

# Culture

exhibition

## In Praise of a Peerless Lady

Proshanto Karmakar's photo essay on Sufia Kamal

By Fayza Haq

WHEN critics remarked "What's so unusual about Proshanto Karmakar's solo exhibition of black and white pictures entitled 'A Day in the Life of Begum Sufia Kamal'." Proshanto replied, "Begum Sufia Kamal has worked relentlessly for the cause of women's right, been a poet of high calibre and has been a wonderful and warm personality on her own rights. If anyone deserves to be documented for posterity, it is her. The country's National Museum has already recognised the exhibits archival value and contemplating to put them on permanent display."



"My brother, Kalidas Karmakar, who has always encouraged me in my pursuit of photo images, is of same opinion too. Syed Rafiqun Rahim, a private businessman is also another of my constant guides. True my brother has given me a printing machine from France for my experimental work in prints, and has often given me imported, paints, cameras but all that is not adequate for independent or radical ventures. One has to be constantly financed and emotionally egged on to work at will at the early

stages of one's career." Asked to say a few words about his exhibits at the National Museum, Proshanto said, "I have recorded what Begum Sufia Kamal has done from the beginning of the day till nightfall, and this had been done in on the February 6th, '96. They depict her as sleeping before awakening in the morning, saying her prayers and gingering her 'tasvi', going for her morning walk, having meals, guiding in the kitchen, having 'paan', writing poetry, chatting

with friends and family, listening to her grand-daughter playing the sitar etc. My contact with the subject has been through my brother Kalidas."

In the photo depicting the subject at her morning prayers, sitting on a wooden chair with a cushion on it and with curtain and a painting brought in subtly, the figure of the brave, intelligent and once gorgeous lady, stands out clearly despite her stark white "sari". The contours of her face, her delicate limbs, sharp facial features to the last detail of the mole on her lips have been well delineated. The dark floor offsets the washes of white and layers of gray.

