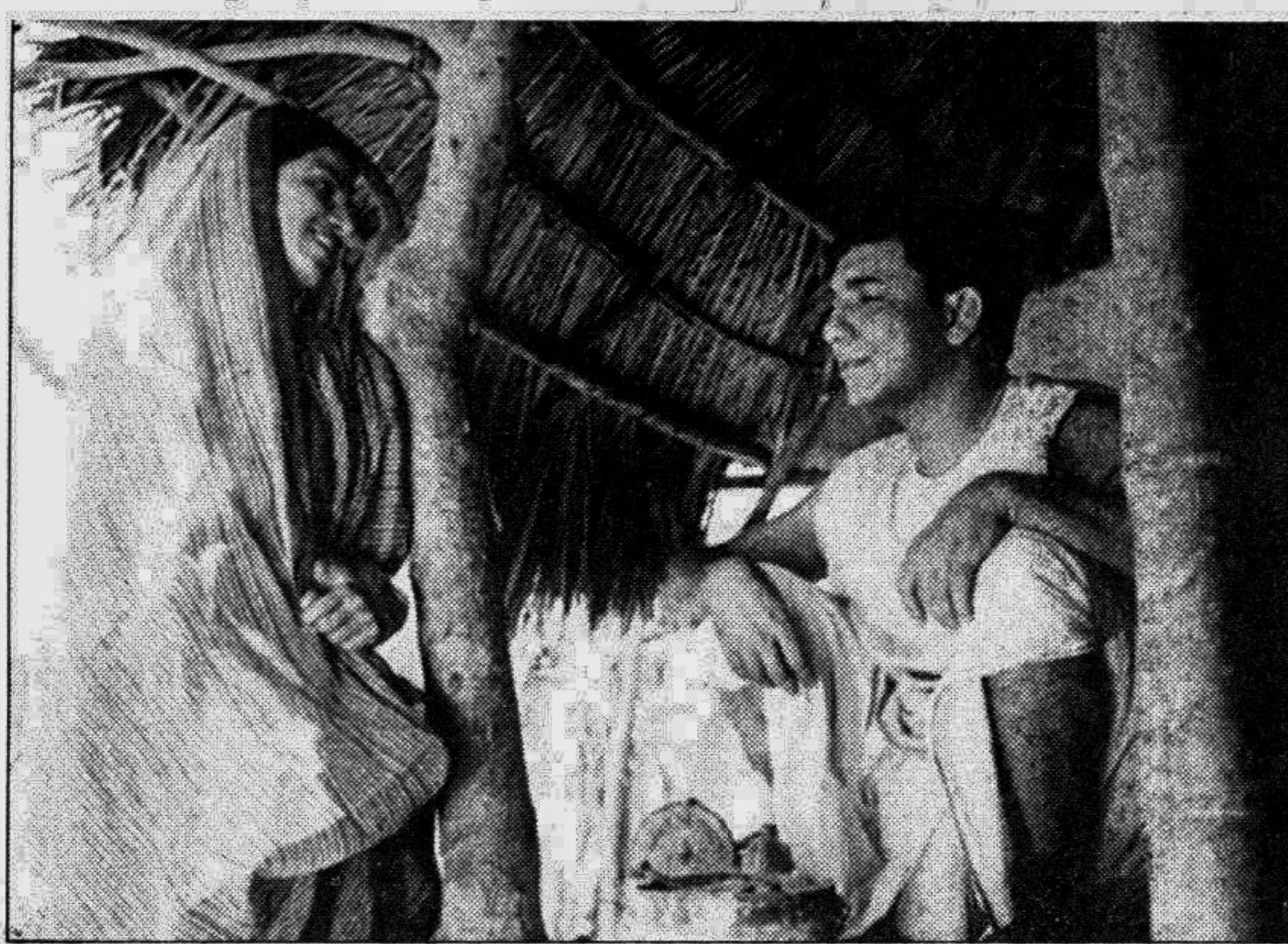


telefilm

Double Bill: Ashta Mandal and Bandhu Bareshu

Two new plays to explode on mini screen



Shirin Khan Moni (L) and Toukir Ahmed in a dramatic sequence from 'Ashta Mandal'

By Shahana Parbeen and Nafid Imran Ahmed

THE premiere shows of two new serials by veteran director Saidul Anam Tutul was held at the Goethe Institut over the weekend.

The premiere of *Bandhu Bareshu* was held on Friday at the Goethe Institut. This is a six-part serial which is likely to hit the small screen soon.

There is a saying in Bengali: 'Shat shonge shorgo baash.'

