

Festival Theatre for Human Rights

Ain O Salish Kendra organizes a theatre festival keeping Human Rights into focus

By Saima Islam

THE rights described in the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights include the right to life, liberty, and security of persons; to freedom of conscience, religion, opinion, expression, association, and assembly; a secure society and an adequate standard of living; to education; and to rest and leisure.

These are just some of the primary rights described in the Declaration of Human Rights but unfortunately how many of us are blessed to be in the fort ground of absolute observance of human rights? The question how painful it may be must again and again be asked, until human rights to the whole of humanity is ensured.

The view undeniably has a utopian aura; still little steps will take us to the highways of success. Yesterday, 10th of December was the World Human Rights Day. To commemorate the day, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) organized a daylong theatre festival on December 8; two days earlier which was a part of their Human Rights Day celebration programme.

Barrister Amirul Islam, President of Ain O Salish Kendra, inaugurated the festival. The guests present on the occasion were, Justice K.M. Sobhan, Professor Mojaffar Hosen, Dr. Syed Jamil Ahmed, Asadujjaman Nur, Pijush Bandhapadhyaya, Afroja Banu, Sabina Bari Lucky, Shahidul Islam Sachu, and the executive director of ASK, Barrister Salma Sobhan.

The theatre festival featured almost 20 union level theatre teams from 4 districts Kustia, Netrokona, Sherpur and Jhinaidaha. The most fascinating factor about this festival was that the performers came from different strands of life; they were not trained or professional. These theatre artists like to call them human rights activists rather than theatre activists. They have a definite goal to make the marginalized, people aware of their rights. They are working to achieve that goal through their relentless work that has been going on for almost a year and they plan to go on with their mission until their goal is achieved.

The issues that were raised were, Rape, Illegal Salish, Police Brutality, Hilla, Dowry, Polygamy, Violence against women and children, Child marriage, Oral divorce, Fatwa and many more.

Kushum tells the story of her life to her grand daughter. How as a daughter she was not allowed to study or to play. Her father never gave her a fare ground to grow up in a sound environment. She was married off and remained without an identity in her husband's house. When her son grew up, she was bounded to him. The son took all her properties and did not take care of her. So as a daughter, as a wife, as a mother she led her life without having an entity of her own. She led a life, which was set for her by others. The last comment of Kushum leaves us wondering about the real status of a woman in our society as she says, 'I have been a daughter, a wife, a mother but when will I become a human being'. The play was performed by Kallati Union Level Theatre of Netrokona district.

Since 1996, the 'Gender and Social Justice Programme' of ASK has been working to create an awareness among the prominent and influential people like the local Chairman, teachers, kazi, salish members, and other local leaders and senior members of locality. In organizing these sessions ASK activists have realized that it is not enough to raise awareness only among the local leaders rather it is necessary to spread the message among the general people to ensure the rule of law and human rights in the society.

Popular theatre is a very attractive and effective medium for organizing people from every sector of the society. The popular Theatre for Human Rights Unit is thus working to reach out to the mass people of the country.

The main objectives of Popular Theatre Unit (PYU) is to organize a theatre team consisting of local youths, students, artists, and other interested people from all classes of society, to raise mass legal and human rights awareness in the local level, through theatre, to assist the team members to continually develop themselves as local human rights activists and to increase the participants of women in the social and cultural activities.

Union Level Theatre Unit, supported by Ain O Salish Kendra, is working with a definite cause and programme; they help to form Union Level Theatre Teams (ULTT) through organizing different training sessions. They train ULTT members on methods on locating local problems, analyzing them and create plays accordingly. They perform issue based theatre.

ULTT members monitor the legal and human rights situation and their violations in their localities, play an effective role in preventing illegal salish, to take part in local salish and so on.

The festival also featured a colourful rally, a theatrical presentation by the working children and Baul Gaan.

Human Rights is a vast issue and the vision to ensure human rights for everyone may become a stretched out idea but still no harm in dreaming and this dream will guide us to work to make the dream a reality.



