

BOI chairman tells newsmen Bangladesh most favoured investment zone in Asia

Actual inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Bangladesh is expected to be around 3 billion US dollars this year, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh will see a huge foreign investment in 1998 calendar year. We hope we'll get 3 billion-dollar foreign investment in the year," BOI executive chairman Farooq Sobhan said yesterday.

Projects worth 1.5 billion dollars were put in place in 18 months till December 1997, he said while briefing newsmen on investment seminars abroad, sponsored by the Board of Investment.

"Bangladesh can be considered as the most favoured destination in Asia for foreign investment," he added.

The new projects, which are in the process of being signed, include a 240 million dollars cement factory at Sunamganj with French company La Farge and construction of private container terminals in Dhaka and Chittagong at an estimated cost of 500 million dollars.

The BOI chief said agreement for the cement factory will be signed next month and there will be seven more joint-venture cement factories in the country.

"Agreements for generation of 2000 MW power will be signed in the next 12 months," he said. He said investment seminars in Singapore, UK, USA, Canada and Italy during March-June this year infused huge interests among both foreign and non-foreign investors and resulted in many investment offers in different sectors.

'A youth can earn Tk 26,620 in 3 yrs thru' rooftop gardening'

Grapes are not always sour, if cultivated on the rooftops, organisers told this at a press conference in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Ministry of Youth and Sports organised the conference at the Juba Bhaban in Mottijheel to popularise the cultivation of grapes on rooftop across the country.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, secretary for Youth Affairs Ministry A S M Shahjahan, director general of Directorate for Youth Development Fazlul Huq and director Mohammad Nazrul Islam were present at the function.

They informed that from a 2,000 square feet rooftop garden an unemployed youth can earn Taka 26,620 in three years by selling fruits or vegetables.

"The alternative source of income for the youths will act as a powerful deterrent against drug abuse and other frustrations in society," the state minister said.

Different varieties of fruits including grapes, guava, lemon and other seasonal vegetables are now being cultivated on the rooftops.

Farooq spoke of a 600 million US dollar project offer from a giant Canadian engineering firm to construct a "mono-railway" link between Tongai and city's business hub Islampur.

Among some other concrete projects, there was an Italian proposal for a 120 million dollar hotel project and a proposal for setting up modern hospitals.

The BOI Chairman stressed the need for further strengthening of the Board so that it can perfectly respond to the foreign investors' growing interests in Bangladesh. "BOI needs to be provided with necessary logistic supports."

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President R Maksud Khan said, Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) Hedayet Ahmed and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) chairman Rezaul Karim, who attended some of the seminars abroad, also spoke on the occasion.

DCCI President Maksud Khan identified the delay in decision making as the main hindrance to attracting investment in Bangladesh. "The government's decision making process must be speedy and transparent."

BSCIC Chairman Rezaul Karim, who attended two BOI seminars in England in May, said these seminars made the foreign investors and NRBs know about the scopes of cottage and small industries, which engage 80 per cent of Bangladesh's total labour force.

ICB Chairman Hedayet Ahmed said seminars abroad helped reduce the information gap between Bangladesh's investment opportunities and intended foreign investors.

Many business forums in Europe and USA can maintain liaison between intending investors and Bangladesh, said Ahmed, who attended two seminars in England and USA.

Sunstroke: 8 die in N districts in two days

As the heat wave continued to sweep the country, at least eight people died from sunstroke in northern districts in last two days, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said over 200 people of the region, who fell sick due to high temperature, were admitted to different hospitals, including Rajshahi and Rangpur Medical College hospitals during the period.

Most of the affected persons were the patients of high blood pressure.

Meanwhile, many of the school authorities in the region, including Rajshahi, Naogaon and Bogra, suspended their classes in the wake of hot spell.

Farmers were said to be the worst sufferers of the heat wave as a good number of peasants fell in comma on their paddy fields while working under the scorching sun.



Chhatra Union brought out a procession on the campus yesterday demanding increase in allocation of funds for education.

BCU, SCF submit memo to finance minister

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Finance Minister demanding eight per cent allocation for the education sector in the coming national budget, reports UNB.

In their memorandum, the student leaders also called for reducing the price of educational materials.

