

Afro-Asian Cup 'Bafana Bafana' on a mission

RIYADH, Sept 29: South Africa want to erase an ugly blot on their international copybook when they meet Saudi Arabia here on Thursday in the second leg of the Afro-Asian Nations Cup, reports AFP.

Bafana Bafana (The Boys) have not won in 17 matches outside Africa since being readmitted to international football seven years ago after almost three decades of racism-induced isolation.

The national team have lost twice to France and Australia and once to Mexico, England, Germany, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Argentina and Trinidad and Tobago.

South Africa drew twice with Denmark and once with the Czech Republic, Iceland, Saudi Arabia and Jamaica with the best chance of success slipping when they conceded a late equaliser to Iceland in a 1998 World Cup warm up.

Coach Trott Moloto has personal reasons for wanting to successfully defend a 1-0 lead as he is under pressure after only two victories in nine matches against largely modest opposition.

Failure at the King Fahd Stadium will leave him cursing many wasted chances in a first leg won through an early second-half header by Turkish-based striker Pollen Ndlaya.

Benni McCarthy, who quit international football after the Cape Town match to concentrate on his career with Spanish club Celta Vigo, struck the post and Saudi goalkeeper Mohammed al-Deayea made several superb saves.

Moloto is handicapped by the absence of captain Lucas Radebe, Pierre Issa, Quinton Fortune, Helman Mkhalele, John 'Shoes' Moshoeu and Shaun Bartlett due to European club commitments.

Injuries have ruled out Papi Khomane, Bradley Carell, Thabo Mngomoni and Strell Lekeolea and Fabien McCarthy is doubtful after flying to Belgium for trials with Anderlecht.

Moloto remains surprisingly optimistic despite these setbacks, telling the Saudi media that the top ranked country in Asia have a predictable pattern and are defensively vulnerable.

Hilari Macala, the Czech-born coach of Saudi Arabia, is equally anxious to play after an 8-2 drubbing by four-time world champions Brazil last month in the Confederations Cup semi-finals.

"I was impressed by South Africa, but the conditions will us this time," he said, referring to the expected warm weather following the wind and cold of Cape Town.

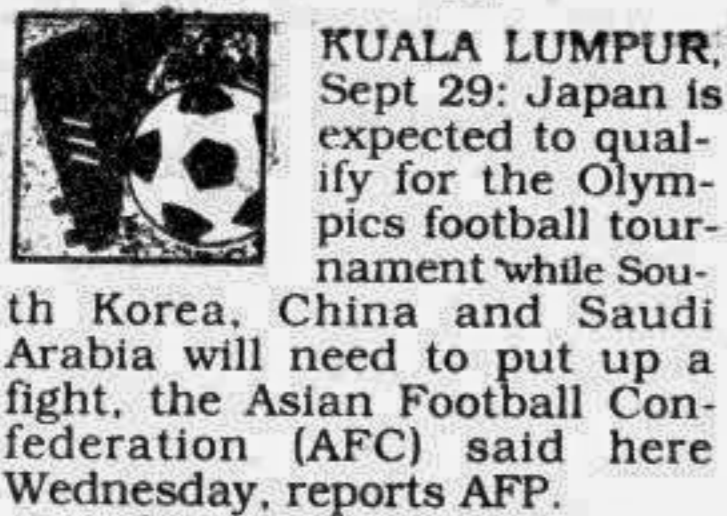
Fulham rope in Riedle

LONDON, Sept 29: Highflying English First Division side Fulham saw off several Premier League sides on Tuesday to sign former German international striker Karim Riedle from Liverpool for 200,000 pounds, reports AFP.

The 34-year-old, who scored 16 goals in 42 internationals, signed an 18-month contract.

AFC fancy Japan Olympic qualifying draw held

Olympic qualifying draw held



KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 29: Japan is expected to qualify for the Olympic football tournament while South Korea, China and Saudi Arabia will need to put up a fight, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said here Wednesday, reports AFP.

"Of the teams that have reached Asia's final qualifying round for next year's Olympics, Japan would appear to be the favorites to qualify for the finals," the AFC said in a statement.

"After being drawn in Group C along with Thailand and Kazakhstan, it would seem that the Japanese have a straightforward task in attempting to qualify," it said.

The final round kicks off Friday, with a Group A match between Qatar and Saudi Arabia in Doha, according to the AFC's revised schedule.