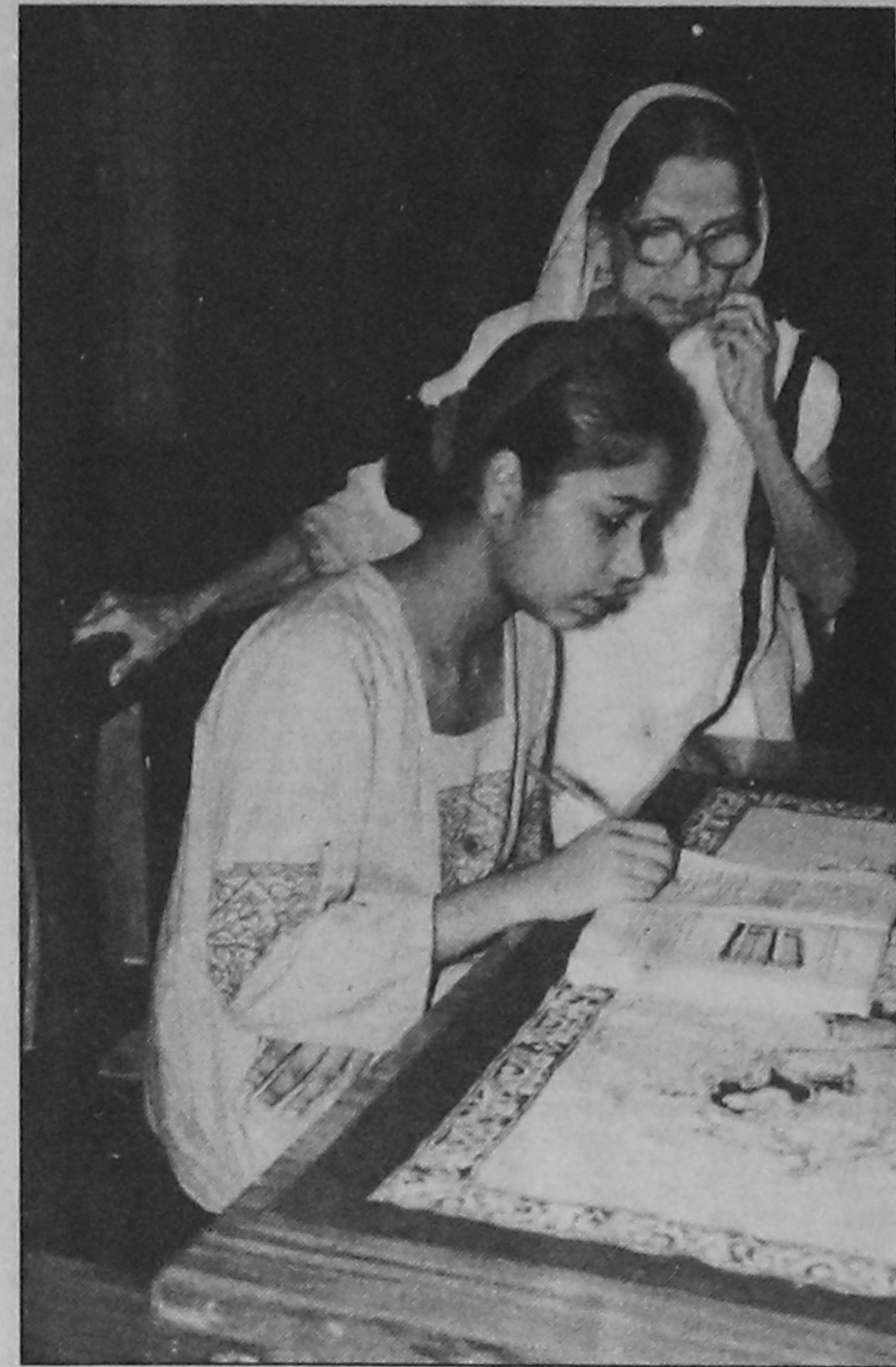
The image depicting the grand dame of our literature listening to the radio, while lying down for a nap in the afternoon is again an attempt in highlighting the beauty of an aging lady while trying to have respite in the afternoon. The bed headstead, the zigzag and triangular border of the bedspread, along with a book of poetry and the dark radio listening to the quantity of white in the portrait. The glistening glasses with their heavy lenses and their equally heavy frame

shine out of the background of the resting figure. The wall and the curtain at the back bring in more grays. It is surely unusual to catch a famous lady reclining in the afternoon heat. This is not an intrusion into intimacy but a close adoring study of a truly great personality.

The photo that brings in Begum Sufia Kamal with her granddaughter playing the sitar is truly picturesque. The subject herself is clad in a white "sari" with a dark border and shows the care and concern that she has in her rapport with her family members.

Similarly, the depiction of the wonderful lady sitting on a wicker seat ("mora") and guiding the kitchen maid at chopping vegetables brings in the interesting facet of the life of the subject — at that even at that ripe age in life — she had been constantly guiding and supervising those around her.

The relaxed figure on the floral bedspread, reading Rabindranath Tagore's writings at the backdrop of the walls and a mirror reflecting furniture contained in the room where the admirable lady is depicted as leisurely perusing through her favourite book. This highlights Begum Sufia Kamal's interest in