Prior to submission of the memorandum, they held a rally near the High Court crossing.

Speakers at the rally expressed concern at the exorbitant prices of educational materials which they said went beyond the buying capacity of the poor students.

Udichi's programmes to celebrate Nazrul's birth centenary

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi has taken up various year-long programmes to celebrate the birth centenary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, says a press release.

The programmes include a seminar in every month on different aspects of Nazrul Islam and cultural programmes.

Renowned exponent of Nazrul's songs Sohrab Hossain is expected to inaugurate the year-long programmes at the Public Library auditorium at 5 pm Friday.

Renowned intellectuals and cultural activists including Kamal Lohani, Ramendu Mondal, Nurul Huda and Asaduzzaman Noor will take part in the discussion on the occasion with its president Syed Hasan Imam in the chair.

Youngman succumbs to injuries

A youngman who was severely beaten up at the city's Jurain area Monday night, succumbed to injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Tuesday afternoon.

Police yesterday identified the victim as Md Alek, 22, son of Abdur Rashid Matbar of Shihbar in Madaripur.

Alek, a transport worker in the city, was admitted to the DMCH after he was found in an unconscious state beside a garage near Jurain rail crossing Tuesday morning. He died at about 6 pm, hospital sources said.

Alek's relatives claimed that he was attacked allegedly by a gang led by a defeated chairman candidate of union parishad elections in Madaripur.

Police quoting relatives said Alek had a land dispute with the candidate.

The conflict between Alek, a resident of West Jurain, and the candidate deepened when Alek started campaigning for his uncle in the village during the UP elections last year.

Passerby hurt in gunfight between rival groups

A young housewife sustained serious bullet injuries after she was caught in a gunfight between two rival groups at Jurain, under Debra thana in the city yesterday morning.

Police said Joynab Begum, 30, sustained wounds when she was returning to her house on Commissioner Road, from another house where she worked as a maid. Wife of van driver Dulal, Joynab was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Appointment of bureaucrat as PARC chief resented

By Staff Correspondent Prokrichi-BCS Kendriyo Samannay Parishad (PBKSP) has expressed resentment and dissatisfaction at the appointment of a bureaucrat as the chief of the Public Administration Reform Committee (PARC), says a press release.

A steering committee meeting of the PBKSP with its president Engineer Nurul Huda in the chair on Tuesday demanded restructuring of the PARC with a renowned educationist or a people's representative as its chief, the release said.

PBKSP also reiterated its demand to run the local governments by elected representatives of people and resolved that the organisation would continue to boycott the "District Coordination Meeting."



Anders Johnson, the ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh addressing on the challenges and possibilities for Bangladesh in its uplift programme at the weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka yesterday. Also seen (from left to right) club President Rtn. M A Zaman, Rtn. M A Wadud, Rtn. D G N M Ozair Farooq, and Mrs A Johnson.

Stamps on World Cup France released

Bangladesh Post Office yesterday issued a set of two commemorative postage stamps of Tk 6 and Tk 18 denominations on the occasion of the World Cup France '98, reports UNB.

A First Day Cover valued at Tk 6 was also issued and a special canceller used on the occasion.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina released the stamps in a simple ceremony at her Sangsad Bhaban office.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Post and Telecommunication Secretary SD Khan, Director General of Bangladesh Post Office AKM Salauddin, Additional Director General MRA Khan and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

The stamps and First Day Cover will be sold simultaneously from all head post offices, including GPOs across the country. The postage stamps will subsequently be sold from all post offices, including the extra-departmental ones.

'Current banking system based on distrust unlike Grameen Bank'

By Staff Correspondent Prof Mohammad Yunus yesterday said that the current banking system is based on distrust but the Grameen Bank deals with poor village people entirely on the basis of trust.

Emphasising on institutionalisation of 'micro credit' system, Prof Yunus said laws should be enacted for it to ensure 'state security' for this system.

Addressing a workshop on "Micro Credit: Future Aspects" at the Grameen Bank auditorium, he said "We have established the 'micro credit' system through the word as well as the concept is new-sprung."

Prof Yunus also stressed on the modernisation of 'micro credit system.'

