

# When I was a Teenager

## IN CONVERSATION WITH KHALILUR RAHMAN

by Navine Murshid

HE was a teenager of the 1930s. For M Khalilur Rahman, a retired major general and a veteran politician, his youthful days signify a kind of discipline that is hardly found today.

He grew up in Nandina village in Jamalpur (then under greater Mymensingh). He was the youngest of the three brothers.

"We were born much later in my parents' married life. They had no children right after their marriage. Therefore our parents loved us excessively. We were surrounded by love and laughter," he said while talking to The Daily Star at his Dhanmondi residence.

His father's earnings came from farming. His was a rather well-off family with plenty of lands and many servants and kamlas (farm hands) at their disposal. There were two types of kamlas at their home, those who worked part time and those who lived with them all the time. Little Khalil observed with interest how the part-time workers were treated differently than the full timers.

The part-time and temporary workers were basically given protein food like rice, dal, fish curry and the like. On the other hand, the full-time workers were like a part of the family. If something good was cooked at home, they had a share of it too.

In fact, in those days, the

Khalilur Rahman feels that the exposure the students of today are getting from home as well as school is poor. The values have changes as well. The ordinary teenager is made to believe that hard work is foolish. "People believe that good results can be achieved by the application of muscles and not the mind. To me, the present day indiscipline is very alarming."

atmosphere at their home was such that they welcomed and respected people from all walks of life, despite them being poor. Female servants who worked for them were no exceptions. The workers were never addressed as servants, instead the children were told to address them as aunts and uncles. However, this was an exception in those days.

"I later saw that people

who were not as well off as we were behaved very badly with their employees. I then realised why while our servants were loyal to us, workers at most homes were inclined to steal, to cheat and be disloyal towards their employees."

Young Khalil also noted the difference between communities like the Hindus and Muslims. He noted that their Hindu visitors re-



fused to have food cooked in their pots. Often they were carrying portable stoves, to cook for themselves. When they visited their Hindu friends, they avoided certain things like going into their kitchen. The consequence was that the only food served to each other was dry food, like sweets (from the shops), fruits, milk and the like.

"One remarkable differ-

ence that I noted was between the Hindu food was served in Hindu homes and Muslim homes. While in our homes, the servants did the serving, in Hindu homes, the mother, the sister, daughter or daughter-in-law brought in the food and served. Of course, I liked the Hindu way of serving."

"Someone once asked me — Did you feel insulted by the fact that a more reli-

gious type of Hindu would not partake of the need to cook in the house? My answer was an emphatic No. We sincerely believed that this was the religious instruction and we did not feel it was something unusual."

The strictness with which people maintained religious virtues thwarted in mid 1930s. The Muslims and Hindus held high regard for one another. Inhibitions about whether to eat or not started to wear off. Whenever Hindu musical processions passed by mosques, they made it a point to stop the music. Soon, Muslims took part in such processions as well and later, their presence was there at religious festivals and pujas.

Young Khalil was a student of Nandina Maharani Hemanta Gomori School, named after Maharani Hemanta Gomori who was the landlord from Puthia, Rajshahi and was also the patron of the school.

"It was an extraordinary school." It started out as a minor English school but because of the efforts of their headmaster and a dedicated managing committee, the school improved rapidly and was titled, Best School in Rural Surrounding of Bengal and Assam by the visiting inspector of schools.

"The school was run with the concept of present-day cadet colleges. I did not re-

side in the hostels, but around 250 students did, of which only fifty were Muslims and the rest were Hindus from different areas. Schools started at eleven and all actions were carried out through a blow of the whistle or bell. Needless to say, non-conformers were punished."

Evenings were games time. Young Khalil was an enthusiastic participant in all sports activities. These games were very organised and were carried out with considerable strictness from the part of teachers. There were quite a few playing grounds where at least one teacher was present to ensure discipline. The teachers participated in games as well. While the students played football, volleyball, basketball, badminton and tennis, the teachers played tennis!

The school was committed to winning, no matter what field it was. There were debates, sports activities and symposiums for talent shows short dramas and many other activities, all of which the school excelled in. The academic results were brilliant as well and according five students, including Young Khalilur Rahman, got admitted to Presidency College in Calcutta, which was a dream come true for any student.

"Presidency College was a huge premise with magnificent architecture. There

were about a thousand students there. It is perhaps difficult to believe that throughout the massive building there was not a single pencil mark on the walls. After each period, there was always a five-minute break, mainly to shift from one class to another. The teachers and student walked together in the same corridor. Except the noise of shoes, there was no other sound to be heard. There were no teachers in the library while we studied there. Yet, you could indeed hear a pin drop. The students themselves maintained the decorum."

Today he is alarmed by the in-discipline in the present generation. He feels that if he to apportion blame the lion's share would go to the teachers and guardians.

