

At the Carnival of Poets

Front-ranking poet of the country, Fazal Shahabuddin, represents Bangladesh in the World Festival of Poets 2000 Tokyo

By Ziaul Karim

AFTER the painful partition of the sub-continent in 1947, the poets of East Bengal were groping for a symbolic foothold to peg the national dreams. The group of poets who constructed a new language to contain the aspirations of an emerging nation are the founders of Bangladeshi poetry. Fazal Shahabuddin, now in his late sixties, is one of the architects who laid the founda-

stand his loneliness, nobody can.

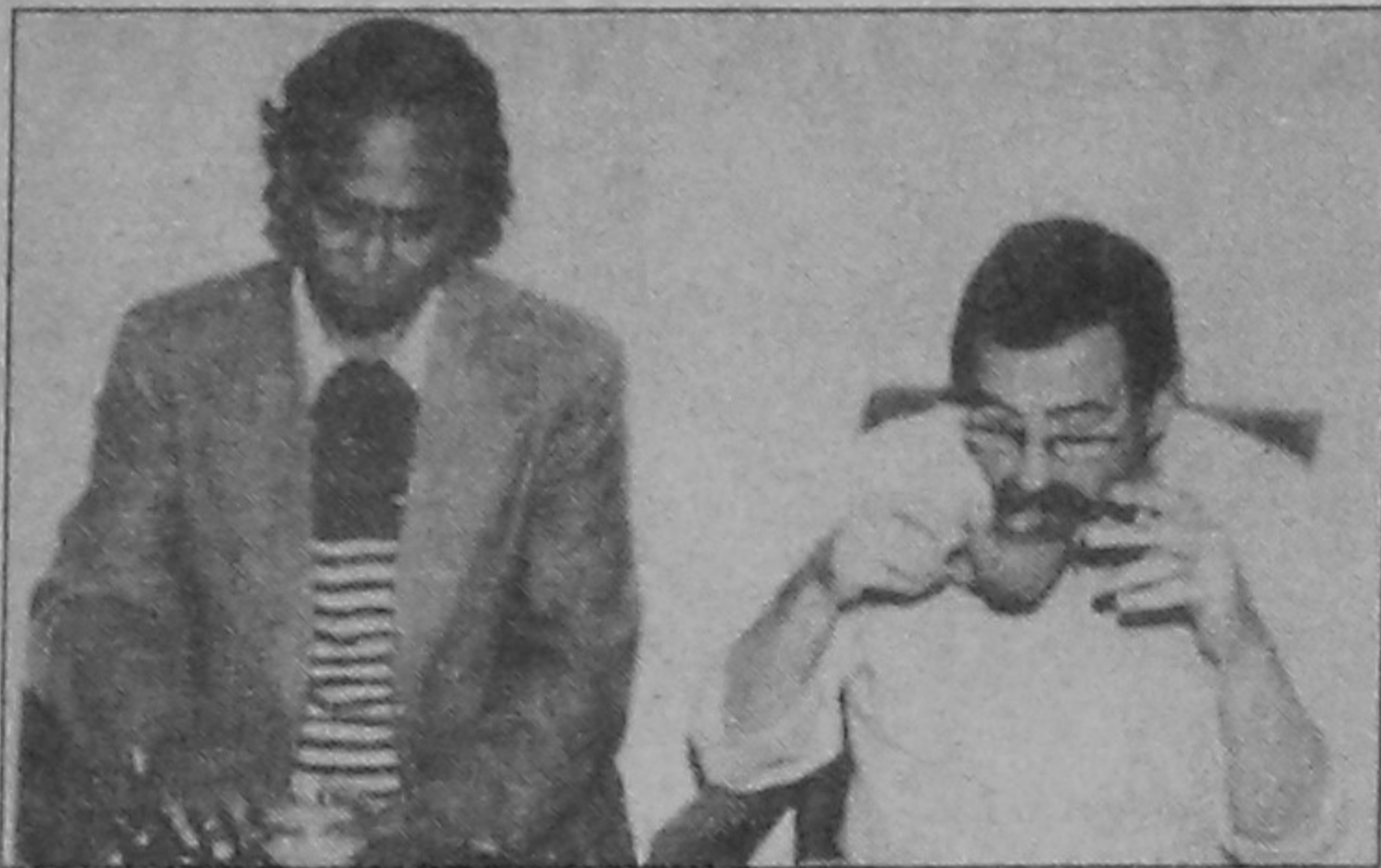
Perhaps not. But over a poetic career of 50 years Fazal has produced more than 30 books of poems which are highly acclaimed by the critics and are well received by the poetry lovers of the country. His poems are translated into the regional languages of India, in Japanese, and in English.