Sweden, 7 other nations present joint initiative Call for total disarmament of nuclear arsenals

STOCKHOLM, June 10: Sweden and seven other countries on Tuesday urged the five official nuclear powers and India, Pakistan and Israel to totally eliminate their nuclear arsenals and capacities, in a joint disarmament initiative presented in Stockholm, reports AFP.

Led by Sweden, the initiative is backed by South Africa, Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and Slovenia.

The five nuclear powers are China, the United States, France, Russia and Great Britain.

"We can no longer remain complacent at the reluctance of the nuclear-weapons states and the three nuclear-weapons-capable states to take that fundamental and requisite step," the seven countries said in a statement presented by their foreign ministers.

Annan tells Tajik President Ban on religion based parties can hamper '97 peace accord

UNITED NATIONS, June 10: Secretary-General Kofi Annan told Tajikistan's President Tuesday that a new law banning religiously based political parties could undermine the 1997 peace accord between the government and the largely Muslim opposition, reports AP.

The agreement guaranteed posts in a coalition government to the United Tajik Opposition. But the UTO's largest component, the Islamic Revival Party, would presumably be banned under the new law, adopted by the Tajik parliament May 23.

Annan met Tuesday with Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov to express "serious concern that this decision would remove one of the main pillars of the General Peace Agreement," the United Nations said in a statement.

The agreement provided for the legalisation of banned political parties following the public declaration by the UTO that it had disbanded its armed wing.

The secretary-general voiced the expectation that the conciliation commission established by President Rakhmonov will resolve this matter in the spirit of the general agreement signed by the Tajik government with the United Tajik Opposition," the statement added.

There was no comment from Rakhmonov, who was in New York to attend the UN General Assembly special session on drugs, which opened Monday.

Approval of the law banning such parties is among several recent developments which have led to warnings from the opposition about the prospect of renewed, largescale fighting in the former Soviet Central Asian republic.

Last month, Tajik opposition figures also denounced a new partnership among Russia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to

The text calls on India, Pakistan and Israel to "reverse the pursuit of their respective nuclear weapons development or deployment" and to adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) "with the status of non-nuclear state."

The document also calls for the creation of "nuclear-weapon-free zones," primarily in the Middle East and South Asia, similar to those established by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga Bangkok and Pelindaba.

"We hope that other countries will now adopt this declaration," Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen said, adding that "our initiative does not interfere with disarmament discussions underway at the United Nations and the Geneva Disarmament Conference."

Rebels kill 10 cops, 2 civilians in India

NEW DELHI, June 10: Suspected guerrillas triggered a land mine that blew up a jeep, killing 10 policemen and two civilians in southern India Wednesday, United News of India news agency said, reports AP.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh state, 1,375 kilometers (860 miles) south of New Delhi. Police blamed the banned Peoples War Group.

The 12 all were travellers in the jeep and were killed on the spot, UNI quoted police as saying.

The PWG, which did not immediately respond to the allegation, frequently targets police and government officials, claiming they connive with rich land owners to oppress poor, low-caste farm hands.

The Marxist group has been fighting since 1980.

The Daily Star TV Guide

Thursday 11th June (All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change)

BBC 8:00am BBC News Followed by Weather 8:30 Asia Today 8:40 World Business Report 9:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 9:30 Asia Today 9:40 World Business Report 10:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 10:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Living: Future Fantastic Starman 12:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:30 Hardtalk 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 World Living: Film '98 2:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 2:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 3:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 4:30 World Living: Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelt 5:00

The World Today 6:30 Land of the Tiger Desert Kingdom Pt 2 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report Followed by Weather 7:30 The World Today 8:30 World Living: Top Gear 9:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:30 Hardtalk 10:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 10:30 IBR Midweek 11:00 The World Today 12:30 Hardtalk 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 World Focus: Panorama 2:00 BBC World News 2:10 World Business Report Followed by Weather 2:30 World Living: Earth Report: St Lucia - Island At Risk 3:00 BBC World News 3:10 Europe Direct 4:00 BBC World News 4:15 World Business Report Followed by Weather 4:30 Hardtalk 5:00 BBC World News 5:05 USA Direct 5:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 6:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 6:30 World Living: Future Fantastic Starman 7:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 7:30 Asia Today 7:40 World Business Report