"The students are like clay. Anything can be made of them depending on the mechanic and the artist."

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### TV Guide

Friday 3rd September  
(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

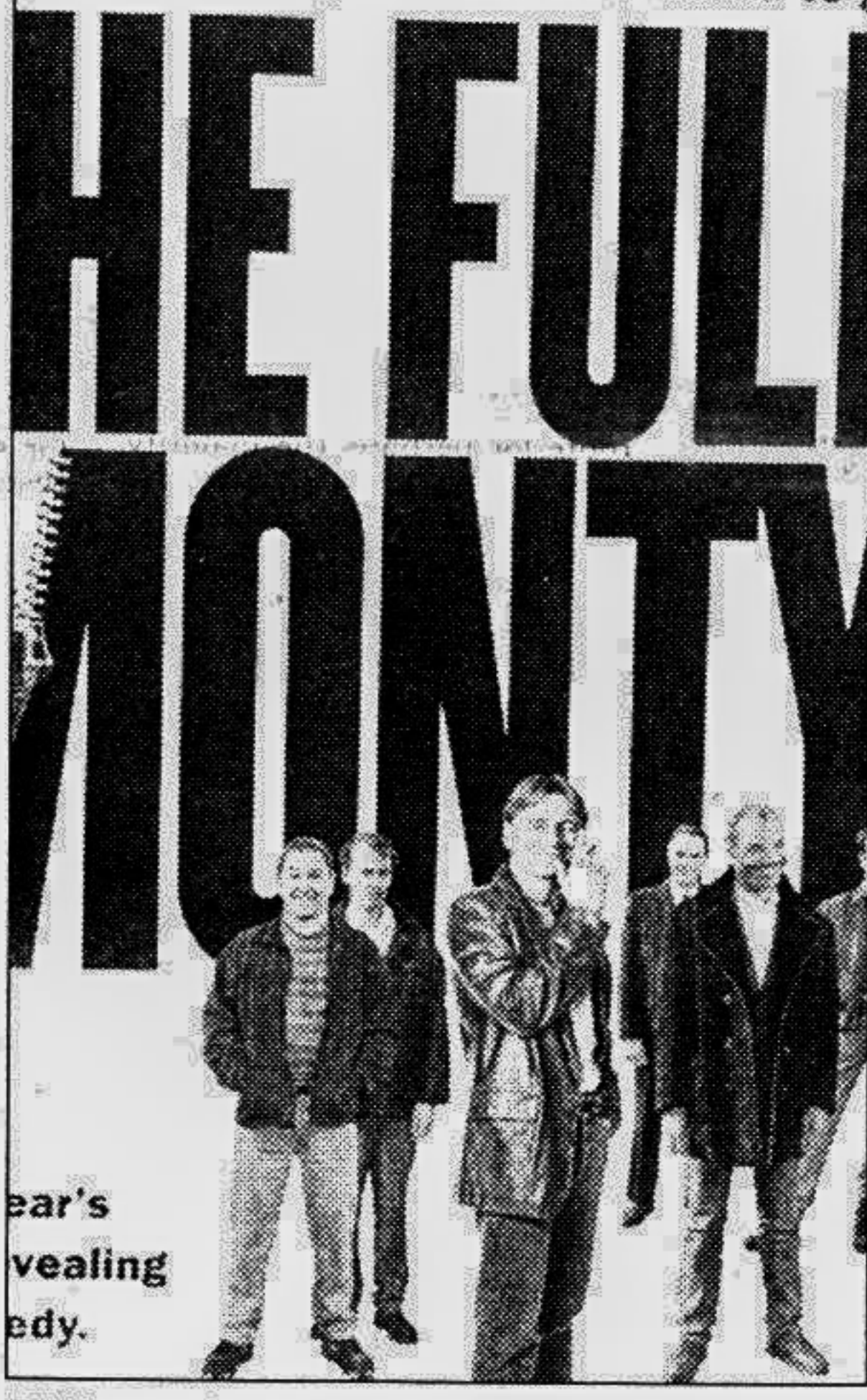
#### BBC

6:00 BBC World News 6:05 USA Direct 6:30 World Living: Talking Movies 7:00 BBC World News inc World Business & Asia Today 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: USA Direct 11:30 Europe Direct 12:00 World News 12:30 Moneywise Presented by Sucharita Ghose 1:00 World News 1:30 World Living: Top Gear 2:30 World Focus: The Sky At Night 3:00 World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Talking Movies 5:00 BBC World Today 6:30 World Focus: The Sky At Night 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC World Today - Asia & Pacific 8:30 World Living: Talking Movies 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Living: Question Time India Talk (Presenter: Dr Prannoy Roy) 11:00 World News 11:30 BBC World Today 12:30 Hard Talk: 1:30 World Focus: Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Living: Heavenly Bodies 4:00 BBC News Inc World Business Report/24 Hours