A widely travelled and a very well read person, Fazal wears his scholarship lightly. He has won

the coveted Bangla Academy Prize for poetry in 1972 and in 1988 was awarded the highest civilian award of the country the Ekushey Padak for his contribution to poetry.

From November 3-5 Fazal will be at one of the biggest congregations of poets in the world The World Festival of Poets 2000 Tokyo. This festival has been organised in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the leading poetry magazine of Japan, the Chikyu. Located in the centre of Tokyo and in the neighbourhood of the Imperial Palace, the Diamond Hotel serves the perfect setting for the festival venue.

The theme for this year's festival is "There now, comes the 21st Century! Looking Forward to a New Century of Poetry." The topics for the workshops to be held during the festival are Poetry in the New Information Age, Sound and Image, and Haiku and Tanka in the World. On the second day of the festival 25th Chikyu poetry prize will given away to Kim Nam-jo of Korea, Quian Wu Chen of Taiwan and Ales Debeljak of Slovenia. An astounding number of 150 poets from Guatemala to Palestine are participating in. This is an epoch-making festival of poets - a ray of hope to the last page of the 20th century."



German Nobel prize winner Gunter Grass visited Kabikantha office in 1996

tion of new poetry in this part of the world.

Always shy to press, Fazal is also the founder editor of the longest running poetry magazine of the country, Kabikantha. The magazine has contributed considerably in shaping the course of contemporary in Bangladesh since its first appearance in 1956.

"Poetry is a kind of magic. It is a language of the heart that a poet addresses to his reader and the world," wrote Fazal in an article on Nature, Poet and Poetry. This statement serves as an excellent introduction to his own poetry. His is a kind of poetry that celebrates and declares the glory of loneliness of a poet who lives in his own solitude. In one of his most celebrated poems he writes:

A poet is a lonely being
He is a helpless and lives in his own solitude.
Nobody ever tries to under-



Fazal with celebrated Japanese poet Kazuko Shirashi in Seoul '93

exhibition

Bright New Faces of Rural Women

A photography exhibition on the empowerment of the rural women of Bangladesh



Nurjahan Chaklader

By Saima Islam

TWENTY-first century is the century of women, at least that is how the social scientists love to label it. The way the hapless rural women of our country are striving to change their lot and setting precedence for others to take a leaf from their book might prove the predictions of the social gurus right.

Nurjahan Chaklader who is working at the Audio Visual Unit of the Grameen Bank has captured numerous features of the lives of the rural women of Bangladesh through her camera. "My work has led me to many distant places of Bangladesh and introduced me to these women and many like them, who have inspired me to put up such an exhibition", says the photographer. "Perhaps as a woman I had more access to the lives of these extraordinary ladies and I feel privileged for that because not only they have inspired my photography but also motivated me as an individual."

Nurjahan's photographs show how the rural women of our country have worked their way up and changed their lives to claim their identity as human being. As Nurjahan says, "The exhibition is a study of the progress, power and ambitions of women of rural Bangladesh who have made their mark defying all sorts of barriers".

The first photograph of the exhibition shows a woman working on a spinning wheel, her husband, crippled by an accident sitting beside her, helping out and their only child is sitting amidst them, a slanting ray of sunlight crisscrosses the black

and white photograph and makes an interesting zigzag pattern on the faces of the husband and the wife suggesting the ups and downs of their life.

Women are seen tending domestic animals, cultivating vegetables, taking care of the chickens, cows, goats, which they have bought with the small amount of money they have received as loans from Grameen bank or other NGOs. It is now proved that these unlettered women excellent entrepreneurs making the best use of the borrowed money.

One of the photographs shows women grinding mustard for oil,

of fish in the photograph on fishing.

There are photographs of women who have started with small loans and gradually expanded their business. The proud faces of women running their own stores, having their own cargo boat, their own rice plant and many more highlights the dynamism of women entrepreneurs.