On Saturday, South Korea plays China in Seoul in the first of Group B matches.

On Sunday, Group C will have Kazakhstan taking on Thailand in Almaty, with the Kazakhs taking on the Japanese there on October 9.

The toughest tasks will be faced when the (Japanese) team goes on the road, especially on the journey into Kazakhstan when they visit Almaty for the game against the former Soviet Union state.

The Kazakhs have proven that they are on the rise after their under-19 team reached the semi-final of the Asian Youth Championship last year, and came closer to beating (South Korea) the eventual champions, than Japan did in the final," the AFC said.

"Should they go to Tokyo and gain at least a point, then Japan's expected progress could suffer severe damage," it added.

Since 1968, neither Japan nor any Asian country has ever come close to attaining a medal in the Olympic football tournament, the AFC said. In that year, Japan won a bronze medal over the hosts in the Mexico City Olympics.

In the last 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Asia was represented by Japan, Saudi Arabia and South Korea.

South Korea "will have a hard time even qualifying for

Sydney despite the fact that coach Huh Jung-moo has put together a talented side full of some of the best emerging players in Asia," the AFC said.

China, which is also in Group B along with South Korea and Bahrain, would seek to avenge their humiliating 3-0 defeat by South Korea in 1996.

"Under English coach Bob Houghton, the Chinese have regained a lot of the confidence lost over the last four years," it said.

The competition among Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia "could be the fiercest of the tournament as local rivalries are added to the qualifying equation," the AFC said.

Qatar are boosted by the presence of coach Jo Bonfrere, "the man who steered Nigeria to gold in the Atlanta Olympics," while Kuwait hoped to qualify for the Olympics for a third time.

The Saudis struggled to make it beyond the first round and will have their work cut out qualifying for their second Olympics. But as they've proven in the past, the Saudis should never be written off," it said.

"I've been in Germany three times, always in October, and I haven't been to it," said the US Open winner. "I'd like to see the atmosphere, everyone tells me it's really something."

The younger Williams sister said that her life has not changed after winning the New York title. "I'm still practising and working hard. There are many more Slams for me to win. If I want to set records, I have to continue working hard and doing my best."

Paes however said they went through a couple of rough months after winning the Wimbledon doubles.

While former tennis star Naresh Kumar said Paes and Bhupathi were the new role models for the country's youth, another tennis star of yesteryears Akhtar Ali held their performance as "incredible".

Bhupathi's coach Enrico Piperno said that it was heartwarming to see the two rising from almost nowhere to the top in the fiercely competitive world of tennis.

CSJC president Shyam Sundar Ghosh said that they were not only great players, but also great souls caring not just about their own game only.

All were speaking at a felicitation organised for Paes and Bhupathi jointly by the Calcutta Sports Journalists' Club and Indian Oil Corporation.

Rusedski gets rolling

MUNICH, Sept 29: Greg Rusedski earned at the rate of better than 2,000 dollars per minute for his one hour 26-minute winning effort Tuesday night over Gustavo Kuerten 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to advance at the Grand Slam Cup, reports AFP.

"That's pretty good," joked the world number six Briton, who banks 175,000 dollars by reaching the quarterfinals of the most lucrative individual pay-day in tennis -- 1.3 million dollars to the winner.

"Now, if I could do that every week, playing 24 hours per day..."

Rusedski, whose career earnings total more than 5 million dollars, insisted that it was not the money which made him accept an invitation into the 12-man field in Munich.

"It's motivation," he said. "No matter where I play, always want to go 100 per cent. The level of competition here is huge -- if you can't get motivated for number 5 in the world (Kuerten) then you can't get motivated."

Rusedski added: "This is good confidence and preparation for the indoor season. It will get me focused for Basel next week."

Rusedski will next take on Russian second seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who arrived from Australia after taking a Davis Cup thrashing 4-1 at the hands of Australia in the semifinals.

"I'll get a number five and number two in back-to-back matches, if I can win those sort of matches, I've got confidence for the indoor season," said Rusedski.

"I'm really pleased with way I played," said the Briton. "I haven't served so well in long while. He raised game in the second. But I can't ask for a better start."

Elsewhere, Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands beat American Vince Spadea 6-2, 7-5.