CHANNEL V 6:00am Turn on TV 6:30 Over the Edge 7:00 Turn on TV 7:30 Rewind VJ Sophiya 8:30 Turn On T, VJ 9:30 House Arrest 10:00 Turn on TV 1:30 By Demand VJ Trey 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 Oye 4:00 Turn on TV 4:30 Volume Double 5:30 Turn on TV 6:30 By Demand VJ Trey 7:30 Liberty-First Day First Show 8:00 House Arrest 8:30 Close Up Close Encounters 9:00 Videoman Flashback 9:30 Turn on TV 10:00 Liberty First Day First Show 10:30 Bacardi Blast 11:00 Turn on TV 11:30 Freestyle 12:00am Speak Easy 12:30 Turn on TV 2:30 Turn on TV Block A/ Thurs PM Int 3:00 The Ticket 3:30 Turn on TV 4:00 Asian Top 20



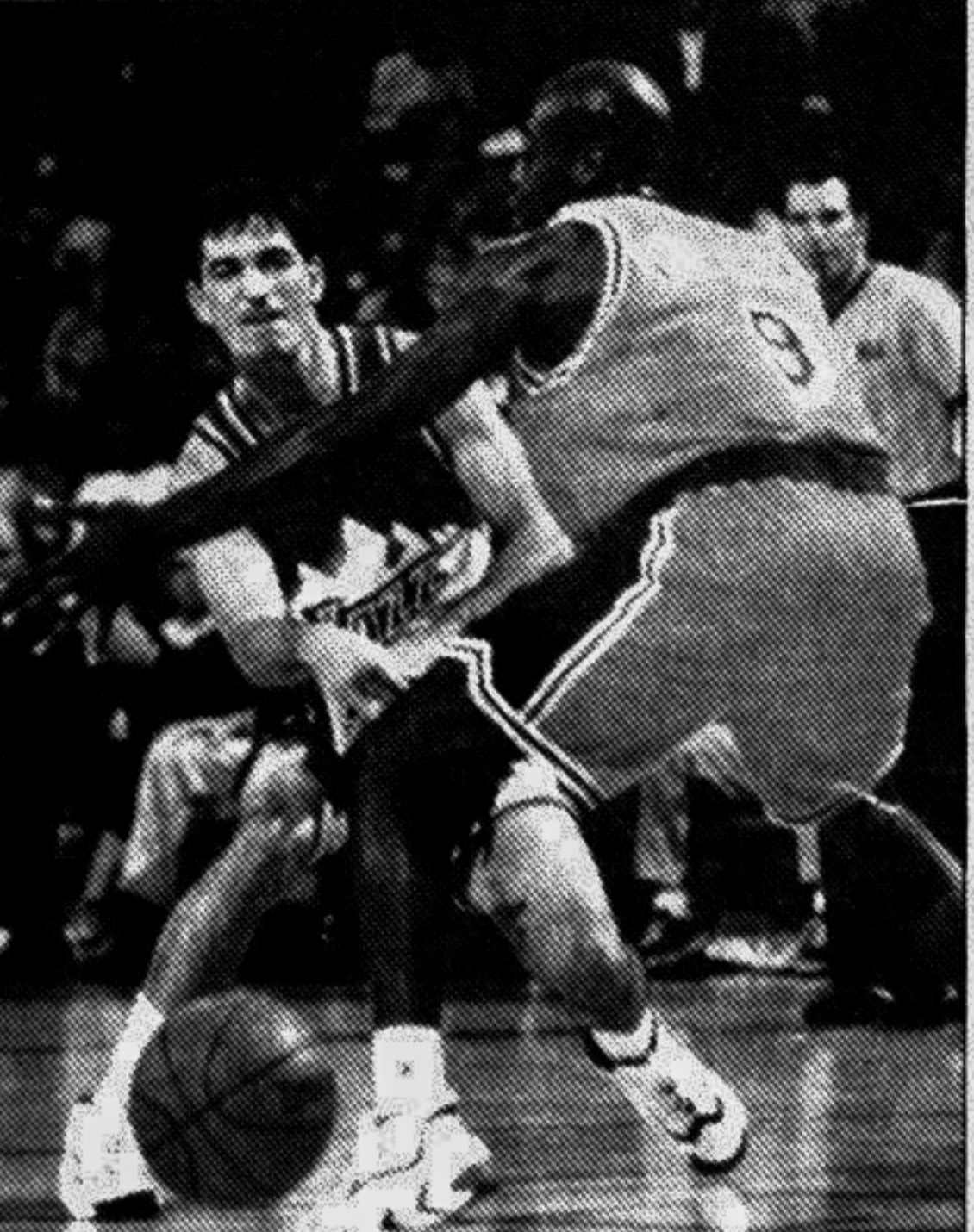
The Oprah Show at 11:00 am on Star Plus

STAR PLUS 6:30am Ninasad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:15 The Trial Show 9:30 Ek Lamha Saath Tumhare 10:00 Kiron Kher Tumhare 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Allo Allo 12:30 Due South 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Meri Pasaand 3:30 Kabhie Kabhie 4:00 Yeh Hai Raaz 4:30 Rendezvous with Simi Garewal 5:00 The Wonder Years 5:30 Small Wonder 6:00pm Daal Mein