The photographs juxtapose the conventional works of the rural women and the works requiring leadership quality and even access to latest technology. One of the photograph shows an Upazilla Member executing her

heroes of our society who holds the key to our future as A C Benson says,

"Land of Hope and Glory, mothers of the free
How shall we extol thee, who are born of thee
Wider still and wider shall thy bound be set;

God who made thee mighty make thee mightier yet".

Nurjahan's works have been published in research books and journals including 'Rights & Reality' a photo album on children's rights and their status published by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, 'Inquest of Empowerment', a research book on women development, 'Women at the Centre', a research book on women empowerment. Nurjahan is the General Secretary of the organisation of women photographers, 'Orno Chokhe Dekha' and has participated in many group exhibitions. This is her first solo photography exhibition.

Asked about her next project, Nurjahan said, "I have plans to do some work on the rights of girl child".

The exhibition showcases 49 black and white and coloured photographs. Open till November 9, 2000 from 9 am to 12am and 5pm to 8pm daily (Saturday 5pm to 8pm) at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, the show is a fantastic narration of the status of our rural women and their sincere efforts to change their lot.



Collective Fishing - September 1993

rotating a grinder, which is usually done by bullocks, but as these women from Muktagacha could not afford to buy bullocks, they did not mind using their physical labour to get the job done. There are many more photographs like this where women are seen occupied in various sorts of physical labour with spontaneity and smile on their face. "I was amazed to see these rural women working so hard for which they do not even get appreciated," explains Nurjahan.

These women do not mind bringing the harvest home, even though it is not their job as the photograph of the Garo women shows. The joy and delight that these working is palpable. One can almost feel the mirth the women shares after a good catch

newly found leadership effectively while giving instruction to the labourers who are building a road in her constituency. Women are seen happily participating and helping in the adult education programme. Charubala, Morian Banu and many like them are seen using mobile phones without the slightest sign of discomfort or unease.

These women who perhaps have never got the opportunity to have a decent education, never went beyond the boundary of their own small village shows an inherent quality to embrace the new age with ease and enthusiasm. Each woman has a story to tell and Nurjahan's photographs faithfully captured the story behind each face. The exhibition is a tribute to these unsung



Even Latest Technology Comes in Handy - March 1997

Recommendations

Shadows & Sunlight

A solo photographic exhibition on 'Bangladesh's Forest and Sacred Trees' by Ian Lockwood will start at the Drik Gallery from November 2. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition will be held at 5 in the evening.

The exhibition will be jointly opened by eminent artist Mustafa Manwar and The Daily Star editor Mahfuz Anam.

The exhibition will remain open daily until November 11, from 3:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Book Launching

The publication ceremony of Niaz Zaman's *The Escape and Other Stories of 1947* will be held on November 2 at 4:30 p.m. at the British Council auditorium at Fuller Road. Enayetullah Khan, editor of The Weekly Holiday will review the book while Professor Fakrul Alam of the department of English, Dhaka University will present a paper on "The Pleasure and Pains of translation" 8pm.)

Recitation

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is going to start a weekly recitation and discussion programme from *Masnavi* of poet Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi at the counsellor's office premises today (November 1) at 4:00p.m. Interested people are cordially invited to attend the function.

Folk Drama Festival 1407

Organised by Mohakal Nattya Shampraday ten day long Folk Drama Festival 1407 will start at the Dhaka Mohanagar Nattyanagar, Bangabandhu Square, Gulistan from today (November 1) at 5:00p.m. Minister for Food Amir Hossain Anu will inaugurate the festival as chief guest. On the inaugural day a theatrical presentation *Sunai Konnyar Pala* by Mohakal Nattya Shampraday will be staged.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Shodh

Ekushey television tonight at 8
The 9th episode of the drama serial Shodh will be aired tonight. In this episode Firoz invites Ripa for lunch. Without any hesitation she accepts his invitation. And that was the beginning. While they started to know each other more she came to know the black period of his life. She tells him that if he wants her then he has to come out from this life. Just when Firoz starts preparing himself for Ripa, the opposition captures and tortures him. They also kidnap his younger brother. This time Firoz goes crazy for revenge.

Written by Saiful Islam Mannu and directed by Satirtha Rahman, Shodh stars Azizul Hakim, Tania, Shamu Chowdhury, Pallab and others.