Ashat Shange Sharbonaash which means that if you keep good company life can be blissful, any if you keep evil company, it can turn life miserable. This very truth is depicted in 'Bandhu Bareshu'.

Bandhu Bareshu has been written by Brindaban Das, a novice in the field. Its a production of Patua Audio Visual and stars Salauddin Lavlu, Azad

Abul Kalam, Atour Rahman, Brindaban Das, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Rahman Ali, Golom Habib Litu and others.

The serial explores a rather new dimension which isn't very often present on the small screen. Although the usual elements like love, poverty, crime, injustice are all there, the influence of the sly Rajab over the simpleton Sana (alias Sanaullah), is the striking reminder of how a simple and

rather foolish guy can be goaded into doing dangerous things.

And it's always the simpleton who gets caught.

Sana and Rajab gets into a house to steal. When the owner wakes up, its Sana who is caught while Rajab does the vanishing act. Sana is beaten black and blue by the villagers but he is so faithful to his pal Rajab that he doesn't disclose Rajab's name as his accomplice in the theft. Sana loses his heart to a village belle Banu who despises him. Again its Rajab who convinces Sana to resort to the help from a roodu Magician (a quake) in order to make Banu love him. As Sana goes to sprinkle the water preparation (as advised by the quake) around Banu's house, he is spotted by Banu's mother and this time he is beaten black and blue on the false accusation that he tried to steal their chickens. By this time, Sana is already convinced of the quake's power and goes to him again for the next course of action. This time he is advised to sprinkle some dust (Specially prepared with magical powers and 'mantras') on her face. When he tries to do so, he is arrested on the pretext of trying to acid on her face.

Whatever the foolish Sana tries to do, he gets accused of something far more grave and is harassed and tortured accordingly. In the meantime Rajab goes to the Town to make his fortune. When he returns, he's a big shot and every body in the village (including those who despised him earlier) tries to be-

friend him. The sly Rajab is owed by the 'designing' Banu. Banu and her parents plot to trap such an eligible 'Son-in-law'. While Sana waits and waits in jail waiting for hearings and trials, Rajab enjoys life. When Sana is finally released from jail, he returns to find his widowed 'Phupu' his only relation left in this world.

He also sees Banu flirting with some other young man. Suddenly the whole world seems like a jail to him.

The touching drama depicts village life very realistically. The heroes are also typical rural characters. Rajab looks exactly like a 'sly thief'. The cast portrays the different characters with relatively convincing grace.

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Ashta Madal, the second serial premiered yesterday, is a seven episode serial. It is also written by Masum Reza and depicts the story of a small village *Panchali* of Ramchandrapur in Kishoreganj district.

The drama stars Toukir Ahmed, Tania Ahmed, Shirin Khan Moni, Abul Khayer, Atour Rahman, Abul Kashem, Joyanta Chattapadhyay, Rahmat Ali, Amanul Haq, Alamgir Kabir, Sayed Iftekhar Ali, Salauddin Lavlu, playwright Masum Reza and director Saidul Anam Tutul himself.

The backdrop of the drama is a yearly village festival - *Ashta Madal*, which takes place under a old banyan tree in *Panchali*. Most of the villagers of *Pan-*



Actor Rahmat Ali, Salauddin Lavlu and Azad Abul Kalam in a scene from 'Bandhu Bareshu'

chali live over this festival, some selling toys and flute and some singing at the folk song show which takes place at the festival. The tree and the yearly *Ashta Madal* around it, is part of the soul of the villagers.

The drama starts with a flashback, where *Monjuri* played by Tania Ahmed and *Ahiruddin* a young man had the best time of their life under the old banyan tree - the place where he first proposed to her. They get married but the appearance and influence of a fake 'saintly man' changes everything. *Ahiruddin* gives all his money to the saint selling his shop and turns into a vagabond. *Monjuri* becomes all alone. Their loving memories lingers around with the old tree.

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A simple flute maker *Tulshi* played by Toukir Ahmed is a young man of some interesting qualities of his own. He plays melodious tunes as he sells flutes at the *Ashta Madal*. He once loved a young woman named *Mohini*, played by Shirin Khan Moni, who un-

against him. He forbids the only villager *Monjuri*, working under him to tell anyone about the news. *Monjuri* kept the bad news and pain as a secret for a while, but the upcoming suffering of the villagers forced him to tell *Monjuri*. In no time the bad news spreads in the village.