Kaala 6:30 Yeh Hai Raaz 7:00 Special Session 7:15 The Trial Show 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Philips Meri Awaz 9:30 Star News 10:00 Are You Being Served? 10:30 Baywatch 11:30 Special Session 12:00am The Bold & The Beautiful 12:05 Star News 1:00 Newhart 1:30 Murder She Wrote 2:30 Mystery Movies: Prime Suspect 'The Lost Child' 4:30 Santa Barbara 5:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show

Gems 8:30 All Time Hits (Hit Songs Show) 9:00 Old Temv-Sizlaars 9:30 Aalaap 10:00 All Time Hits 10:30 Jharokha 11:00 Sham-E-Gajal 11:30 Bajaj Music Box (Trailer Show) 12:00 Coca-Cola-World Premier 12:30 Old Temv-Sizlaars 1:00 Jharokha 1:30 Penha 2:00 Music News 2:30 Bajaj Music Box (Trailer Show) 3:00 Old Temv-Sizlaars 3:30 Jagran 4:00 House of Choice 4:30 Bajaj Music Box (Trailer Show) 5:00 All Time Hits 5:30 Jharokha 6:00 B & W Gems 6:30 Music News 6:45 Coca-Cola-World Premier 7:30 Old Temv-Sizlaars 8:00 Coca-Cola-World Premier 8:30 Jharokha 9:00 Bajaj Music Box (Trailer Show) 9:30 Dil Ki Nazar Se 10:00 Pop O Mania 10:30 Jharokha 11:00 Aalaap 11:30 Shabbad 12:30 All Time Hits 1:30 Jharokha