#### CHANNEL V

7:30 Tea With [V] 8:00 Virtual [V] 8:30 Tea With [V] 9:00 [V] On Campus 9:30 Tea With [V] 10:00 V Line Lagao 10:30 Video Preview 11:00 [V] Hit Machine 1:00 [V] FDFS 1:30 [V] Hit Machine 2:30 Channel [V] Oye 3:00 [V] Hit Machine 4:30 Tea With [V] 5:00 Virtual [V] 5:30 Tea With [V] 6:00 [V] Style Police 6:30 Tea With [V] 7:00 [V] Line Lagao 7:30 [V] Hit Machine 8:30 [V] The Ticket 9:00 [V] Hit

With nothing to lose. Who dared to



Full Monty on Star Movies at 5:15 pm

Machine 9:30 [V] FDFS Spl 10:00 [V] Hit Machine 10:30 [V] Latent Hit 11:00 [V] Dares You 11:30 [V] Latent Hit 12:30 [V] Hit Machine 1:30 [V] Latent Hit 2:00 [V] Top of the Pops 2:30 [V] Latent Hit 3:30 [V] Hit Machine

#### STAR PLUS

6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:30 TVC 10:00 Good Morning India 12:00 Shock TV 12:30 TVC 1:00 Hit Ya Fit 1:30 Virasat 2:00 Ajeeb Dastan 2:30 Swabhimani 3:00 Zindagi Com 3:30 Tea Time Cinema: 'Palak' 6:30 Zabaan Sambhalke

#### STAR WORLD

6:30 Aerobics Oz Style 6:30 Hollywood Squares 7:00 Brittas Empire 7:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure 8:00 2 Point 4 Children 8:30 Newhart 9:00 Walker Texas Ranger 10:00 Due South 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Real Funny 1:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 1:30 Tropical Heat 2:30 Movie TV 3:00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure 3:30 2 Point 4 Children 4:00 Hollywood Squares 4:30 World News 5:00 Asia News Update 5:15 World Business Report 5:30 Home Improvement 6:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 6:45 Asia News Update 7:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 8:00 Class Act 9:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 9:30 Home Improvement 10:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 11:00 Heartbeat 12:00 The Simpsons 12:30 3rd Rock From The Sun 1:30 Home Improvement 1:30 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 2:30 Heartbeat 3:30 Exalted Word 4:00 Aerobics Oz Style 4:30 World News 5:00 Voyage To The Bottom of The Sea

#### STAR MOVIES

7:30 Family: Adventure

Of Huck Finn 12 9:30 Romance: Tim 11:30 Thriller: White Sands 15 1:30 Drama: Blue Bayou 3:15 Family: Adventure Of Huck Finn 12 5:15 Comedy: Full Monty 15 7:15 Comedy: Working Girl 15 9:30 The Bhaskar Ghose Show 10:00 Friday Night-All Stars: Courage Under Fire 15 12:15 Lee Friday Fury: The Skyhawk 2:15 Thriller: White Sands 15 4:00 Action: To Live And Die In L.A. 15 6:00 Comedy: Working Girl 15

#### PTV-2

8:00 Tilwat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat 8:20 Boltay Haath 8:35 Sada-e-Kashmir 9:10 Dastar Khwaan 9:35 Karb (Serial) 11:00 Aap Ke Farmaesh Pop 11:30 Fakir-E-Ajam Game Show 12:30 Sports Prog 2:02 Bismillah 2:15 Fehm-Ul-Quran 2:40 Natak Rang 3:25 Ek Raat Ek Kahani 4:40 Sehat Aur Sukoon 5:25 Biology for 10th 5:55 Uffaq 6:25 Aoni Course 7:20 Full House 7:45 English News 8:10 Fun Time Poppet Show 8:30 Tiffin 8:45 Paal Do Paal (Serial) 9:00 Break for Headlines News 10:00 Khabarnama & Commercial News 10:35 Lollywood Top Ten Countdown Film Music 11:35 Serial: Pinjira 12:00 Friday Night Classic Cinema & Khas Khabrain/Close Down

#### ZEE INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 to 11:30 PM Every Half Hour-Zee News Hindi 12:30 News In Hindi 12:57 News Headlines 1:00 Ru Ba Ru 1:30 Jaanch Ya Aanch 2:30 The Tech Show 2:30 Ap Ki Adalat 3:00 India Debates 3:30 Bourvita Quiz Contest 4:00 Teen Karam 4:30 Session With Seshan

