

award

Nurun Nahar Samad Natty Padak '98

ORGANIZED by 'Theater Art', the Inauguration and Award Distribution ceremony of Nurun Nahar Samad Natty Padak '98, Festival '99 started on March 10 at the Engineers Institute, Dhaka.

by Nafid Imran Ahmed

Finance Minister, Shah A. M. S. Kibria inaugurated the festival as chief guest. President of ITI, Ramendra Mozumdar and Professor Abu Sayed, Ministry of Information, was also present as special guests. Programs and seminars of the festival will continue till 23 April.

Nurun Nahar Samad was a noted student leader. She was the Vice President of Rokeya Hall, University of Dhaka. She was also the President of Bangladesh Mohila Mother's

Club. During his speech, Theater Art's convenor, Azizus Samad, spoke about her and her love for theater. The first part of the ceremony started with his speech. The whole program was separated in three different sections. The first was the speech of the distinguished guests, the second was the award ceremony and the speech of the award winners and at the end, the 'Ballet Show', jointly organized by 'Theater Art' and 'Commitment', performed by the Russian Ballet Troop 'Northern Dawn'.

The Award winners of the Nurun Nahar Natty Padak '98 are Salim Al Deen for best play writer (Bon Pangshul, Dhaka Theater), Nasir Uddin Yousuf Bacchu for best director (Bon Pangshul, Dhaka Theater), Shimul Yousuf for best actress (Bon Pangshul, Dhaka Theater),

Tariq Anam for best actor (Crucible, Natty Kendra), Thandu Rayhan for best lighting (Brittaya, Theater Art), Tausik Ahmed for best stage designer (Crucible, Natty Kendra), Bon Pangshul for best production (Dhaka Theater production). Nasir Uddin Yousuf Bacchu, while speaking on the occasion, said that he had a heavy heart due to the bombings in Jeddah. Under these circumstances he felt a little guilty about receiving the 'Padak'. The others too, reflected their inner feelings, while condemning the heinous crime. They all appealed for quick action to the ministers present against the people behind the bombings. Professor Abu Sayed, during his speech called for unity among the artistes and people alike to fight against the anti-liberation forces and fundamentalists.

After the award giving ceremony the much-awaited 'Ballet Show' began. As the dancers streamed on to the stage, a big hand of applause filled the auditorium of the Engineers Institute. The lighting and the gorgeous costumes added to the glamour of the evening. Their graceful movements and light-footed steps of 'Northern Dawn' (which includes T. V. Izumova, N. N. Maltseva, A. N. Ozernikova, A. E. Editalina among others) had the audience cheering for more.

All in all, it was a good show and a wonderful way to pay homage to Nurun Nahar Samad. Congratulations to 'Theater Art' for organizing such a show and awarding deserved individuals for excellence in their respective fields.

drama

Ratan Thiyam's Uttar-Priyadarshi

"I have seen one, you've seen them all", a spectator commented before the play even started, which was probably because *Uttar-Priyadarshi*, like a few of Thiyam's other produc-

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tions, was about war and peace. The audience settled down at around 6.45pm at the Osmani Memorial on 11 March 1999, and waited for the play to begin.

Uttar-Priyadarshi began at 7.00pm, as scheduled, and had the audience travelling to a world of myth and make-belief.

Uttar-Priyadarshi starts with the chanting of a prayer by the narrators with staves and eight members of the Chorus with symbols of the eight-fold path of Lord Buddha. They all pray to Lord Buddha and praise his al-

truistic disposition. They also mention the previous birth of Buddha and his reincarnation. Then, it is seen that Priyadarshi returns to Magadha, victorious from the Kalinga battle. The narrator describes Priyadarshi's might and potency. In the second scene, Priyadarshi commands his royal musicians too are surrounding him. He then wants to drive the spirits away and punish them by throwing them into hell. Thereupon, Priyadarshi appoints Ghors, who is ferocious and evil, as the Lord of Hell.

Next, Ghors performs the dance of death and destruction with his female attendants and commands the male attendants to liquefy anyone who enters hell's domain, even Priyadarshi. In the next scene, the travelling narrators enter hell,

Ghors calls on his attendants to show him their evil powers, but to no avail.