Ain O Salish Kendra organised a colourful rally on December 8

-Star Photo by S. K. Enamul Haq

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exhibition Luminosity and Shades

Solo printmaking exhibition by Roosevelt Benjamin D' Rozario starts at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

By Nafid Imran Ahmed

BY the nearby banks of the Shadarghat launch terminal workers are repairing damaged boats and making new ones - a color lithograph by the young and promising artist Roosevelt Benjamin D' Rozario. His first solo printmaking exhibition started at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka on December 9.

Prominent artist Mohammad Kibria was present as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony while it was presided over by Mahmudul Huque, Director, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. Mohammad Kibria, in his speech said, 'The situation of my health is not so good these days, so I rarely attend



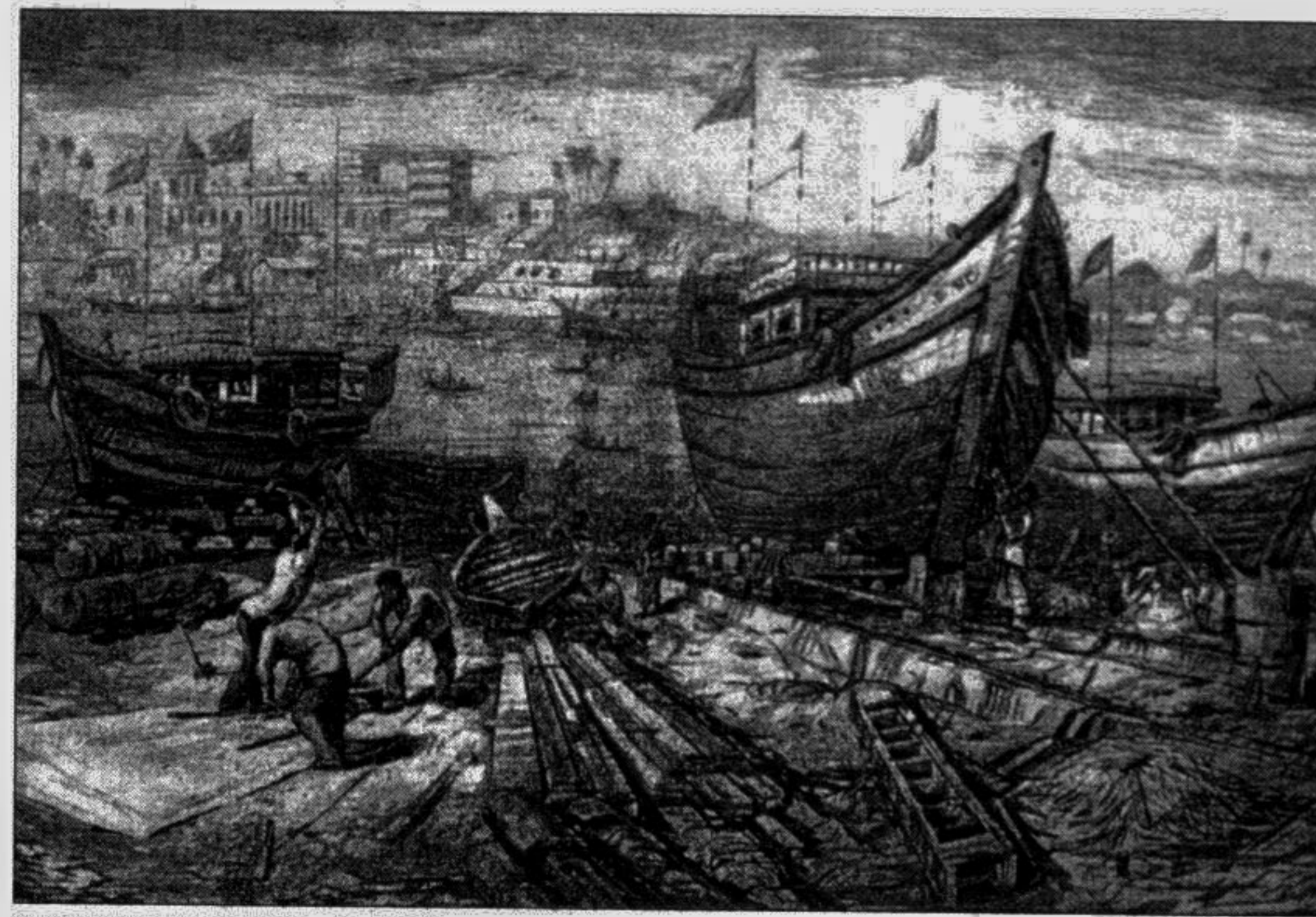
Roosevelt Benjamin D' Rozario

any exhibitions. But only for Roosevelt I came today. His works are good. I am sure you will like it.' In her speech, France Lasnier, Director, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, who was also present at the occasion as honorable guest, said, 'I appreciate Roosevelt's works. His realistic subjects and human figures are good for commercial purpose and publicity. His works reminds me of the Encyclopedia and the Japanese woodblock printing.'

Most of Roosevelt's subjects are realistic like human figures, landscapes, portrait. Mainly he uses woodcut and color lithographs. He also uses linocut, dry point, etching and aquatint. Some of his paintings reflects subjects like the domestic animals and landscapes, some are of boats, especially repairing and mending of launches and boats. He also has a large collection of portraits, some self-portraits with funny expressions and portraits of old women.

He uses light shades of Maroon, Green and Muddy-Brown colours along with dark contrasts of Black, Brown and Green. Some portraits and landscapes are in simple Black and White where he played with light & darkness.

Roosevelt used some uncommon subjects, in one of the woodcuts titled 'The Subject of Press Room' he drew the workers working at the press. He used yellow and Muddy-Brown in it, which give the work a very impressive contrast. In another woodcut he drew the shops



MENDING OF BOATS, Woodcut 1999



WANTED (Expressionism-1), SHABBY (Expressionism-2), Linocut 1998



selling the leftovers of the fast food shops and titled it - Poor Fast Food Shop.