Entry in the field is limited to players who performed the best at the year's four Grand Slams, with men's champions Andre Agassi and Kafelnikov getting first-round byes.

Also passing through the first round with byes were Australian Open finalist Thomas Enqvist of Sweden and Andre Medvedev, who lost the French Open trophy match to Agassi.

Agassi arrived in Munich Tuesday morning with new girlfriend Steffi Graf also returning to the country of her birth from Agassi's home in Las Vegas.

It was unclear whether the recently retired Graf would attend the tournament -- for



Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten stretches for a return against Greg Rusedski at the Grand Slam Cup on September 28.

Revised schedule for Asian qualifiers

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 29 (AFP): Groups and fixtures for the final round of the Asian qualifying tournament for the Sydney Olympics football tournament.

Group A: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait Oct 1: Qatar v Saudi Arabia, Doha

Oct 7: Saudi Arabia v Kuwait, Riyadh Oct 17: Kuwait v Qatar, Kuwait City

Oct 29: Saudi Arabia v Qatar, Riyadh Nov 7: Kuwait v Saudi Arabia, Kuwait City

Nov 12: Qatar v Kuwait, Doha Group B: China, Bahrain, South Korea

Oct 3: South Korea v China, Seoul Oct 10: China v Bahrain, Shanghai

Oct 17: Bahrain v South Korea, Manama Oct 29: China v South Korea, Shanghai

Nov 5: Bahrain v China, Manama Nov 13: South Korea v Bahrain, Seoul

Group C: Thailand, Japan, Kazakhstan Oct 2: Kazakhstan v Thailand, Almaty

Oct 9: Kazakhstan v Japan, Almaty Oct 17: Japan v Thailand, Tokyo

Oct 30: Thailand v Kazakhstan, Bangkok Nov 6: Japan v Kazakhstan, Tokyo

Nov 13: Thailand v Japan, Bangkok

Indian duo's eyes on Sydney gold

CALCUTTA, Sept 29: Indian tennis stars Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi yesterday said that their next goal was to win the gold in the Sydney Olympics next year, reports PTI.

Branding their defeat in the US Open doubles final as 'bad luck', the ace duo expressed confidence that they would certainly come back to their winning trail soon and one of their targets was to win the Sydney gold.

Paes however said they went through a couple of rough months after winning the Wimbledon doubles.

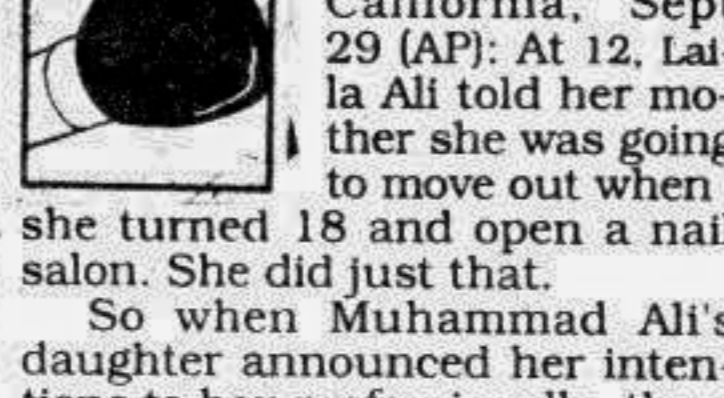
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Laila's debut on Oct 8



BEVERLY HILLS, California, Sept 29 (AP): At 12, Laila Ali told her mother she was going to move out when she turned 18 and open a nail salon. She did just that.

So when Muhammad Ali's daughter announced her intentions to box professionally, there was nothing her parents could say to deter her.

"If I want to do something, I just do it," she said. "I really don't care what anybody has to say. I've always done everything that I wanted to do." Ali and Veronica, his third of four wives, aren't thrilled about their 21-year-old daughter's professional debut next week.

Laila will fight April Fowler in a four-round bout Oct 8 at Turning Stone Casino in upstate New York on a card featuring Donovan 'Razor' Ruddock.

It will be Laila's first bout; Fowler is 0-1 as a pro.

"My dad never had this much attention on him when he was first fighting," she said. "It's a lot of pressure on me."

Laila couldn't resist imitating a bit of her father's famous rhyming for the 18 TV cameras and gaggle of photographers and reporters who came to see her Tuesday.