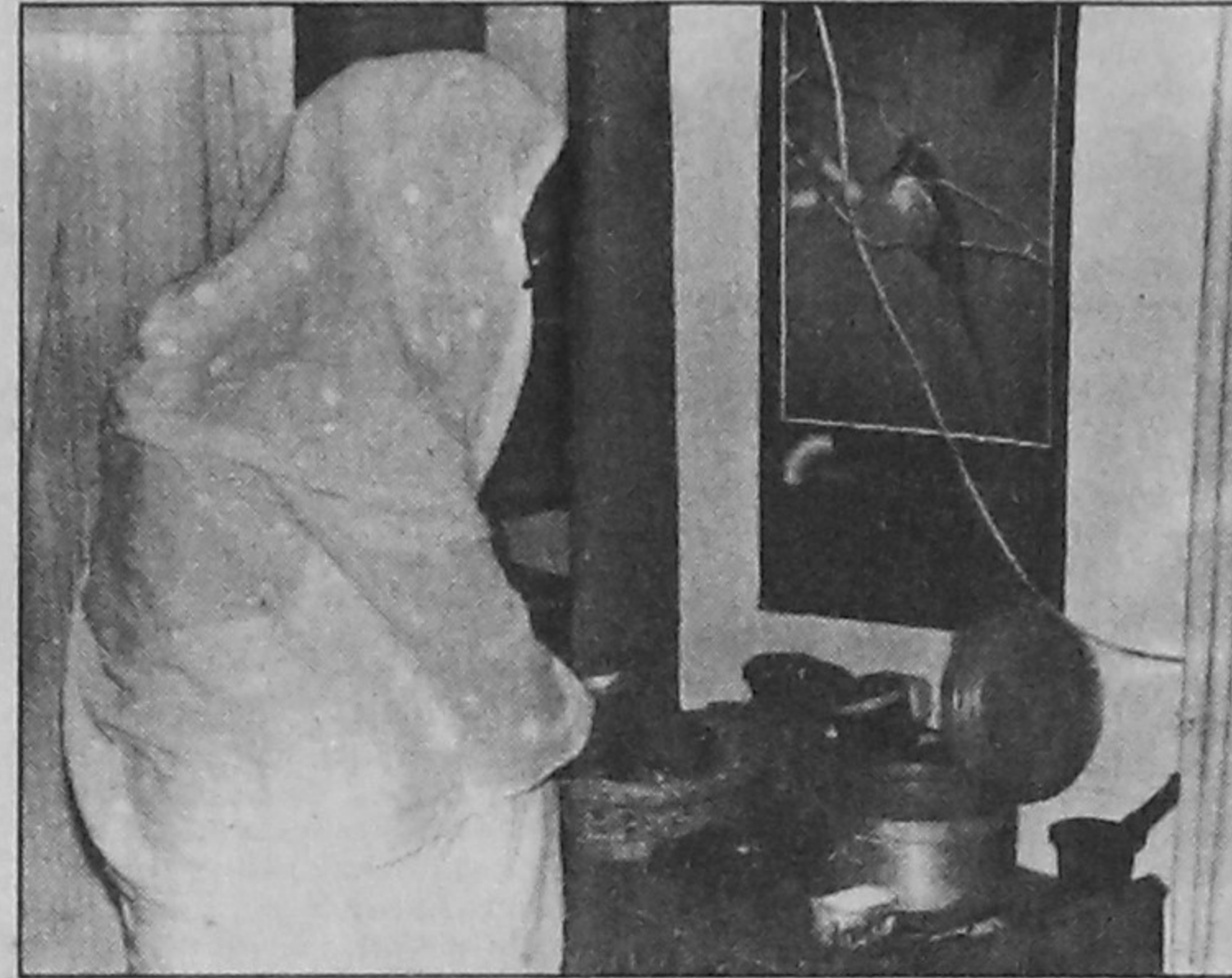


literature and one knows only too well how she excelled in that field. A little less gray on the face and the clothes would have been more welcome.

The photo of the leading light in our women's movement dialling a friend or a family member's number shows action. The curled telephone line, the Edwardian wicker chair, the propping cushion, the parallel folds of the curtain, with window to the extreme left with

twining money-plant stems speak of quick and intelligent work on the part of the photographer.

Proshanto Karmakar has been seen in the art scene since '82. He has had seven solo exhibition of his works of prints, mixed media paintings and photographs, which include those held mostly at Dhaka, at Alliance Francaise, Gallery Tone, National Museum and two at Faridpur, his home district.



### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Ghazal Evening**  
Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will present a live ghazal evening of 'Mesbah' on July 6 at 7.00pm.  
For further information on the evening please contact the reception of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka.

**Workshop**  
A workshop by Nattya Academy will be starting from next month. The entry form for the workshop should be submitted by July 6 at the following addresses: City Book Centre (opposite to City College), Modern Photo-stat (opposite to Kakrail petrol pump), Anjan's at Ayesha Shopping Complex (Malibagh and Sobhanbagh branch).

**Cassette Release**  
A duet album titled *Mone Rekho Bhalobeshchilam* by artists S D Rubel and Ankhil Alamgir will be released on July 4 at the ballroom of Hotel Rajmoni Ishakha at 7.00pm. The album is produced by Sangeeta. Pranab Gosh does the music for the album.

Azad Rahman, director Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will inaugurate the cassette release ceremony as chief guest, while artists Sayed Abdul Hadi and Subir Nandi will also be present as special guests.



**Barsha Collection**  
Design fashion house Altamira has started a dress exhibition at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka from July 1. This collection is the Barsha Collection, 250 designed Sari and Salwar Kameez will be on display at the exhibition. These dresses are designed by designer Moni Hossain.

The exhibition will remain open to all from 3.00pm to 8.00pm till July 6.



**Sri Sri Jagannathdev's Rath-Jatra Festival 2000**  
The Sri Sri Jagannathdev's Rath-Jatra Festival 2000 organised by International Krishnaabha-narita Shanga (ISCON) will start on July 3 at 4.00pm from the Sri Sri Radhagovinda Jew Mandir, Wari. The *Ultra Rath-Jatra* will continue from July 11.

**New Attractions of BTV**

**Ekjon Aynal Laskar**  
BTV will air the drama *Ekjon Aynal Laskar* on July 3 after the news in Bengali. Written by Gazi Rakayet and directed by Salahuddin Lavlu the drama stars Masum Aziz, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Rahamat Ali, Sayed Dulal, Gazi Rakayet, Chanda, M M Morshed, Shamima Nazreen and others.



**Magazine Show - Uthshav**  
After a long eight-month break this July-September session BTV will air the famous magazine show *Uthshav*. A magazine show for all category of people. There will be the usual events, such as the Rawshan Jamil's Quiz, the game play with old songs. Besides these there will also be some additional items.  
The programme is planned and hosted by Mosharrar Hossain.

### TV Guide

Sunday 2nd July

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

#### BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 3:15 Patriotic Song 3:20 Open University Prog. 4:00 Bangla News 4:05 Animation Film: Jim Henson's Animal Show 4:30 Pusti Thattho 4:45 Chharpoto (Children's Rights Based) 5:10 Sashtho Thattho (Health Developing For Mother & Children) 5:25 National Television Debate Competition 6:00 Bangla News 6:05 Metho Surr 6:30 Transmission From Chittagong Center 7:00 News For Weather 7:05 Mati-O-Manus 7:25 Band Songs show 8:00 News At 8 (Bangla) 8:30 Poriprekhti 9:00 Package Serial: Sanghat #11 ('Afsana Mimi, Azizul Hakim, Toni Dayes, Chhobi) 9:30 Comedy Series- Molla Nasiruddin (Bangla Dubs) 10:00 News At Ten (English) 10:30 Sadhinata Tomar Janna (Based On Liberation Fight) 11:00 Achin Pakhi 11:30 Bangla News 11:35 English News 11:40 A) Programme Outline For Monday B) National Song 11:45 Closing

#### TELEVISION

2:00 Ekushey News Headlines 2:05 Circus! Circus! 2:20 Andha Shikari 5th Episode 2:05 Bauliana 3:15 Bangla Cinema: Taka Paisa 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:05 Dristhi 7:00 Classic Cartoons 7:20 Jana Ajana 7:45 Ekushey News 8:00 Protibedon 8:30 Noorjahan 13th Episode 9:30 Bhalobasha Kare Koy 10:00 BTV News 10:20 Sharshari, Hosted By: Aly Zaker, Featured Guest: Kalim Sharafi 12:05 European Football Show 12:45 UEFA European Championship-2000 Final Italy vs France, Live from Rotterdam