Ally McBeal on Star World tonight at 11

BBC World News 3:30 World Business Report 4:30 Asia Business Report / World Business Report 5:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report/24 Hours

STAR WORLD

6:00 Hollywood Squares 6:30 Jackie Collins Hollywood 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 7:30 Media TV 8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 JAG 10:00 The Pretender 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 NYPD Blue 1:00 Media TV 1:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 2:00 Mork & Mindy 2:30 Happy Days 3:00 Baywatch 4:00 Hollywood Squares 4:30 Home Improvement 5:00 Star News Asia 5:30 Friends 7:00 Buffy The Vampire Slayer 8:00 The Practice 9:00 Friends 9:30 Star News 10:00 Buffy The Vampire Slayer 11:00 Ally McBeal 12:30 The Practice 1:30 Buffy The Vampire Slayer 2:00 Ally McBeal 3:00 Creolo Dallar Daily 3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries 4:00 Life In The word With Joyce Meyer 4:30 World News 5:00 The Prefect Days 5:30 Mork & Mindy

STAR PLUS

6:00 Cine Jharokha 6:30 STAR Geemala 7:30 Good Morning India 8:30 Cine Jharokha 9:00 Hit Ya Fit 9:30 Star Morning Film: 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00 TSN 1:30 Tanha 2:00 Meri Saheli 2:30 Saans 3:00 Charwali Uparwali 3:30 Small Wonders 4:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 4:30 Cine Jharokha 5:00 Hit Ya Fit 5:30 Sewalal Mewawala 6:00 Small Wonders 6:30 Fox Kids 7:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki

8:00 Tu Tu Main Main 8:30 Hasna Mat 9:00 Pal Chhin 9:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati 10:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat 12:00 Tanha 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00 Small Wonder 1:30 Saans 2:00 Meri Saheli 2:30 Tanha 3:00 Tu Tu Main Main 3:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 4:00 Charwali Uparwali 5:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 5:30 Hit Ya Fit

7:30 Thriller: Mind Breakers (15) 9:30 Comedy: Ruthless People (15) 11:30 Thriller: Cold Around the Heart (15) 1:30 Middy Move: Someone To Die For (15) 3:30 Action: Commando (15) 5:30 Action: under Oath (15) 7:30 Action: Road House (15) 9:30 El BTS 10:00 You Pick The Flick.Com: 12:00 Hearts of Fire: Row Your Boat (PG) 2:00 Action: Time Under Fire (15) 4:00 Comedy:

STARSPTS

7:30 Sport News-Sportsline Today 8:30 Spanish Football League 2000/01 10:30

Face to Face on BBC WORLD tonight at 10:30

Taking Care Of Business (12) 5:30 Action: Road House (15)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Go For It! 7:30 Ushuaia 8:30 Lonely Planet 9:30 Animal in Danger 10:00 Eyewitness III 10:30 Danger, Zone 11:00 EOuter

Bounds I & II 11:30 Shark Files, The II 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives II 2:00 Medical Detectives I 2:30 Discover Magazine 3:30 Go For It! 4:30 Ushuaia 5:30 Lonely Planet 6:30 Popular Mechanics for Kids III 7:00 Pop Sci 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Blue Reef Adventures II 9:00 Aspects of Life 2:30 Discover Magazine 3:00 Popular Science 3:30 Lands of Legends 4:00 Sea Legends 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Blue Reef Adventures 2:00 Aspects of Life 2:30 Discover Magazine 3:00 Popular Science 3:30 Lands of Legends 4:00 Sea Legends 4:30 Discovery Profile Series 5:30 Discover Magazine

Watersports World 5:00 Fm World Motorcycle Championship 2000 MotoGP Philip Island, AUSTRALIA Highlights 6:25 Live-New Zealand Tour Of South Africa Durban, SOUTH AFRICA-New Zealand Vs South Africa 5th Odi, 1st Session 10:00 Sport News- Sportsline Tonight 10:30 Live-New Zealand Tour Of South Africa Durban, SOUTH AFRICA-New Zealand Vs South Africa 5th Odi, 2nd Session