#### MTV INDIA

7:00 Non-Stop Hits 8:00 MTV Hanging Out VJ Rahul/Sonia 9:00 Classic MTV VJ Sarah/Rahul 11:00 Non-Stop Hits 10:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya 11:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Shehnaz/Amrita/Nikhil 12:30 MTV Hit Film Music 1:00 MTV Housefull V Nafisa 1:30 MTV In Control - Cricket 2:30 MTV Select VJ Nikhil 3:30 Love Line VJ Malaika 4:00 Non-Stop Hits 4:30 Pepsi Dance Connection Special - TV MTV 5:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya 6:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Shehnaz/Amrita/Nikhil 7:30 MTV & Kenwood India Hit List VJ Rahul 8:00 MTV & Smirnoff Mega Mix VJ Nafisa 8:30 Non-Stop Hits 9:30 MTV Hit Film Music 10:00 Housefull VJ Nafisa 10:30 Non-Stop Hits 11:30 The Grind (Beach Show) 12:30 Non-Stop Hits Continue...

#### MUSIC ASIA

7:30 Aalaap 8:00 B&W Gems 8:30 All Time Hits



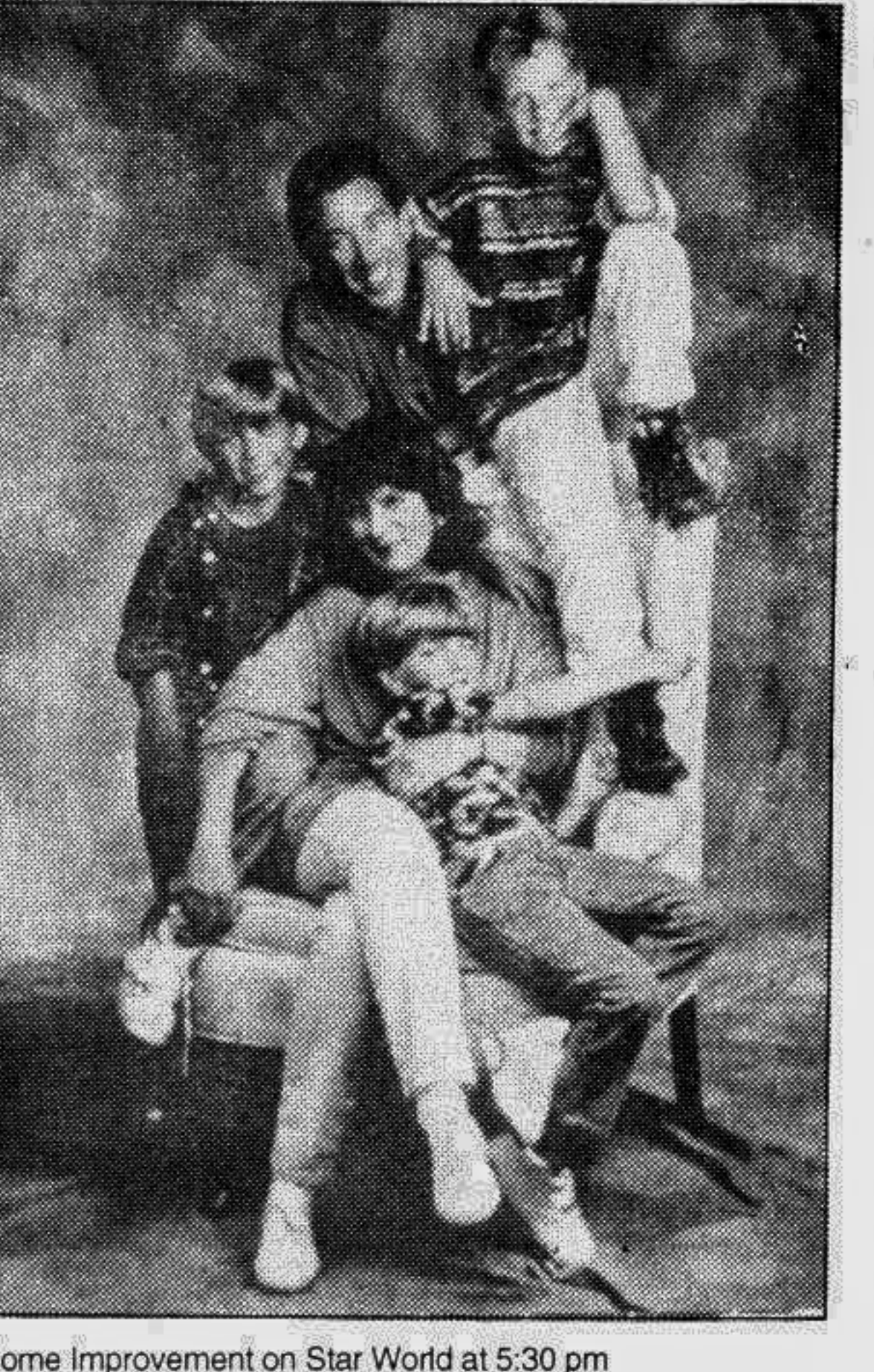
Courage Under Fire on Star Movies at 10 pm