#### ZEE NEWS TV

7:30 A Date With The Doctor 8:00 Zee News: Hindi 0:00 Namaste Zee 9:30 Zee News: Hindi 10:00 Ru-Ba-Ru 11:00 The Premier Show 11:30 Zee News: Hindi 12:00 Guftagu 12:30 Zee News: Hindi 1:00 N.R. Eyes 1:30 Zee News: Hindi 5:00 IT Trail 7:00 Zee News: Hindi



Bengali movie Nil Akashar Niche on Ekushey Television on July 4 at 8:00 pm.

9:00 News In English 11:30 News In English 12:00 Zee News: Hindi (12:30 AM to 06:30 AM Every Half Hour - Zee News: Hindi

#### MTV INDIA

7:00 MTV Non Stop Hits 10:30 MTV Chito Chato 11:00 MTV Non Stop Hits 11:30 MTV Gao Baby Gao 12:00 MTV Non Stop Hits 12:30 MTV Hit Film Music 1:00 MTV HouseFull V Nafisa 1:30 MTV Hafta VJ Shehnaaz 2:30 MTV Non Stop Hits 3:30 MTV Cinemascope 4:00 MTV Bakra 4:15 MTV Non Stop Hits 5:00 MTV Ek Do Teen VJ Raageshwari 5:30 MTV & Kenwood Hit List 7:00 MTV Loaded 7:30 MTV Fresh VJ Cyras/Asif/Nikhil 09:30 MTV Hit Film Music 10:00 House Full VJ Nafisa 10:30 MTV Fresh VJ Cyras/Asif/Nikhil 11:00 Non Stop Hits 11:30 DestinDance - The Grind - Beach Show 12:00 MTV Chitiation I Out VJ Cyras/Asif/Nikhil 01:00 MTV Non Stop Hits

#### MUSIC ASIA

7:30 Aalaap 8:00 Ta Ra Rum 9:00 Brake Fail 10:00 Dol Se 10:30 Hit Mix 11:00 Colgate Ziz Zag Best of The Day 12:30 Sa Re Ga Ma Classic 2:00 Stars Day Out 5:30 Hit Mix 6:00 Sa Re Ga Ma Classic 7:30 Dial M 8:30 Disco Mein Khiso 9:00 Just Jammin 9:30 Bajaj Music Box 10:00 DSP Sizzlers 10:30 Himai Gidd 11:00 Artist of The Fortnight 11:30 Shabab 12:00 Brake Fail

#### DD 7 (BANGLA)

7:15 Sambaad 8:40 Khas Khabar 9:00 Gane O Kothai 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 Spathahik Doorpon 2:00

10:32 Meethee Meethee Batten (Series) 11:00 Serial: Swati 11:32 Picnic Antakshari 12:00 School Days (Serial) 12:32 Serial: Shaktiman 1:32 Current Affairs Programme 2:30 Samachar 2:40 News in English 3:05 News For Hearing Impaired 3:20 News In Sanskrit 3:30 Samachar 3:32 Serial: Mahatma 4:00 Sunday Business Time 4:32 Feature Film in Hindi 7:30 Series: Jai Mata Ki ('Hema Malini) 8:30 The News 9:00 Samachar 9:30 Surabhi (Cultural Magazine) 10:00 Nehla Pe Dehla 11:00 Current Affairs Programme 11:32 Business Magazine 12:00 National Programme of Dance 12:32 Fugitive The Most Wanted 1:00 Geet Ateet 1:30 Picnic Antakshari 2:00 School Days (Serial)