Monjuri and Dr. *Mobarak* tries to save the tree. A little hope rises among them when the Head Engineer agrees to save the tree if they can submit the paper signed by eighty per cent of the village inhabitants. The arrangement of the signature ceremony starts under that very tree. But *Altyar Piddin* tells everyone that, no matter what the workers of *Bojdar Rahman* will cut off the tree.

Everyone else except *Monjuri* loses hope, and she fights with courage to save the tree around which her loving memory exists. *Ahiruddin* returns back from abroad to save the tree. The following day the *Panchali* people stands still around their Banyan tree, against the contractor's men who came to wipe off its existence.

Saving the Banyan tree serves as a symbol for the way the villagers have survived fro hundreds of years. It is the tree which again unites them to stand up for its survival, which is actually their own survival.

The entire cast has put up an excellent performance to bring life to the settlers of *Panchali*. The dialogues were mostly in the local dialect, which is a specialty with the director, and this brings the story more to life. The background music by Ripon Khan was only helps to better the whole production.. Everyone present at the institute applauded the drama. It is now left to be seen how the general audience will accept it when it goes on air.

TV Guide

Sunday 29th August
All TV times are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme

BBC

6:00 BBC World News Headlines 6:30 World Living: Holiday Guide 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 World Focus: Correspondent 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 World Focus: Simpson's World 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 This Week 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 India Business Report 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 Wild World: Mastermind India 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 Hard Talk 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: This Week 3:00 BBC World News Headlines 3:05 World Weekend: The Cult-1997 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Talking Movies 5:00 BBC World News 5:30 Reporters 6:00 BBC World News Headlines 6:05 World Weekend: 20:20 Profiles of Century- Richard Feynman- No Ordinary Genius Pt-2 'His Nobel Prize' 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 Wild World: The Velvet Claw Sterngh in Number 8:00 BBC World Headlines 8:10 Dateline London 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 Weekend World: The Road To War-Italy in 2nd World War 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 India Business Report 11:00 BBC World News 11:05 World Weekend: The Cult-1997 12:00 BBC World News Headlines 12:30 Simpson's World 1:00 BBC World News 1:05 World Weekend: 20:20 Profiles of Century- Richard Feynman- No Ordinary Genius Pt-2 'His Nobel Prize' 2:30 World Living: The Big Trip 4:30 HARDtalk 5:00 BBC World Newsdesk Inc. World Report/ 24 Hours



Manjali on Star Plus at 8 pm

(Shahrukh Khan, Mahima Chowdhary 5:30 Jubilee Plus 6:00 Aur Pher Ek Din 6:30 Saajd No. 1 7:00 Hera Pheri 7:30 Kahan Me Twish 8:00 Manchali 8:30 Bakerman's Ooh La La 9:30 Star News Sunday 10:00 Star News Sunday 10:30 A Taste of India 11:00 Janata Ki Adalat 12:00 Mega Hit Parade 12:30 Star News Sunday 1:30 India Business Week 2:00 DL & Pascoe 3:00 Movie: From Hell To Victory 4:30 Media TV 5:00 The Knock 6:00 Travel Asia

STAR WORLD

6:00 Batman 6:30 Animal House 7:00 Crystal Maze 8:00 Mr Belvedere 8:30 Only Fools & Horses 9:00 The Adventures of Sindbad 10:00 Small Wonder 10:30 Mind Your Language 11:00 Xena 12:00 Hercules 1:00 LA Heat 2:00 Walker Texas Ranger 3:00 Tropical Heat 4:00 WWF Superstars 5:00 The Simpsons 5:30 Travel Asia 6:00 Asia News Sunday 6:30 3rd Rock From the Sun 7:00 The Crow 8:00 The X-Files 9:00 Cops 9:30 TV Com 10:00 Asia News Sunday 10:30 3rd Rock From the Sun

PTV-2 8:00 Tilwat Aur Tar-Naat/Warzish 8:20 Carton 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Fun Time 9:05 TV Ency-

lopedia 9:25 Khat Farmash 9:40 Sports Clinic 10:05 PTV Gold 10:30 English Film: Darkwing Duck 10:55 Mast Mast Sanjo 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Sports Hour 12:05 The Sunday Brunch 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Food Show 1:40 Aaj Di Shaam 2:00 Drama Serial 2:55 Laag (Zebra Khan) 3:55 Karabar 4:15 Education 5:25 Riaz for 9th 5:55 Zameen Per Zindagi 6:25 Alou Courses 7:00 English News 7:15 Do Sitare 7:30 English Film: Star Trek: Deep Space Nine 8:10 Monsoon Serial 8:40 Khawab Ajab 9:00 Break for Headlines News 9:02 Khawab Ajab 9:20 TBA 10:00 Kabarnama & Commercial News 11:00 Its My Choice Songs 11:35 Home Victim 12:35 Serial Monsoon 1:00 Khas 1:30 Khabrain/Close Down