"There are so many expectations that I must meet, but there is only one promise that I can make. On October 8 in Verona, New York, April Fowler will suffer a painful defeat," she said, prompting laughter.

She said her father, who has Parkinson's Syndrome, hasn't decided whether to attend.

"My father being at my fight would take a lot of the attention away from me, and there will be a lot of media surrounding him," she said.

It's also not going to be easy for him to watch me get into the ring. But whether he's there or not, I'm coming to the ring to do what I need to do and I'm serious about it."

She said her parents, who divorced when Laila was 7, are skeptical about her new profession.

"He doesn't want me to get hurt, but he's going to support me 100 per cent as a father," she said. "My mother is not comfortable with me going into the ring, but she knows that I know what I'm doing."

The elder Ali painted the worst possible picture of boxing for the youngest of his nine children.



Laila Ali, the youngest daughter of Boxing legend Muhammad Ali, poses for photographers during a press conference in Beverly Hills, California on September 28.

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ing to get my face swollen. It's going to happen," she said. "I'm just going to deal with it."

Laila's six-day-a-week training regimen involves running 3-4 miles (4.8-6.4 kilometers), jumping rope, sparring and working on punching bags.

Laila was too young to see her father fight in person, but she's watched tapes of his bouts and says her favourite is Ali's knockout of George Foreman in Zaire in 1974.

"My footwork is very good like my father's. I'm also very strong and very confident," the 5-foot-10 (178-centimeter), 168-pounder (75.6-kilograms). "My movement in the ring is just like my dad."

Dub Huntly said he trains Laila like he would any male boxer.

"When I get in the gym, I don't look at her as a lady, I look at her as a fighter," he said. "She's mean and she's tough. She's not in it just for the money; she wants to be a champion."

Henman advances

TOULOUSE, France, Sept 29: Tim Henman took just 63 minutes to blast journeyman Thierry Guardiola off court in the first round of the 400,000-dollar Tournoi Open on Tuesday, reports AP.

No. 1 seed Henman, who turned down the chance to play in the lucrative Grand Slam Cup in his search for vital ATP points, beat the 28-year-old Frenchman, playing his first Tour match of the year, 6-1, 6-2.

Guardiola was left reeling by a succession of powerful serves and blistering forehand returns from the British No. 1, who will play another Frenchman, Stephane Huet or Nicolas Escude -- in the second round.

Henman is battling to bounce back to form after a poor run on the US hard-court circuit, during which he was disastrously eliminated in the first round of the US Open by Guillermo Canas, and lost to players ranked outside the top 50, including Guillaume Raoux and Jan Krosjak.

Henman's aim is now to qualify for the World Championship in Hanover, Germany.

"I am in 11th place, so I need some points. But after a disappointing summer I am not looking too far ahead," he said.

In earlier play, No. 7 seed Fabrice Santoro, one of the heroes of France's Davis Cup semifinal win last weekend, fought back from the brink of defeat to beat 85th-ranked John Van Lottum 4-6, 7-5, 6-0.

The 26-year-old Dutchman served for the match at 5-4 in the second set but his game collapsed as Santoro took nine consecutive games to take the match.

Swiss teenager Roger Federer, a recent junior world champion, posted an impressive 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 win against Germany's Rainer Schuttler, who has 50 places above him in the world rankings.

Italian veteran Gianluca Pozzi eliminated Raoux of France, 6-4, 6-0 to line up a second-round match against No. 5 seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland.

France's Rodolphe Gilbert overhauled Ronald Agener of Haiti 6-1, 6-1 also advance.

TV Guide

Thursday 30th September (All programmes are in local time. The Day Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News 6:30 World Living : Travel Show: Holiday Guide: 7:00 BBC News Inc. World Business Report / USA Direct / Asia Today 24 Hours 9:00 BBC News Inc. World Business Report / Asia Today / 24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 USA Direct 11:30 Europe Direct 12:00 World News 12:30 World Living: Face To Face In-India Talk (Anchor: Karan Thapar) 1:00 World News 1:30 Talking Movies 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: The Net 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk: 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Travel Show: Holiday Guide: 5:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC World News Today 8:30 World Living: Top Gear: The Air Show 9:00 World News 9:30 Hard Talk: 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Money View Presented by Sucharitha Ghose (On Indian Business market) 11:00 The World Today 12:00 World News 12:30 Hard Talk: 1:30 World Focus: Panorama 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Living: Holiday 3:15 Europe Direct 4:00 BBC News Inc. World Business Report / USA Direct / Asia Today / 24 Hours