Roosevelt's works proves the hardwork that he has put in to his exhibition. He is still studying at the MFA at the Institute of Fine Arts and has a long way to go in his life. His works are inspiring and shining. He should stick to his work and bring out something new for future. The exhibition will remain open to all from 3.00pm - 8.00pm till December 16.



Viewers enjoying the works at the World Press Photo Exhibition at the Drik Gallery

telefilm Questioning Our Liabilities

The premiere show of short film Kagaj Kurani held at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

By Abdus Saboor

HERE is a poor boy name Lulu who lives in a village slum of the West Bengal, India. His daily routine includes waking up in the morning and going to the Dum Dum Cantonment Station by train, which is about twenty miles away from his home.

Lulu earns his living by picking waste paper from the railway station and the nearby streets and selling them in a small price. He earns a small sum of money, which is about ten rupees a day.

Lulu has no concern for his health. When hungry, he gorges



A scene from Kagaj Kurani

cheap food at the nearby park. Then he rests for a while, sings, and takes a nap.

Getting up from the sleep, he again starts picking waste papers. He stares at the posture of a movie and longs within himself to watch it. He buys a packet of biscuit and with the rest of the money he buys a ticket for watching movie. After watching the movie, he goes to the rail station and returns home.

The above-mentioned story could well be described as a synopsis of a film but this is actually the detailed summary of a twelve and half minute long short film, named 'Kagaj Kurani' which was premiered in

the Alliance France de Dhaka on December 8, 1999. In the film, nothing happens outside this simple story and there is nothing dramatic about the shooting of this film but there is a clear message coming through the film.

The short film though shot in Calcutta, the story closely follows our own existing social system.

The little boy is a representative of the unprivileged children of our country. When he is supposed to study in school, he is engaged in hard work to earn his livelihood. Though primary education has been made compulsory, yet the rule only exist

in the book and Lulu does not know anything about a school.

We are still thriving to provide a healthy environment to our children. There are many Lulus walking in every streets of the country and it is time to question our liabilities towards them.

Kagaj Kurani is the first production of Palash Communication. The film has been written and directed by Shahiduzzaman Badal. For Badal, this is his first film and under many inconveniences, he did well.

Child artist Zakir played the role of Lulu.