#### SONY ENT. TV

7:30 Aatma 8:00 Sant Asaram Wani 8:30 Ramayan #65 9:30 Hum Sab Ek Hain #99 Ep- Rishwat Khor Mohan 10:00 Family No. 1 #87 ('Kanwaljeet, Tanvi Azmi, Kabir, Aporna) 10:30 I Love You #30 Ep- ('Anup Soni, Shrutya Ulfa) 11:00 Dil Vil Pyar Vyar #52 Ep- ('Rushali, Pooja Chai, Sonali, Kareena, Vishal, Rakesh, Ali Asagar) 11:30 Jeannie 12:00 Archana Talkies 1:00 The Popadum Show 1:30 The Good Home Show 2:00 Cook It Up With Tarla Dalal 2:30 Weekend Matinee- Super Hit Film: Ter Chh Chh Saamne 6:00 Music Mantra 6:30 Chhambusters 7:00 Bajaj Ki Lehren 7:30 C.A.T.S. #19 Ep- The Strangler Pt-2 8:00 Boogie Woogie 8:30 Weekend Prime Hindi Film: Jewel Thief ('Dev Anand) 2:30 Archana Talkies 1:30 Mere Angane Mein 2:00 Jaane Bhi Do Paro 2:30 Rang Birangee 3:00 The Popadum Show 3:30 Cine- Night Hindi Feature Film: Lav Kush

#### ZEE TV

6:15 Yaadon Ki Pal (B/W Songs) 6:45 Chehre 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:05 Guldasta 8:30 Disney Hour Cartoons 9:30 Shree Krishna #53 10:30 Vishnu Puran #23 11:30 Alvinda Darling #18 ('Farque Shak, Brasha Us-gaoker, Shobha Khota, Bharty Achreker) 12:00 Hotel Hindustan #18 ('Salish Koushik, Sudher Panda, Soma Anand, Ramon Singh) 12:30 Bourta Quiz Contest 1:00 Dastak (Crime Investigative Serial) 1:30 Top of The Tops / First Take- (Film

Preview) 2:00 Hum Panche (Comedy Serial 'Rakhi Vijan, Soma Anand) 2:30 Tejaswini #46 ('Ranuka Sahani) 3:00 Zee For U 3:30 Cinema- Hits Hindi Film: 6:20 Ek Nazar 6:50 Disney Hour Cartoons 7:50 Saheb Biwi Aur TV 8:15 Oh! Daddy #16 ('Rohan Kapoor, Achintya Kaur, Natasha Singh) 8:45 Rishyee 9:55 Kashak #18 ('Sharmila Tagore, Surash Oberoy, Nasir) 10:30 Agnichakra 11:00 Zee Horror- Anhonee 11:30 Footloose 12:00 Mehendi Tere Nam Ki #19 ('Shangita Ghosh, Aruna Irani, Sanjeev Shetty) 12:40 Close Up Antakshari 1:10 Hum Paanch 1:40 Daayre #49 ('Mostafa Siraj) 2:10 Mrityudand #50 (Serial



Jumanji on Ekushey Television on July 3 at 7:30 pm.

'Paban Malhotra, Atul Agnihotry, Arif Zakaria, Irawati, 02:40 Naye Nazrane 3:10 Hindi Film (B/W):

#### DD METRO

7:00 Anhad 7:15 Bhakti sagar 7:30 Sarab Sanjhi 8:00 Business Weekend 8:30 Wealthy Health 8:45 Meethee Meethee Bol 9:30 Immigration And North-East India 10:00 Kashmiri Shayron Ki Nazar Se 10:30 We Love You 11:00 Disney Club 12:00 Pechha Karo 12:30 Home Style 1:00 Fifty Fifty 1:30 My Choice 2:00 Top of The Pop 2:30 The Famous Five 2:55 Urdu News 3:30 Hindi Film: 5:30 One Cube 6:00 The Great Experiment 6:30 Goof Insp 7:00 Brave Buds 7:30 Swaraj 8:00 Lat - Talk 8:30 Geet Gata Chal 9:00 Chaka Chak Homes (serial) 9:32 Hungama Unlimited 10:30 Aaj Tak 10:50 Single Metro- Top 3 11:00 India This Week 11:30 Sunehari Yaadein 12:00 Investigator 1:00 Hindi Films