CHANNEL [V]

7:30 Tea With [V] (Back to Back vids) 8:00 Virtual [V] (Back to Back vids) 8:30 Tea With [V] (Back to Back vids) 9:00 [V] Gone India 9:30 Tea With [V] (Back to Back vids) 10:00 [V] Line Lagao 10:30 [V] Machine 1:00 [V] First Day First Show 1:30 [V] Hit Machine 2:00 [V] Hit Machine (Back to Back vids) 4:30 Tea With [V] 5:00 Virtual [V] (Back to Back vids) 5:30 Tea With [V] (Back to Back vids)

6:00 [V] On Campus 6:30 Tea With [V] (Back to Back vids) 7:00 [V] Line Lagao 7:30 [V] Hit Machine 8:30 [V] Challenge 9:00 [V] Hit Machine 9:30 First Day First Show 10:00 [V] Hit Machine 10:30 Late Night [V] Laila (N) 11:00 [V] Patli Gulchi 12:30 [V] Hit Machine 1:30 Late Night [V] 2:00 [V] Cool Maal 2:30 [V] Hit Machine [V] 3:30 [V] Hit Machine

STAR PLUS

6:30 Nainaa 7:30 Good Morning India 9:30 TVC 10:00 Good Morning India 12:00 Picture 'This 1:30 Sansar 1:00 Aur Hai Fit Ek Din 2:30 Swabhimani 3:00 Say Cheese 3:30 Kahani Me Twist 4:00 Jubilee Plus 4:30 Story Teller 5:00 Doogie Howser 5:30 Wonder Years 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Zabaan Sambhalke 7:00 Hit Ya Fit 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Zindagi Com 8:30 Is Duniya Ke Sitare 9:00 Aajeb Dastaan 9:30 Star Show 10:30 Kinetic Mega Show 11:00 Kinetic TV! 11:00 Aaj Ki Baat 11:30 Masteer Card Family Fortune 12:00 Star News 12:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 1:00 Newhart 1:30 Dangerfield 2:30 Tropical Heat 3:30 Snowy River McGregor Saga 4:30 Movie TV 5:00 The Bold & the Beautiful 5:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show

STAR WORLD

6:00 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 Bullseye 9:30 Slayer 10:00 Ally McBeal 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 The Practice 1:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 1:30 Tropical Heat 2:30 Media TV 3:00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure 3:30 2 Point 4 Children 4:00 Hollywood Squares 4:30 World News 5:15 World Business Update 5:30 Home Improvement 6:00 Killers In The Water 6:45 Asia News Update 7:00 Walker Texas Ranger 8:00 Due South 9:00 The Bold and the

Beautiful 9:30 Home Improvement 10:00 Killers In The Water 11:00 Walker Texas Ranger 12:00 Due South 1:00 Home Improvement 1:30 Killer In The Water 2:30 Walker Texas Ranger 3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries 4:00 Life In The World With Joyce Meyer 4:30 World News 5:00 2 Point 4 Children 5:30 Movie TV

STAR MOVIES

7:45 Thriller: Prescription For Murder (15) 9:30 Thriller: Inferno 11:30 Western: Kill And Pray 1:30 Comedy: Cemetery Club (PG) 3:30 Thriller: Prescription For Murder (15) 5:30 Comedy: Moonstruck 7:30 Thrillers-Hearts Of Fire: Dealers (15) 9:30 The Ticket 10:00 Film Fever: Wide Sargasso Sea (15) 12:00 Action: Last Man Standing 2:15 Western: Kill And Pray 3:30 Marjoe Matlin 4:30 Romance: Whole Wide World

PTV-2

8:00 Tilwat Aur Tarjuma/Ham/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Cut Piece 9:20 Aahud & Roshni 9:45 Phool Chandi 10:05 Serial 10:30 Buttons And Raaste 10:55 Mili Nagma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Absar 11:55 Tele Play 12:45 Kawaii 12:55 Koran-e-Hakim & Khisimilal 1:15 Serial 2:00 Serial 2:45 Perspective & Health Focus 3:40 Talimi Malumat 4:35 Aurat Aur Kanon 5:25 Serial 5:55 Serial: Chayaa 6:25 Iou Course 7:05 Mukabil Hai Aaina 7:20 Annakhal Zin 7:45 English News 8:05 Jawan Sangeet 8:30 Entertainment Week 9:00 Break for Headline News 10:00 Khabrainama & Commercial News 10:35 Mast Mast Sanyo (Musical Show) 11:15 Sunhere Yadon 12:15 Serial: Khas Khas Khabrain- Khas Down