ZEE INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 to 10:30 Every Half Hour - Zee News: Hindi 11:00 Zee Sports Show 12:00 Fact File 12:30 News in Hindi 12:57 News Headlines 1:00 Mystery Unfolds 1:30 Question Hour 2:00

11:00 The X-Files 12:00 The Crow 1:00 Asia News Sunday 1:30 3rd Rock From the Sun 2:00 The X-Files 3:00 Cops 3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries 4:00 Life In the Word 4:30 World News 5:00 2 to 4 Children 6:30 Hollywood Squares

STAR MOVIES 7:00 Comedy: Eight Heads In a Duffel Bag (15) 9:00 Horror: The Dead Zone (15) 11:00 Bhaskar Ghose Show 11:30 Sunday Best: The Long Walk Home (15) 1:30 Action: Starstruck On My Land 3:30 Thriller Profile For Murder 5:30 Sci-Fi: Nightflyers 7:30 Comedy: Eight Heads In a Duffel Bag (15) 9:30 Starbiz 10:00 Sunday Night Premiere: Picture Perfect (1997) 15:12:00 Romance: Romeo And Juliet 15:25 Action: Stranger On My Land 4:15 Sci-Fi: Nightflyers 6:15 Family: Little Miss Magic (12)

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MTV INDIA

7:00 MTV Hanging Out VJ Sonia 9:00 House of Style 9:30 Non-Stop Hits 10:30 Best of.... 11:30 Made in India VJ Cyrus 12:00 MTV Hipshakers 12:30 MTV Hit Music 1:00 MTV Housefull VJ Nafisa 10:30 MTV Fresh VJ Rahul 11:00 Simroon Mega Mix VJ Nafisa 11:30 Destination Dance - The Grind - Beach Show 12:00 MTV Unplugged 1:00 Non-Stop Hits Continue...

DD CHANNEL-1 5:55 Vanda Mataram & Thought of the Day 6:00 Aradhana 6:30 UGC Programmes 7:30 Samachar 7:40 Rangoli 8:40 The News 8:50 The World News 9:00 Gao Saachi 9:30 Shri Krishna 10:30 Sangeet Samrat Tansen 11:00 Tliem-E-Hoshruula 11:30 Picnic Antakshari 12:00 School Days 12:30 Delhi Dairy 1:00 Sakhil Saheli 1:30 News for Hearing Impaired 1:55 Feature Film in Regional Lang 2:30 News in Hindi 2:40 News in English 2:50 Feature Film in Regional Lang

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

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DD METRO

7:00 Boot It Computer 7:15 Gurubani Sagar 7:45 Business Weekend 8:30 Serials: Shiv Mahapuram 9:30 Dil Dariya 10:00 Akhir Kaun 10:30 Show No 1 11:30 Disney Club 12:00 Computer Show 1:00 Kuchi Baatne Kuchi Ganee 1:30 Ayur In Style 2:00 Lucky Seven 2:30 Saranga 2:55 Urdu News 4:35 Hindi Film 7:30 Mirich Masala 8:00 Public Haste Serial 8:30 Ajnabi (Serial) 9:00 Yeh Ishq Nahin Aasan 9:30 Superhit Mukabila 10:30 Cross Fire 11:00 Live Wire 11:30 Sunehari Yaadein/Yeh Cafe 12:00 Pop Show 12:30 UGC Prog

AXN ACTION TV

8:00 Extremists 8:30 Planet EX 9:00 Play Life 9:30 Hollywood Grt. St. 10:30 Police Rescue #Ep- Wrong Side Of Road 11:30 Bugs #Ep- Blaze Of Glory 12:30 Hollywood Grt. St. 1:30 Pensacola-2 #Ep- Night Trap 2:30 Robocop #Ep- Corporate Raiders 3:30 Very Radical 4:00 Who Dares Wins 4:30 Extremists 5:30 Silks Stalking #Ep- Was It Good For 6:30 Police Rescue #Ep- Wrong Side Of Road 7:30 Highlander I #Ep- Return of Amanda

ZEE TV 6:00 Yaadon Ki Pal (F/W Songs) 6:30 Zee News & Zee Business 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:05 Gudgudee 8:30 Disney Hour Cartoons 9:30 Shree Krishna 10:30 Mahabharat 11:30 Vijo Jyoti 12:00 Crossfire 12:30 Bourvita Quiz