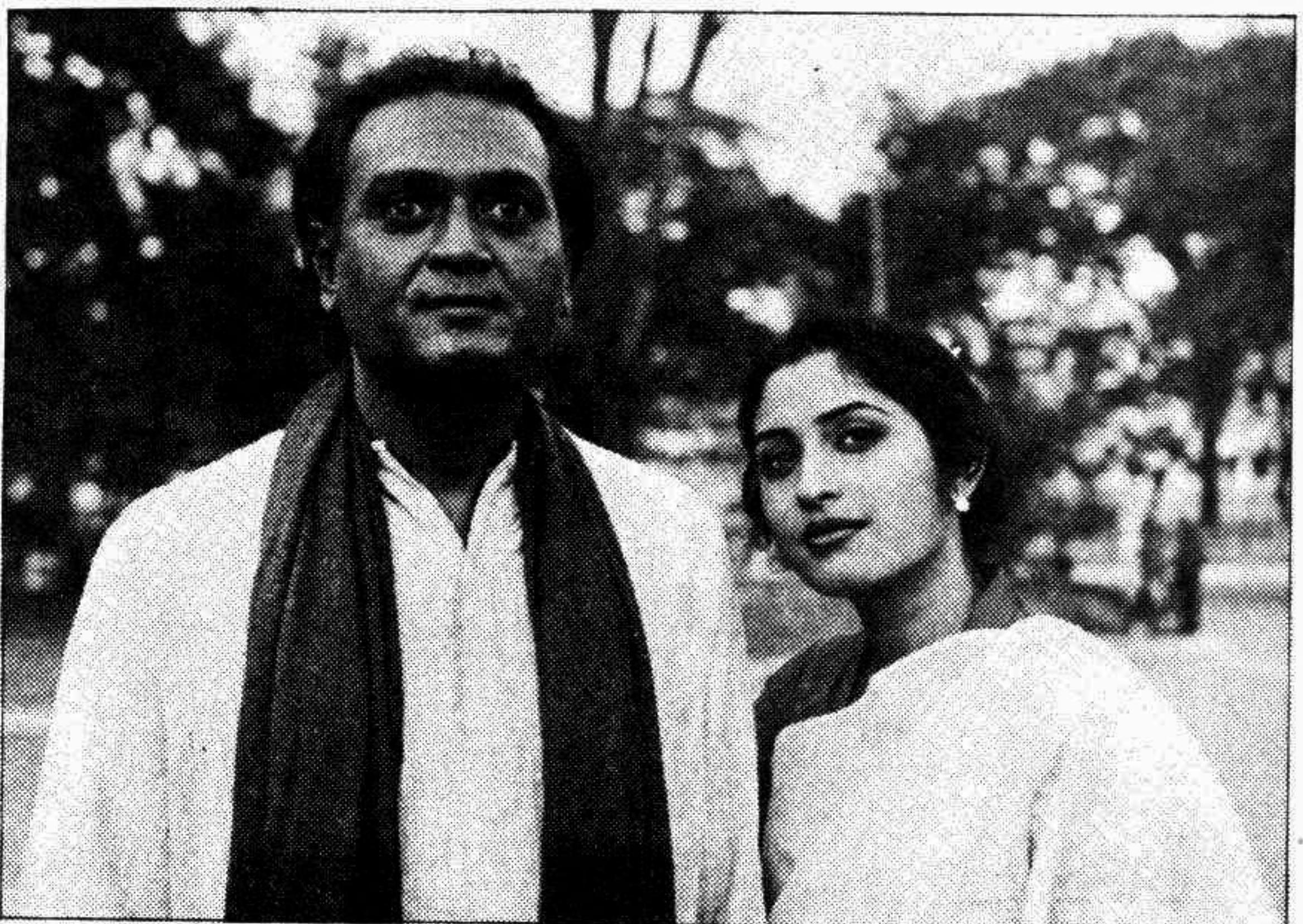
In the last scene, Priyadarshi enters the calm and serene Hell, and Ghors tortures him, inspite of Priyadarshi's reminder that Priyadarshi is the one who made him the Lord of Hell. The Emperor notices that the Bikshu is unaffected by the flames. He asks Bikshu how he manages to do that and he replies that with the affection of the divine light, one is liberated from all human bondage.

In this play, Priyadarshi is a confused man who reaches the path of human kindness and peace by eliminating the evil inside him, and Ratan Thiyam manages to portray this masterfully.