At the end of the show there took place a discussion meeting on the film. Eminent art critic Mostofa Monwar was present as the chief guest. In his speech, he said that any piece of art should be criticized for the sake of art itself. He said that Badal was not particularly right in choosing the theme of the film. The theme is very common and does not appeal too much to the audience unless it is technically flawless. Mostofa Monwar then pointed to some of the technical shortcomings in the film and suggested for another fresh editing of the film. He wished the young Badal good luck and thanked him for his hardworking effort.

TV Guide

Sunday 12th December

(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
Headlines 6:30 This Week
7:00 BBC World News 7:30
World Living: Holiday
8:00 BBC World News 8:30
World Focus: Simpson's
World 9:00 BBC World
News 9:30 USA Direct
10:00 BBC World News
10:30 Wheels 11:00 BBC
World News 11:30 India
Business Report 12:00
BBC World News 12:30
World: Mastermind
India (Quiz Presenter:
Siddharth Basu) 1:00 BBC
World News 1:30 Money-
wise 2:00 BBC World News
2:30 This Week 3:00 BBC
World News 3:30 Noble
Minds 4:00 BBC World
News 4:30 World Living:
Earth Report 5:00 BBC
World News 5:30 USA Di-

rect 6:00 BBC World News
Headlines- 6:10 World
Weekend- 20:20 Profiles
of The Century 7:00 BBC
World News 7:10 Dateline
London 8:00 BBC World
Headlines 8:30 Wild
World: Super sensee 9:00
BBC World Headlines 9:10
Fall of The Wall: Stephen
Hawking's Univers 10:00
BBC World News 10:30
India Business Report
11:30 BBC World News
12:00 World Living: Holi-
day 12:00 BBC World
News Headlines 12:10
Noble Minds 1:00 BBC
World News 1:30 Simp-
son's World 2:00 World
News 2:10 World Week-
end: 20:20 Profiles of
Century 3:00 World News
3:30 World Living: Earth
Report 4:00 BBC World
Newsdesk Inc. World Re-
port / 24 Hours

You 1:00 [V] Line Lagao
1:30 [V] Hit Machine 2:30
[V] The Ticket 3:00 [V]
Lunch Pad 3:30 [V] Hit
Machine 5:30 [V] Sunday
Special 6:30 [V] Cool Maal
7:30 [V] Hit Machine 8:00
[V] Crossword 8:30 V2K
Top 100 9:00 [V] Chal-
enge 9:30 [V] Sabha 10:00
[V] Hit Machine 10:30 [V]
Mainstage 11:30 [V] Bill-
board US Countdown
12:30 [V] Hit Machine
3:30 [V] Hit Machine

STAR PLUS
6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good
Morning India 8:30 Spi-
derman 9:00 Robocop
9:30 Ninja Turtles 10:00
Power Rangers 10:30
Janata Ki Adalat 11:00
Fast Track 11:30 Amul
India Show 12:00 Master
Card Family Fortune
12:30 India Business
week 1:00 The Great Es-
cape 1:30 IFB Star Sunday
Lunch 2:00 Mega Hit Pa-
rade 2:30 Viewpoint 2:40
Sunday Tea Time Film:

Yodha [Sunny deol. San-
jay Dutt, Sangeeta Bi-
jliani] 6:00 Jubilee Plus
6:30 Sajid No. 1 7:00 Zara
Hat Ke Zara Bach Ke 7:30
The red Ribbon Show 8:00
Choti Si Baat 8:30 Bake-
man's Ooh La La 9:30
STAR News Sunday 10:30
A Taste of India: Lucknow
Pt-2 11:00 It's A Small
World 11:30 Janata Ki
Adalat 12:00 Mega Hit
Parade 12:30 Star News
Sunday 1:30 India
Business Week 2:00
Muder Call 3:00 Movie
Class: Anjel City 5:00
Series: The Knock 6:00
Travel Asia

