Feature Film 01:00 Hay Ha Ho/Shogun Show 01:30 Janamati 02:00 9 Malabar Hill (Serial) 02:30 Chote Miya Bade Miya 03:00 Naye Nagme 03:30 Sitcom: Dillagi 04:00 Daily Soap: Scandal 04:30 HFF 7:20 Haseen Pal 07:30 Serial: Campus 08:00 Daily Games. Mohan Kapoor-Saap Seedi 08:30 Zee News-English & Zee Business 09:00 Men Marzi 09:30 Parool-Superhit Hangama 10:30 Zee News

Hindi & Zee Business 11:00

Hi Feature Film 1:30 Hey Ha Ho 02:00 Chote Miya Bade Miya 02:30 Chalo Cinema 03:00 Alcu-Ru-Ba-Ru 03:30 Hanste Khetli 04:00 Hindi Feature Film (BW)

DD 7

10:30 Gane Gane 10:35 Daily Soap: Oga Priyatama 11:00 Daily Soap: Rajeshwari 11:15 Classical/Folk Songs 11:30 Parul 12:00 Serial: Chuti Chuti 1:00 Asha 01:30 Simarekha 02:30 52 Parbat/Fele-30 (Serial) 03:00 Daily Soap: Oga Priyatama 03:30 Daily Soap: Rajeshwari 05:05 Nepali Programme 05:30 News 05:35 Desh Bidesher Kheila 06:00 Janmabhumi (Serial) 06:30 Tarunam Janney 06:55 Palli Katha 07:30 Bangla Sambad 07:55 Dinindan 08:00 Serial: 52 Parbat 08:30 Fele-30 (Thriller Serial) 09:00 Janmabhumi (Serial) 09:30 Drama 10:00 Bengali Movie Club Film Show 01:00 Closed

SONY ET

08:30 Yaardon Ki Barat (Film Star Magazine Show) 09:00 Silver Spoon 09:30 Dennis The Menace (Hindi Dub) English Film

10:00 I Dream Of Jeannie

10:30 Bewitched 11:00 Parachute — Premier 11:30 Gaane Jaane Maane 12:00 O'Maria 12:30 TBA 01:00 Yeh Sadi Nahi Ho Sakti 01:30 Kahane Pe Kya Harz Hai 2:00 Aahat 2:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 05:30 Yaardon Ki Barat (Film Star Magazine Show) 06:00 Dennis The Menace (Hindi Dub) English Film 06:30 Silver Spoon 07:00 I Dream Of Jeannie (Hindi Dub) English Film 07:30 Bewitched 08:00 Parachute — Premier (Trailer Show) 08:30 Humse Barker Gung 09:00 Dekh Tamasa Dekh 09:30 Chamatkar 10:00 Shikast 10:30 Kaash 11:00 BATA-Superhit 11:30 Cine Prime-Hindi Feature Film 02:30 Closed