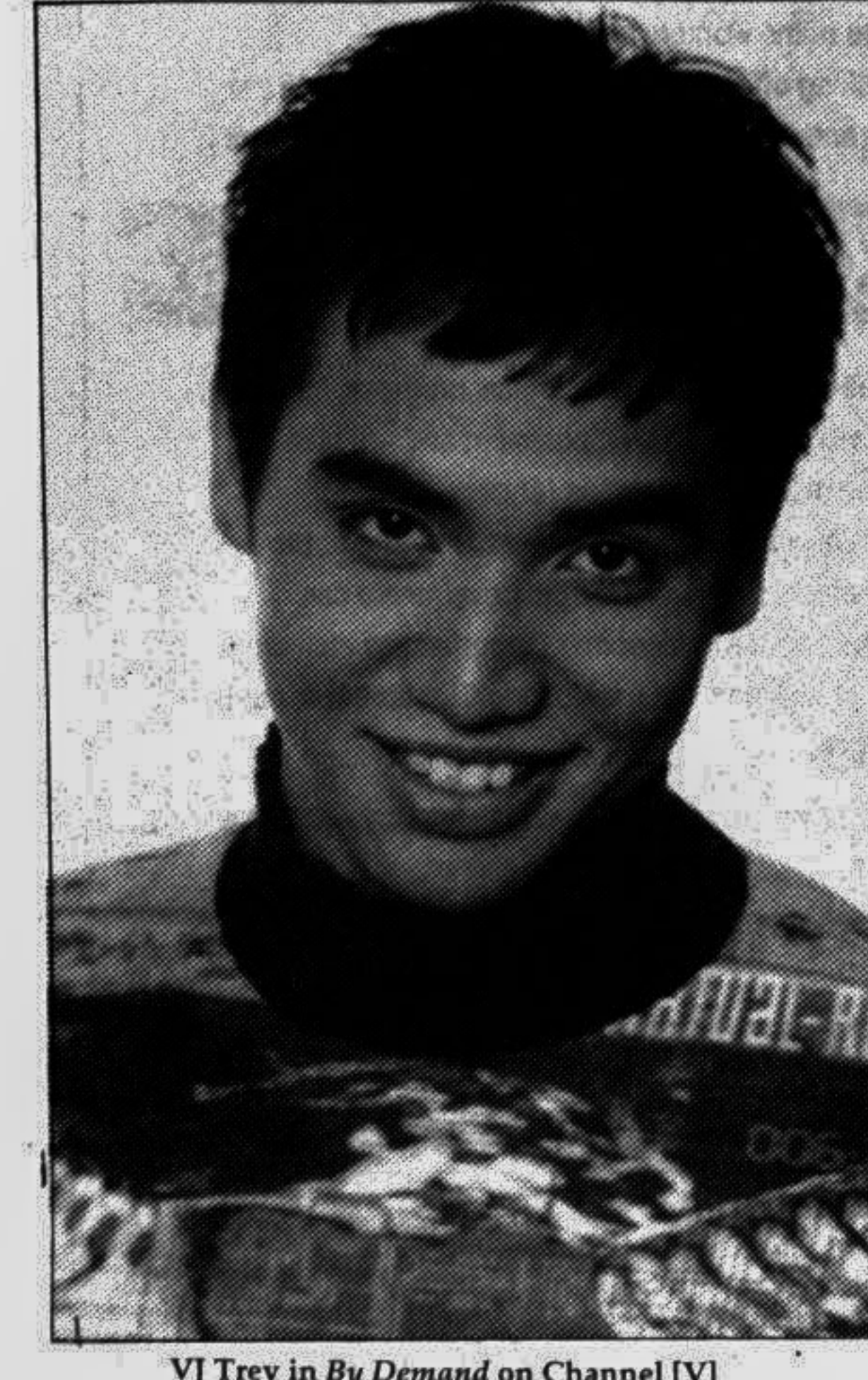
ZEE TV 6:00am Yeaddon Ki Pal (B/W Songs Show) 6:30 Zee News & Business 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:00 Suniye Zee... 8:30 Chahat Aur Nafrat Zee News & Business 9:00 Disney Hour Cartoons 10:00 Ek Nazar 10:30 TVS Saregama 11:15 Guldasta-Trailer Show 11:30 Yehi Hai Zindagi 12:00 Mujhe Insaaf Chahiye #Ep-26 12:30 Low Cal Show (Cooking Show) 1:00 Naye Nazrane (Trailer/Songs) 1:30 Daily Serial: Umeed (Re-run) 2:00 Hum Panch 2:30 Campus (Serial) (Re-run) 3:00 Paying Guest (Serial)(Re-run) 3:30 Shanti 4:00 Karz 4:30 Just No Problem (Serial) 5:00 Woh !! #Ep-21 (Serial) 5:30 Khana Kazana 6:00 Aur Ek Minutue 6:30 Ek Nazar (Film Trailer Show) 7:00 Disney Hour Cartoons 8:00 Ladki Wale Ladka 8:30 Chasme Badoor 9:00 Amanat #Ep-41 9:30 DAAS-TAN #Ep-166 10:00 Andaz #Ep-195 (Nabaneet, Shekhar) 10:30 Darar #Ep-174 11:00 Best of Hum Aap Ke Hian...Woh!! 11:30 Zee News 11:50 Zee Business/Trailer 12:00 Players Gold Action Movie: 2:30 Ladki Wale Ladka 3:00 Hindi Feature Film (B/W): 5:30am World Famous