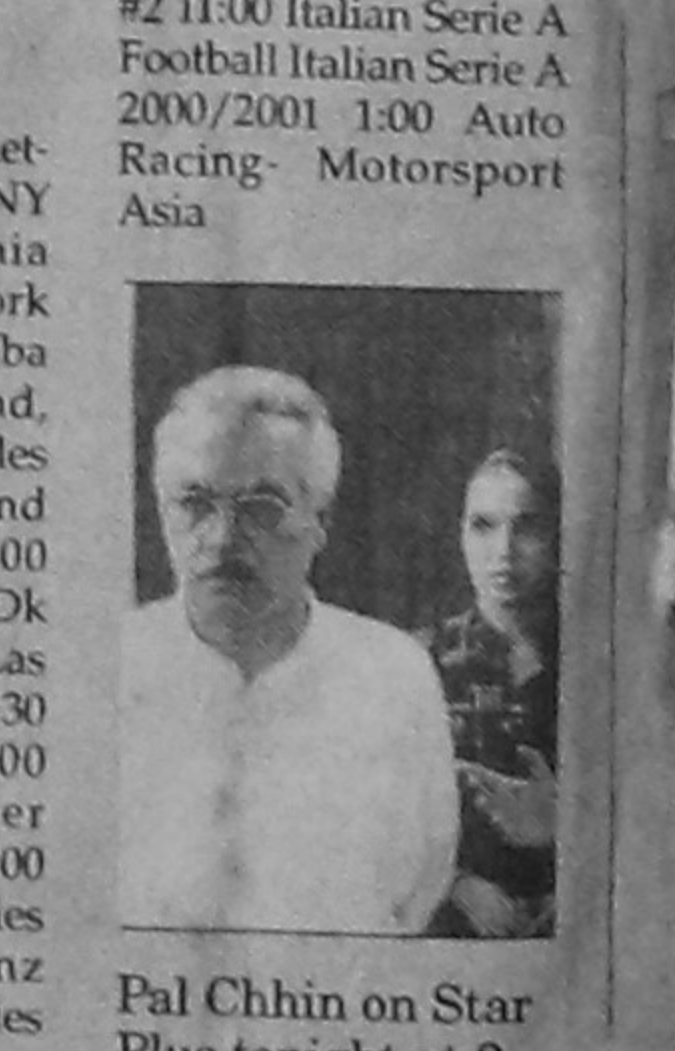
ESPN 7:00 Live-Nba Basketball New York, NY USA- Philadelphia 76ers Vs New York Knicks 9:30 Live-Nba Basketball Portland, OR USA- Los Angeles Lakers Vs Portland Trailblazers 12:00 Extreme Sports- DK Dirt Circuit Series Las Vegas, NV USA 12:30 Baseball Max 1:00 Live- Sportcenter Bristol, CT USA 2:00 Tennis Masters Series By Eurocard Stuttgart, GERMANY Early Round Coverage Day #2 11:00 Italian Serie A 2000/2001 1:00 Auto Racing- Motorsport Asia

Stuttgart Pres. By Eurocard Stuttgart, GERMANY Early Round Coverage Day 4:00 Nba Basketball New York, NY USA- Philadelphia 76ers Vs New York Knicks 6:30 Nba Basketball Portland, OR USA- Los Angeles Lakers Vs Portland Trailblazers 12:00 Extreme Sports- DK Dirt Circuit Series Las Vegas, NV USA 12:30 Baseball Max 1:00 Live- Sportcenter Bristol, CT USA 2:00 Tennis Masters Series By Eurocard Stuttgart, GERMANY Early Round Coverage Day #2 11:00 Italian Serie A 2000/2001 1:00 Auto Racing- Motorsport Asia



Buffy the Vampire Slayer on Star World tonight at 10

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Pal Chhin on Star Plus tonight at 9

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 Sashtho Thatttho (Health Developing For Mother & Children) 4:20 Cartoon: Captain Planet 4:40 Shamol Chhaya 5:20 Shikkhangon 5:45 Pusti Tattho 6:00 Bangla News 6:05 Desh-O-Biggan 6:30 Transmission From Chittagong Center 7:00 News For Weather 7:05 Geetbitan (Rabindra Song) 7:25 Nupur Nikkan (Dance) 8:00 Bangla News At 8:20 Serial: Banga Garar Khela #8 ("Abul Hayat, Colam Mustafa, Sharmilla Ahmed, Tanu Mustafa, Khairul Alam Sabooj) 9:00 Series: The Young Hercules (Bangla Dub) 9:00 Beyshakhe Jhar #4 10:00 News At Ten (English) 10:20 Aalokchitro (Photography) 10:50 Sopan (Educational) 11:30 Bangla News 11:35 English News 11:40 A) Programme Outline For Thursday B) National Song 11:45 Closing