Tropical Heat 4:00 WWF
Superstars 5:00 The
Simpsons 5:30 Travel
Asia 6:00 Asia News
Sunday 6:30 3rd Rock
From Sun 7:00 Series:
The X-Files 8:00 Series:
Star Track- Next Genera-
tion 9:00 Series: Cops
9:30 Series: TV Com 10:00
Asia News Sunday 10:30
3rd Rock From Sun 11:45
Series: The X-Files 12:00
Star Track- Next Genera-
tion 1:00 Asia News Sun-
day 1:30 3rd Rock From
Sun 2:00 Series: The X-
Files 3:00 Creflo Dollar
3:30 Kenneth Copland
Ministries 4:00 Life In
The Word With Joyce
Meyer 4:30 World News
5:00 Sorry! 6:30 Holly-
wood Squares

DD 7
9:00 Sur Sadhak 9:30
Movie Club Film (Last
Thursday's Film Rpt)
12:00 Barnali 12:30
Movie Club Film (Last
Friday's Film Rpt) 1:30
Sananda Quiz 2:30 Con-
tinue...Movie Club Film
(Last Friday's Film Rpt)
3:30 Geet Sangeet 4:30
Sunday Bangla Film 5:30
News 7:20 Binodan
(Magazine Show) 7:30
Bangla Sambad 8:00 Se-
rial: Sonargaon 8:30 Spe-
cial Prog. Sur Sadhak
9:00 Special Prog 9:30 Se-
rial: Siddhanta 10:30
Sambad

Thought of The Day 6:00
Serial: Aradhana 6:30
UGC Programmes 7:30
Samachar 7:40 Rangoli
8:40 The News 8:50 The
World News 9:00 Gao
Saachi Bani 9:30 Shri Kr-
ishna (Serial) 10:30 Se-
rial: Sangeet Samrat
Tansen 11:00 Serial:
Tillem-E-Hoshurulaa
11:30 Series: Picnic An-
takshari 12:00 School
Days (Serial) 12:30 Delhi
Diary 1:00 Sakshi 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 Fea-
ture Film In Regional
Language (Contd) 4:30
Feature Film In Hindi
7:30 Samachar 8:00 Se-
ries: Jai Mata Ki 9:00
Samachar 9:30 TBA
10:00 Nehla Pe Dehla
10:30 Kati

Tenali Rama 10:30 The
Poppadam Show 11:00
Indian Holiday 11:30
Music Mantra (Film
Trailer Show) 12:00 Bajaj
Ki Lehren 12:30 Open
House 1:30 The Good
Home Show 2:00 Indian
Holiday 2:30 Cine Matti-
nee- Super Hit Film: Pyar
Hua Chori Chori (*
Mithun, Gautami,
Anupom Kher) 6:00 Hum
Sab Ek Hain 6:30 Boogie
Woogie 7:00 CID 7:30 Ra-
mayan (Arun Govil,
Dipika) 8:30 Millinim
Special Event: Revival-
Yeh Shaam Mastani
McNories of R D Burman
12:30 Rang Brangee 1:00
Saaya 1:30 Star Yaar
Kalakar *Gust - Saaji &
Waajid 2:30 Chartbusters
(Trailer Show) 3:00 The
Poppadam Show 3:30
Cine- Nite Hindi Feature
Film: Mere Baad

Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:05
Guldasta 8:30 Disney
Hour Cartoons 9:30 Shree
Krishna 10:30 Mahabhart
11:30 TVS Sa Re Ga Ma
12:30 Bournvita Quiz
Contest 1:00 Indian
Cricket of Millennium
1:30 First Take 2:00 Hum
Paanch 2:30 Rushtey 3:00
TBA 3:30 Cinema Hits
Hindi Film: Krantiveer
(Nana Patekar, Dimple,
Atul Agnihotri, Momota
Kulkarni) 6:30 Ek Nazar
7:00 Disney Hour Car-
toons 8:00 Suniye Zee
Suniye Zee 8:30 Hindi
Feature Film- Rangeela
(*Amir Khan, Jacki
Shroff, Urmila Matun-
kar) 11:30 Naya Zamana
12:00 Raahen 12:30 Gub-
bare 1:30 Waarish 2:00
Zee News 2:30 Zee Araba:
Mriyudand 3:00 Hindi
Film (B/W) - Rocky Mera
Nam

BBC

CHANNEL [V]

STAR PLUS

STAR WORLD

STAR MOVIES

DD CHANNEL-1

SONY TV

ZEE TV

DD METRO

DD INT'L