#### DD CHANNEL-1

5:55 Vande Mataram & Thought of the Day 6:00 Aradhana 6:30 UGC Prog 7:30 Samachar 7:45 Suba Sabera 8:45 The News 8:50 This Morning's Business 9:00 Suba Sabera 9:30 Nayna 10:00 UGC Prog 10:30 Tarang 11:30 Young 12:30 Aurat 1:00 Aparajita 1:30 Itihaas 1:30 Waqt Ki Raftar 2:30 News in Hindi 2:40 News in English 2:50 Roop Suhane 3:00 Aap Ki Shanti 3:30 Ujala 4:00 Tea Time Monoranjan 4:30 Sunhare Sapne 5:00 Choti Se Aasha 5:30 Music 6:00 Buzurgon Ke Liye 6:15 CIET Programme 6:30 Dilli Aajtak 6:45 Falak 7:00 Krishi Darshan 7:30 Samachar 8:00 Fera Paricramma 8:00 Fera Fera 8:25 Geet Bahar 9:00 Samachar 9:30 The News 10:00 Idhar Udhar 10:30 Nehle Pe Dehla 11:32 Iyadgaar 12:02 Spl Prog

#### DD 7

10:25 Janmadin 10:35 Daily Sope: Shree Ram Krishna 11:00 Daily Sope: Dropadi 11:15 Classical/Folk Songs 11:30 Parliament Hour/Musical 12:30 Daily Sope: Kunja Villa 1:00 Daily Sope: Aakash Chooa 1:30 Daily Sope: Rupkatha 2:00 Daily Sope: Kanakanjali 2:30 Daily Sope: Shree Ram Krishna 3:00 Daily Sope: Maha Prabhu 3:30 Daily Sope: Mohini 3:55 Daily Sope: Bhanganagar Khela 4:20 Nepali Prg 5:05 Drama 5:30 News 5:40 Gaan 5:50 Palli Katha 6:10 Shilpi 6:40 Khas Khabar 6:50 Daily Sope: Jannabhumi 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Bela Abela 8:30 Abashsee 9:00 Daily Sope: Jannabhumi 9:30 Daily Sope: Dropadi 10:00 Khas Khabar 10:10 Bengali Movie



Home Improvement on Star World at 5:30 pm

#### DD CHANNEL-1

5:55 Vande Mataram & Thought of the Day 6:00 Aradhana 6:30 UGC Prog 7:30 Samachar 7:45 Suba Sabera 8:45 The News 8:50 This Morning's Business 9:00 Suba Sabera 9:30 Nayna 10:00 UGC Prog 10:30 Tarang 11:30 Young 12:30 Aurat 1:00 Aparajita 1:30 Itihaas 1:30 Waqt Ki Raftar 2:30 News in Hindi 2:40 News in English 2:50 Roop Suhane 3:00 Aap Ki Shanti 3:30 Ujala 4:00 Tea Time Monoranjan 4:30 Sunhare Sapne 5:00 Choti Se Aasha 5:30 Music 6:00 Buzurgon Ke Liye 6:15 CIET Programme 6:30 Dilli Aajtak 6:45 Falak 7:00 Krishi Darshan 7:30 Samachar 8:00 Fera Paricramma 8:00 Fera Fera 8:25 Geet Bahar 9:00 Samachar 9:30 The News 10:00 Idhar Udhar 10:30 Nehle Pe Dehla 11:32 Iyadgaar 12:02 Spl Prog

#### SONY TV

7:30 LIVE- Tri-Nation Singapore Cup Cricket Fte Singapore- 4:00 Cine Mateni-Hindi Feature Film 7:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 8:00 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 8:30 Star Yar Kalakar (Contest Show) 9:35 News # Ep 37 10:05 Choti Si Asha # 26 10:40 Moovers & Shakers 11:10 Ek Mahal Ho Saano Ka 11:45 Junoon 11:15 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 11:30 Highlights-Tri-Nation Singapore Cup Cricket Fm Sir gaar 12:30 Boogie Woogie 1:00 Chamatkar 1:30 Kihwahish #21 2:00 Dekh Bhai Dekh 2:30 Rang Birangne-Songs 3:00 Aurat 3:30 Cine Nite Show-Hindi Feature Film