EKUSHEY TV

2:00 Aiker Potrikay 2:10 Bhalobasha Kare Koi 2:35 Nazrul

CHANNEL-1

6:15 Drama everyday-Joar Vhata 7:00 Concord Solali Jagat 7:40 Abng Syed Samsul Hq 8:00 Din Protidin 8:30 Anadhodhara 9:10

STAR GOLD

5:30 Saboot 8:30 Bollywood News 9:00 Chalta Purza 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 Navrang 3:30 Bollywood News 4:00

Sangeet programme 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Bangla Cinema: Kayot 5:30 Driшти 5:50 Aiker Potrikay 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:05 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 6:30 Life on the Land 7:00 Bolte Chai 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 Shodh 8:30 Pother Paychali 9:00 Ponds Classic Drama 10:00 BTV News 10:20



A theme song for ATN Bangla by singer Sabina Yasmin and director Laila Banu will be aired from today on ATN Bangla and Channel 1

Chitrageeti 11:00 Ekushey Late Night News 11:15 Mon Non Re Amar 11:45 Ekushey News Headlines

HBO

6:30 Zero Effect 9:00 The Tuskegee Airmen 11:15 Johnny Belinda 3:15 Spies Like US 5:30 American Anthem 7:45 My Giant 10:00 Last Stand at Saber River 12:00 Forever Young 2:15 Hollywood's Greatest Stunts #208B Taking Care of Business 2:45 The Tuskegee Airmen 4:45 My Giant

STAR GOLD

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Magazine: Saya 10:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 10:10 I Music 10:40 Mancholoke 11:15 Chirodiner Gane 12:00 Drama everyday-Joar Vhata 12:40 Concord Solali Jagat 1:15 Abng Syed Samsul Hoq 2:00 Anadhodhara 2:35 Magazine: Saya 3:00 Bangla Cinema: Sakhatt 6:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 6:10 Amar Channel 1 7:15

SONYENT. TV

Am 7:30 Amrit Varsha 8:00 Sant Asaram Wani 8:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 9:00 Good Morning Disney 10:00 Yeh Duniya Hai Rangeen #9 Ep-Yeh Rahul Mango More 10:30 Choodiyar #9 11:00 Missing #69 11:30 Daily Soap- Imtihaan (*Renuka Shani, Ferdous Dadi) 12:00 Daily Soap- Ithaas 12:30 Movers & Shekars 1:00 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 1:30 Rang Birangee 2:00 Boogi Woogi 2:30 Daily Soap- Imtihaan (*Renuka Shani, Ferdous Dadi) 3:00 Aurat (Daily Soap) 3:30 Daily Soap- Ghar Ek Mandir 4:00 Daily Soap- Nazdeekiyan 4:30 Daily Soap- Ithaas 5:00 Daily Soap- Junoon 5:30 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 6:00 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 6:30 Disney Hour Cartoons 7:30 boogi Woogi (R) 8:00 Family No. 1 #105 (*Kanwaljeet, Tanvi Azmi, Kabir, Apoma) 8:30 Boogie Woogie 9:10 Just Mohabbat 9:50 Ek Mahal Ho Sapna Ka (Daily Soap) 10:30 C.I.D. 11:10 Movers & Shekars 12:00 Daily Soap- Nazdeekiyan 12:30 Heena 1:00 CATS 1:30 Tuh Pe Di Querban 2:00 Mere Angane Mein 2:30 Movers & Shekars 3:00 Rang Birangee 3:30 Cine Night Show-Hindi Feature Film.

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News 6:30 World Business Report 7:00 BBC News/Asia Today Inc. World Business Report 8:00 BBC News/Asia Today Inc. World Business Report 9:00 BBC News /Asia Today Inc. World Business Report 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 HARDtalk 11:30 World Living: Talking Heads 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 Wheels 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 HARDtalk 2:00 World News 2:30 World Focus: Reporters 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 HARDtalk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Life-Keeping Tabs 5:00 BBC The World Today 5:30 World Focus: Reporters 6:30 Wheels

ZEETV

6:15 Yeदन Ki Pal (B/W Song) 6:45 Old Is Gold 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 7:55 Fitness Plus 8:05

Shakuntala 7:00 Geet Bahar 9:30 Rang Birangi-Sharada 10:30 Bollywood News 11:00 Nagin 12:30 Nagin (contd) 2:00 Geet Bahar 2:30 Shakuntala

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