STAR SPORTS 12:30 Trans World Sport 1:30 World Of Rugby 3:00 Best And Worst Of Sports (Series II) 3:30 Bodybuilding: World's Strongest Man Comp 4:30 British Superbikes Championships 5:00 Sydney World Cup 1998 6:00 Max Power 7:00 Cricket Up Close 7:30 Rugby World-Kick Off '99 8:00 PGA Tour Golf Kemper Open 10:00 Formula Nippon 11:00 A Goller's Travels 11:30 Watersports World 12:30 World Cup Hall Of Fame 1:00 Pro-Box 3:00 Sydney World Cup 1998 4:00 SBK World Superbikes Championship 5:30 World Wrestling Federation



NBA Basketball Finals at 8:00 tonight on ESPN

ESPN 12:00 Barber Dodge Pro Series 12:30 E2 National All Star Cheerleading Champ 1:00 Bodyshaping 1:30 Co:Ed Training 2:00 Cory Everson's Gotta Sweat Aerobics 2:30 Sportscenter 3:30 Sportscenter International Edition 4:00 Kiana's Flex Appeal 4:30 Bodybuilding: American Muscle 5:00 Horse-Shopping Jumping Budweiser Grand Prix Of Denon 6:00 NBA Basketball: NBA Finals #4 LIVE 6:30 Ultimate Inline Challenge Racing 15:00m Criterion Last Women Out 9:30 Bodybuilding: American Muscle 10:00 Sportscenter International Edition 10:30 Motorsport Asia 11:00 College Track & Field 1:00 Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour Bowling '98 PWBA Tour 2:30 All Pro Sports Series 3:00 X: Games Trials 2 Bike Stunt 4:00 Sportscenter International Edition 4:30 45th Senior National Kabaddi Championship 5:30 Indy 500 Programming 1st Weekend: Qualifying Race 6:30 Sportscenter International Edition 7:00 European Football Weekly 8:00 NBA Basketball: NBA Finals # 4 10:30 All Pro Sports Series 11:00 LPGA Golf Oldsmobile Classic LIVE



VJ Trey in By Demand on Channel [V]

DD 7 10:30am Janmadin (Birthday Greet-ings) 10:35 Daily Sope-Oga Priyatama 11:00 Daily Sope- Rajeshwari 11:30 Parliament Hour/Play-12:30 TBA 1:00 Daily Sope-Asha 1:30 Daily Sope-Simarokha 2:00 Kuasha Zakhan 2:30 Daily Sope- Oga Priyatama 3:00 Chuti Chuti 4:00 Serial: Parama 5:05 Rabindra Sangeet 5:30 News 5:55 Shilpa Jagat 6:20 Gaan Sudhu Gaan 6:50 Jannabhum (Serial) 7:20 Tarunder Janney/ Darshaker Darbare/Ghare Baire 7:30 Bangla Sambad (Serial) 8:30 Bakker Upakatha (Serial) 9:00 Humer Naksha (Serial) 9:00 Jannabhum (Serial) 9:30 Daily Sope- Rajeshwari 10:00 Movie Club Film:

SONY ET 6:30am Parasut-Premier (Trailer Show) 8:30 Gaane Jane Mane (Songs) 9:00 Cartoons-Real Gost Busters 9:30 Cine Clips 10:00 Whos The Boss? 10:30 Deferent Strok (Hindi Dub) 11:00 Bewitched 11:30 Nagi 12:00 Serial: Yeh Sadi Nahi Ho Sakti 12:30 Wierwolf 1:00 Boogie Woogie (Contest) 1:30 Movers & Shakers (Serial) 2:00 Silver Spoon (Sitcom)/ Whos The Boss? 2:30 Gane Jane Mane 3:00 Humlog 4:00 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film: 7:00 Deferent Strok (Hindi Dub) 7:30 Cine Clips (Trailer Show) 8:30 Star Yaar Kalakar 9:30 Just Mohabbat (Comedy Serial) 10:00 Aahaat (Thriller Serial) 10:30 Mahayaga (Drama Serial) 11:00 Rohni 11:00 Bata-Suphehit

TNT CARTOONS 5:30am World Famous

MUSIC ASIA 7:30am Aalaap 8:00 B & W