It was a wonderful evening for all that were present and surely everyone would want Ratan Thiyam to come again with another of his marvelous productions.

Chandraloke Ognikanda: The Premiere

Date: March 11, 1999. Time: 4.30pm (which actually turned out to be 5.30pm). Venue: Hotel Purbani. Occasion: Premiere Show of Star Media's new package drama, *Chandraloke Ognikanda* (would you believe that this is a family drama and not a science fiction, as the title suggests?)



A still from Chandraloke Ognikanda

which starred Raisul Islam Asad (Riyaz), Bipasha Hayat (Lubna), Khayrul Alam Shobuj (Hasan), Toru Mostafa (Rapheja), Solayman Khoka (Raman), Fayez Ali Babu (Johir) and Taj Tarin (Moni).

The drama begins with Ostad Riyaz Hossain entering the lobby of a house in Dhaka. As the guard takes him in, he stares at Lubna's photograph on the wall and reminiscences about the first time he met her in Kurigram, when she went there to sing at a function. Soon after, Lubna comes down the stairs and greets the old gentleman with excessive zeal and earnestness and begs him to stay with them. She even wants to forgo her radio recording for the man she barely knew. She had written to him once, to which he did not reply. As Lubna mentions that, he says, "I came to answer that in person". Then this man tells her not to tell her parents about knowing him, or about meeting him in Kurigram, to which she hesitantly agrees. This seemed a little out of the ordinary since she trusted the stranger she met in Kurigram more than she trusted her parents. Anyway, even though Lubna agrees to lie

Rapheja, could not accept their marriage. Then, during childbirth, Moni dies leaving Riyaz with their only daughter, Riyaz. Then, leaves his daughter with his sister, Rapheja and leaves Comilla for good. He goes to Kurigram, assumes the name of Ostadji and lives there in peace. Then, when he sees Lubna, he is reminded of his wife, and feels a different kind of love for her.

What had happened was that Riyaz, the son of a famous lawyer in Comilla, fell in love with a singer, Munira Begum. Munira Begum and married her. Since Munira was the daughter of a poor man, Riyaz's father and sister,

lems of her world. With a so-so story line and unnecessary dialogue, the drama would have been a complete no-no if it had not been accompanied by brilliant acting on Bipasha Hayat and Raisul Islam Asad's part. Toru Mostafa and Khayrul Alam Shobuj too did a good job. The directorial debut of Rezanur Rahman was quite good, considering the fact that this was his first drama series. However, it has to be said that Shafikul Kabir's story was a bit of a disappointment. This viewer, for one, definitely expected better from such a reputed and distinguished writer.

TV Guide

Saturday 13th March
(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme).

BBC

6:00 BBC World News
6:05 USA Direct 6:30
World Living: Wilderness Walk—Baffin Island 7:00 BBC News Headlines 7:30 Asia Today 8:00 BBC News 8:30 World Focus: USA Direct/Reporters 11:00 World News 11:30 World Focus: Panorama 12:00 World News 12:30 World Living: Wilderness Walk—Baffin Island 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hard Talk 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: Correspondent 3:00 World News Headlines 3:05 World Weekend: Peoples' Century 1939 Brave New World 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Holiday 5:00 BBC News 5:30 This Week 6:00 World Headlines 6:05 World Weekend: Horizon 7:00 BBC World News 7:05 World Weekend: The Lost Machine 8:00 BBC World News Headlines 8:30 World Living: The Travel Show 9:05 World Weekend: Peoples' Century 1939 Brave New World 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Style 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Living: The Travel Show 12:30 This Week 1:00 World News 1:30 World Focus: Correspondent 2:00 World News Headlines 2:10 World Weekend: Horizon 3:30 BBC World News 3:30 World Focus: Top Gear 4:00 BBC World News 4:05 World Weekend: The Lost Machine 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Simon's World