#### ZEE TV

6:00 Yaadon Ki Pal-E/W Songs 6:30 Zee News 6:50 Jhalak-Trailor 7:30 Jagran 8:00 Guldasta 8:30 Zara Has Ke-Filmi Chakkari 9:30 Disney Hour 10:30 Ek Nazar 11:00 Bajaj Super 7 Mugabla Countdown Show 11:30 Zanjeerein 12:00 Sapath 12:30 Khana Khazana 1:00 Bourvita Quiz Contest 1:30 Naye Nazare 2:00 Daily Sope- Hum Paanch 2:30 Saath Saath 3:00 Raahat 3:30 Cinema Hits-HF Film: 6:30 Ek Nazar 7:30 Disney Hour Cartoons 8:00 Eno-Chalo Cinema 8:30 Close Up Antakshari 9:00 Ashwini 9:30 Tejaswini 10:00 Gadbare 11:00 Do Aur Do Paanch 11:30 Raahat 11:55 Jhalak-Trailor 12:00 Haad Kar Di 12:30 Rishtey 1:30 Agnichakra 2:00 Zee News 2:30 Zee Arabia: Neezat 3:00 Hindi Feature Film

#### DD METRO

3:00 Jharokha 3:10 Sports Time 3:30 Dhalti Sham Ki Suraj 4:00 Ank Ajooba 4:30 Sports Hour 5:30 Jaldi Jaldi Game 6:00 Mickey And Donald 6:30 He Man & The Masters of Universe 7:00 Chip And Dale 7:30 Telesoccer

7:50 Entertainment Show: Cinema Cinema 8:00 Light Music/Mazhab Nahi Shikha 8:30 Shreeman Shreemati (Serial) 9:00 All The Best 10:00 Ehsaas 10:30 Aaj Tak 10:50 Road Watch 11:00 Jharokha 11:05 Journeys To Art 11:30 Feature Film In English

#### DD Int'l

9:30 Opening & News in English 9:45 Business Plus 10:00 Chittrahar (Meet the Film Star) 10:30 Asian AM 11:00 Light Music 11:15 Suravi (Renuka Sahani) 11:45 Gul Gulshan Gulfaan 12:15 Bharat Samachar 12:30 TBA 1:00 Hindi Film 10:00 Hindi Film (Rpt) (Underrun Closed)

#### CARTOON NETWORK

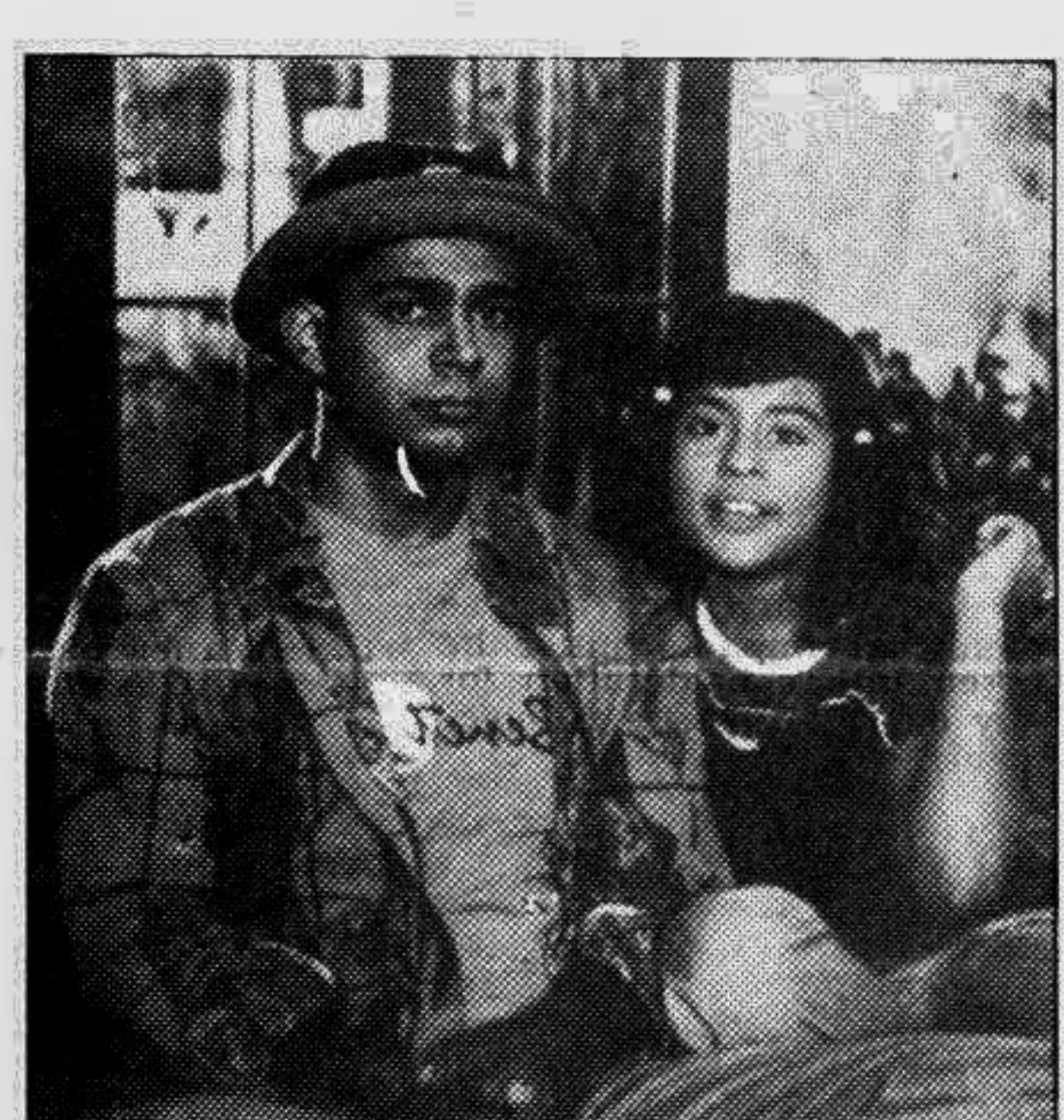
7:30 The Popeye Show 8:00 Scooby & Scrappy D 8:30 Perils Of Penelope 9:00 Josie & Pussycat 9:30 Drink The Little 10:00 Flinstone Kids 10:30 Riche Rich 11:00 Top Cat 11:30 Captain Planet 12:00 Scooby Doo 12:30 The Cartoon Grand Prix 1:30 Fantastic Max 2:00 Crocodoo 2:30 The New Scooby Doo Movies 3:30 Sky Commander 4:00 Centurions 4:30 Swats Kats 5:00 Ninja Robots 5:30 Flinstones 6:00 Top & Jerry Kids 6:30 Crocodile 7:00 The Mask 7:30 Desters Laboratory 7:45 Whats a Cartoon! Show 8:00 The Addams Family 8:30 Scooby Doo Where Are You 9:00 The Popeye Show