ZEE INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 to 10:30

Every Half Hour-Zee News Hindi 11:00 Mystery Unfolds 12:00 Zee News in Hindi 12:57 News Headlines 1:00 Ru-Ba-Ru 1:30 to 8:30 Every Half Hour-Zee News Hindi

MTV INDIA

7:00 Non-Stop Hits 8:00 MTV Hanging Out VJ Rahul/Sonia 9:00 Classic MTV VJ Sarah/Rahul 10:00 Non-Stop Hits 10:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya 11:30 MTV Chhili Out VJ Shehnaaz/Amrita/Nikhil 12:30 MTV Hit Film Music 1:00 MTV Houseful V Nafisa 1:30 MTV Ek Do Teen VJ Rageshwari 2:30 MTV Select VJ Nikhil 3:30 Love Line VJ Malaika 4:00 Non-Stop Hits 4:30 Pepsi Dance Connection Special- TVC MTV 5:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya/Rahul 6:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Shehnaaz/Amrita/Nikhil 7:30 MTV Houseful VJ Cyrus 8:00 MTV Hipshakers 8:30 Non-Stop Hits 9:30 MTV Hit Film Music 10:00 Houseful VJ Nafisa 10:30 Destination Dance 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 9:00 Hit Parade 9:30 World Premiere 9:45 Brake Fail 10:30 Hit Mix 11:00 Colgate Zig Zag Best Of The Day 11:30 Bajaj Music Box 12:10 World Premiere 12:15 Medimix Madhur Moments 12:30 Bakeman's Star Ek Mood Anek 12:45 Pop Re Pop 1:00 Jharokha 1:30 Pop Busters 2:00 Pop Re Pop 2:15 World Premiere 2:30 Music Mag 3:00 All Time Hits 3:30 Medimix Madhur Moments 3:45 Bakeman's Star Ek Mood Anek 4:00 Double Mint Double Mazaa 4:30 Bajaj Music Box 5:00 Teen Interact 5:30 Hit Mix 6:00 Brake Fail 6:45 World Premiere 7:00 Hit Parade 7:30 All Time Hits 8:00 Bakeman's Star Ek Mood Anek 8:15 Medimix Madhur Moments 8:30 Artist Of The Fortnight 9:00 Orpat Telephone Pop O Mania 9:30 Bajaj Music Box

10:00 Old Tavern Sizzlers 10:30 Jharokha 11:00 Brake Fail 11:45 Shabab News in Hindi 12:57 News Headlines 1:00 Ru-Ba-Ru 1:30 to 8:30 Every Half Hour-Zee News Hindi

DD 7

10:30 Janmadin (Birth-day Greetings) 10:35 Shree Ram Krishna 11:00 Dropped 11:15 Classical/Folk Songs 11:30 Parliament Hour/Musical 12:30 Daily Sope: Kunja Villa 1:00 Daily Sope: Aakash Chhoo 1:30 Daily Sope: Ruppakatha 2:00 Kanakanjali 2:30 Daily Sope: Shree Ram Krishna 3:00 Daily Sope: Maha Mohini 4:00 Daily Sope: Bhagabagar Khela 4:20 Shilpa Jagat 5:30 News 5:50 Bigyan Prasanga 6:10 Gagan Sudhu Gagan 6:40 Khas Khabar 6:50 Janmabhumi 7:20 Tarunder Janney/Darshaker Darbare/Ghare Baire 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Aanya Sader Galpo (Serial) 8:30 Serial: Boxer Ratan 9:00 Daily Sope: Jannabhumi 9:30 Daily Sope: Dropped (Rupa Ganguli, Sunetra, Kunal, Sankar) 10:00 Khas Khabar 10:10 Bengali Movie: Badhu (Pahari Sanyal, Chhabi Biswas, Kamal Mitra, Bikash Roy)

DD CHANNEL-1

5:55 Vande Mataram & Thought of The Day