CHANNEL [V]
7:00 Turn On T[V] Over

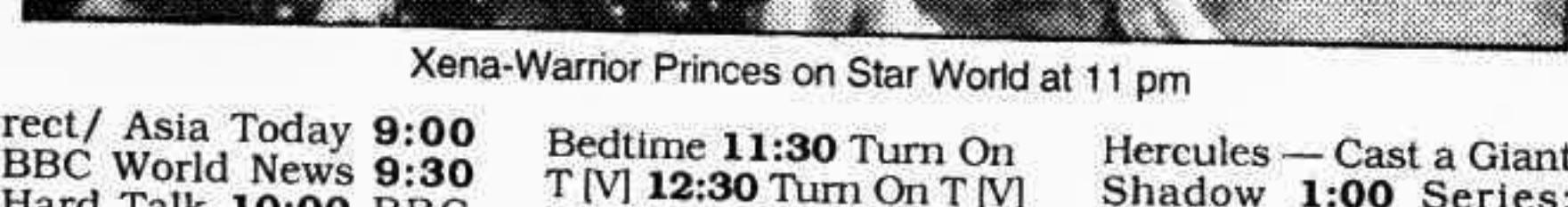
the Edge Vj Sophieva 8:00 Turn On T [V] 8:30 Rewind Vj Sophieva 9:30 Turn On T [V] 11:30 VHS 12:30 Rewind Vj Sophieva 1:30 Hot Seal 2:00 Mainstage 3:00 Turn On T [V] 4:00 The Drum from Australia Vj Molli 5:00 Billboard US Countdown 6:00 Speak Easy 6:30 Turn On T [V] 7:30 Top Of The Pops 8:00 The Juice (Vj Laila) 8:30 Over The Edge 9:00 The Ticket 9:30 Sophie's Choice 10:00 House of Noise 10:30 Banned At 12:00 Series:

Big Easy — Love Doctor 12:00 Mystery Movies — Inspector Morse — Which Is Dead 2:00 Space And Beyond 3:00 The Adventures of Sindbad 4:00 Hercules — Cast A Giant Shadow 5:00 Wwf Shotgun Challenge 6:00 Series: Xena 7:00 Series: Baywatch 8:00 Series: Lovejoy 9:00 Series: Soldier Soldier 10:00 The Adventures of Sindbad 11:00 Series: Xena Warrior Princess — Is There A Doctor 12:00 Series:



Xena-Warrior Princes on Star World at 11 pm

TV Encyclopaedia 3:40 Sports Time 4:05 Serial 5:05 Medicine 5:25 Computers 6:10 Sunheri Yeedoor 7:00 English News 7:20 PTV Music Library 7:30 Virsa Pakistan 7:55 Ghazal Uss Naye Saire 7:25 Den-tonic World of Sports 8:45 Drama 9:00 Break for Headlines News 10:00 Khabarnama & Commercial News 10:45 Drama: Laaj 11:45 Do Sitare 1:15 Urdu Feature Film / Khas Khabra/ Close Down



Xena-Warrior Princes on Star World at 11 pm

Hercules — Cast A Giant Shadow 1:00 Series: Tropical Heat 2:00 Series: Baywatch Nights 3:00 Series: Soldier Soldier 4:00 Nanny And The Professor 4:30 Sky World News 6:30 Animals of Farthing Woods

7:00am Jagran 7:30 Zee News-Hindi 8:00 Beech Shahar 8:30 Zee News-Hindi 9:00 Insight 9:30 Zee News-Eng. 10:00 Vision Beyond 50 10:30 Naye Nagmeen 11:00 Hum Zamen 11:30 Zee News Update 11:50 Zee Business News 12:00 Bourvita Quiz Contest 12:30 Haseen Pal (Trailer Show) 1:00 Session with Seshan 1:30 Zee News-Hindi Bulletin 2:00 Help Line 2:30 Money Game 2:00 Tee Kaman 3:30 News Line 4:00 Aashna 4:30 Hum Honge Kamyab 5:00 Naye Nagmeen 5:30 Zed It Pro 6:00 Beech Shahar 6:30 Gaane Anjane 7:00 Huseen Pal (Trailer Show) 7:30 Center Stage 8:00 Mystery Unfolds 8:30 Zee News-English 8:50 Zee Face To Face 9:00 Ek Aur Nazaria 9:30 Zee News-Hindi 10:00 Question Hour 10:30 Zee News-Hindi 10:50 Zee Business News-Hindi 11:00 The Ent. Show 11:30 Zee News Round Up 12:00 The Women 12:30 Disha Samwad 1:00 Agenda 2000 1:30 BQC 2:00 Zee News-Hindi 2:20 Zee Face To Face 2:30 Hum Zameen 3:00 Zee News-Hindi 3:30 Zee News Countdown 4:00 Hindi Feature Film (B/W)

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