#### DISCOVERY CHANNEL

12:30 Crocodile Hunter 1:30 Beyond 2000 2:00 Discovery News 2:30 Portraits 3:30 Discovery Profile Series 4:30 Next Step 5:00 Ultrascience 5:30 Beyond 2000 6:00 Splat! 6:30 Ushuaia 7:30 Outer Bounds 8:00 High Adventure 8:30 Travellers 9:30 Assignment Discovery 10:30 Great Mysteries and Myths 11:00 What A World 11:30 In Care of Nature 12:00 Lost Animals of the 20th Century 12:30 Equinox 1:30 Next Step 2:00 Ultrascience 2:30 Beyond 2000 3:00 Splat 3:30 Ushuaia 4:30 Outer Bounds 5:00 High Adventure 5:30 Travellers 6:30 Buck Staghors Animal Bites 7:00 So Yu Want To Be 7:30 Lonely Planet 8:30 Ultimate Guide 9:30 Seatek 10:00 Without Warning 10:30 Lost Civilisations 11:30 The New Explorers

#### AXN ACTION TV

7:30 Highlander 8:30 Ninku 9:00 Yamato Takaro 9:30 Extremists 10:00 Xtreme Sports -2 10:30 Police Rescue 11:30 AXN The Series 12:00 Who Dares Wins 12:30 Highlander I 1:30 Pen-sion 2:30 Movie: 4:30 Ninku 5:00 Yamato Takaro 5:30 Extremists 6:00 Xtreme Sports -2 6:30 Movie: 8:30 AXN The



Kucha Paapad Pucca Paapad on Star Plus at 8 pm

Series 9:00 Who Dares Wins 9:30 Acapulco Heat 10:30 Silk Stalkings 11:30 Movie: 1:30 Acapulco Heat 2:30 Highlander 3:30 AXN The Series 4:00 Free Ride 4:30 Knights & Wamiors 5:30 Acapulco Heat 6:30 Police Rescue 7:30 Extremists