#### ZEE ENGLISH

8:00 Late Show With David Letterman 9:00 Academy Awards Winners 10:00 Music Zone 10:30 Over The Edge/ The Lifestyle Show 11:30 Here's Lucy 12:00 Three's Company 12:30 Kate And Allie 1:00 Candido Camera 1:30 Spice 2:00 Music Zone 2:30 Mixed Doubles 3:00 OST 3:30 Saturday Series: If Tomorrow Comes 4:30 The Roseanne Show 5:30 Music Zone 6:00 Here's Lucy 6:30 Over The Edge 7:00 The Roseanne Show 8:00 Remarkable 20th, Century 8:30 Special Event- Miss Universal 2000 Lara Dutt 9:00 Sunday Special: Nothing Lasts Forever 10:00



Jumanji on Ekushey Television on July 3 at 7:30 pm.

To Night With Feroz 10:30 Adult Comedy: Benny Hill Show 11:00 News 11:30 Late Show With David Letterman 12:30 Friends 1:00 News 1:30 The Roseanne Show

#### DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Ushuaia 7:30 Travelers 8:30 Firestorm 9:30 On The Inside 10:30 Liqueal Highways 11:00 Dingo Fench 11:30 Wet Byets 12:00 Going Up- 12:30 Blue Reef 1:00 Two Worlds- 1:30 Discovery Profile-Series 7:30 India Hour: Gampa 8:30 Wild Discovery- 9:30 Science Frontiers 10:30 Discovery Showcase 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Wild discovery- 1:30 Science Frontiers-

#### CNN INTERNATIONAL

6:30 World Beat 7:00 Larry King Weekend 8:00 World View 9:00 World News 9:30 This Week In NBA 10:30 World News 10:30 Inside

Asia 11:30 Inside Africa 1:00 World News 1:30 Diplomatic Licence 2:30 Your Health 3:00 Larry King Weekend 4:00 World News 4:30 World Sport 5:00 World News 5:30 Hotspot 6:00 World News 6:30 Business Unusual 7:00 World News 7:30 CNNdot Com 8:00 World News 8:30 World Sport 9:00 World News 9:00 This Week In NBA 10:00 Late Edition 10:30 Pro Golf Weekly 11:00 World Report 11:30 Ypur Health 12:00 World News 12:30 Evans, Novak, Hunt & Shields

#### DD INTL

7:00 Classical Music 7:30 Mindscapes 8:00 Business Weekend 8:30 Pride of India 9:00 All In All 9:32 Kya Baat Hai 10:00 India News 10:15 Light Music 10:32 Ghoomta Aaina 11:00 Tele Film: 12:00 Bharat Samachar (News In Hindi) 12:15 Hindi Film Show: 2:30 Samachar 2:40 The News 3:00 Classical Music 3:15 Mindscapes 4:00 Business Weekend 4:32 Pride of India 5:00 All In All 5:32 Kya Baat Hai 6:30 Ghoomta Aaina 6:32 Tele Film: 7:30 Hindi Film Show (Rpt):

#### ZEE MOVIES

8:30 OST 9:00 Film: 11:00 Hollywood Remembers 11:30 Film: 1:30 OST 2:00 Film: 4:00 Total Recall 4:30 Film: 6:30 Hollywood Remembers- 7:00 Hollywood Gold Film 9:00 Frank Sinatra 9:30 Sunday Best Film: 11:30 Fright Nights Film: 1:30 Film:

#### SET MAX

7:30 Rang Birangee 8:15 Music Mania 8:45 Pop Puri 9:00 Harmony 9:30 Film Show: Main Suhagan Hoo 12:30 Lehren Features 1:45



Rore on Ekushey Television on July 3 at 8 pm.