#### HOME TV

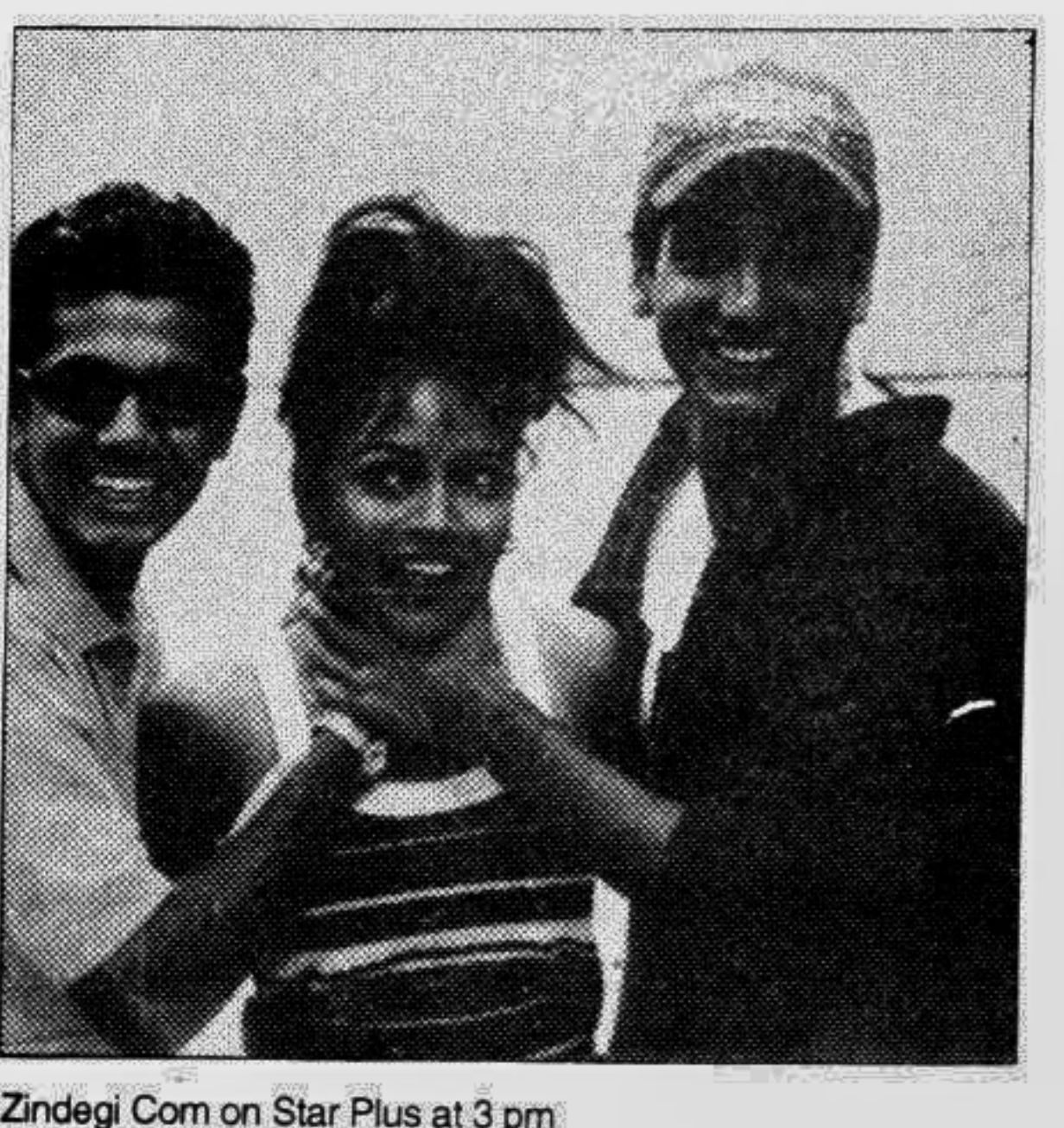
8:00 Club 700 8:30 High Five 9:00 Pahl Nazari 9:15 Cartoons 10:00 Action Drama 10:45 Chalte Chalte 11:00 Hit-Hit Hurray 12:00 Hollywood Hangame 12:30 Satya 1:00 Tele Shopping Network 1:30 Tele brands 2:00 Guban Sambhal Ke 2:30 Ga mere man Ga 3:30 Duniya Gol Hai 4:00 Sagar 4:30 Matinee show 5:00 Tele Shopping Network 5:30 Chalte Chalte 5:45 Cartoon 6:30 Action Drama 7:15 Chalte Chalte 8:30 Born Lucky 9:00 Popularly Yours 9:30 First Cut 10:00 Gaane kya tene kahi 10:30 Duniya Gol Hai 11:30 Aamma & Family 12:00 Zuban Sambhal Ke 12:30 Panther 1:00 Bollywood Reporter 2:30 Kabhi Idher

#### STAR SPORTS

9:00 Trans World Sport 10:00 Cricket World Cup Highlights/Special-Super Six India vs. Pakistan 11:00 International Motorsports News 12:00 SBK World Superbikes Championship 1:30 Fox Sports News LIVE 2:30 Spanish Football League 1999/00 4:30 Watersports World 5:30 US Open 1999 9:00 US Open 1999

#### ZEE CINEMA

8:15 Film Show: 11:15 Movie Fare 11:30 Film Show: 2:30 Madhyantar 2:45 Top Of The Tops 3:15 Film Show: 6:15 Top



Zindagi Com on Star Plus at 3 pm



Hollywood Squares on Star World at 4 pm