

cinema

Enterprising Endeavour in Alternative Film Making

A special screening of two short clips from *Matir Maina* or *The Clay Bird*, a feature film in progress by Tareque and Catherine Masud, was held at the main auditorium of the BRAC Centre Inn.

By Tawfique Ali

An introductory programme of the duo's, Tareque and Catherine Masud, latest venture in feature film *Matir Maina* was held on December 12 at 5 pm at the BRAC Centre Inn, Mohakhali.

The programme was precisely meant to seek advice and support of all and accommodate a bevy of ideas to make their enterprising project a successful one.

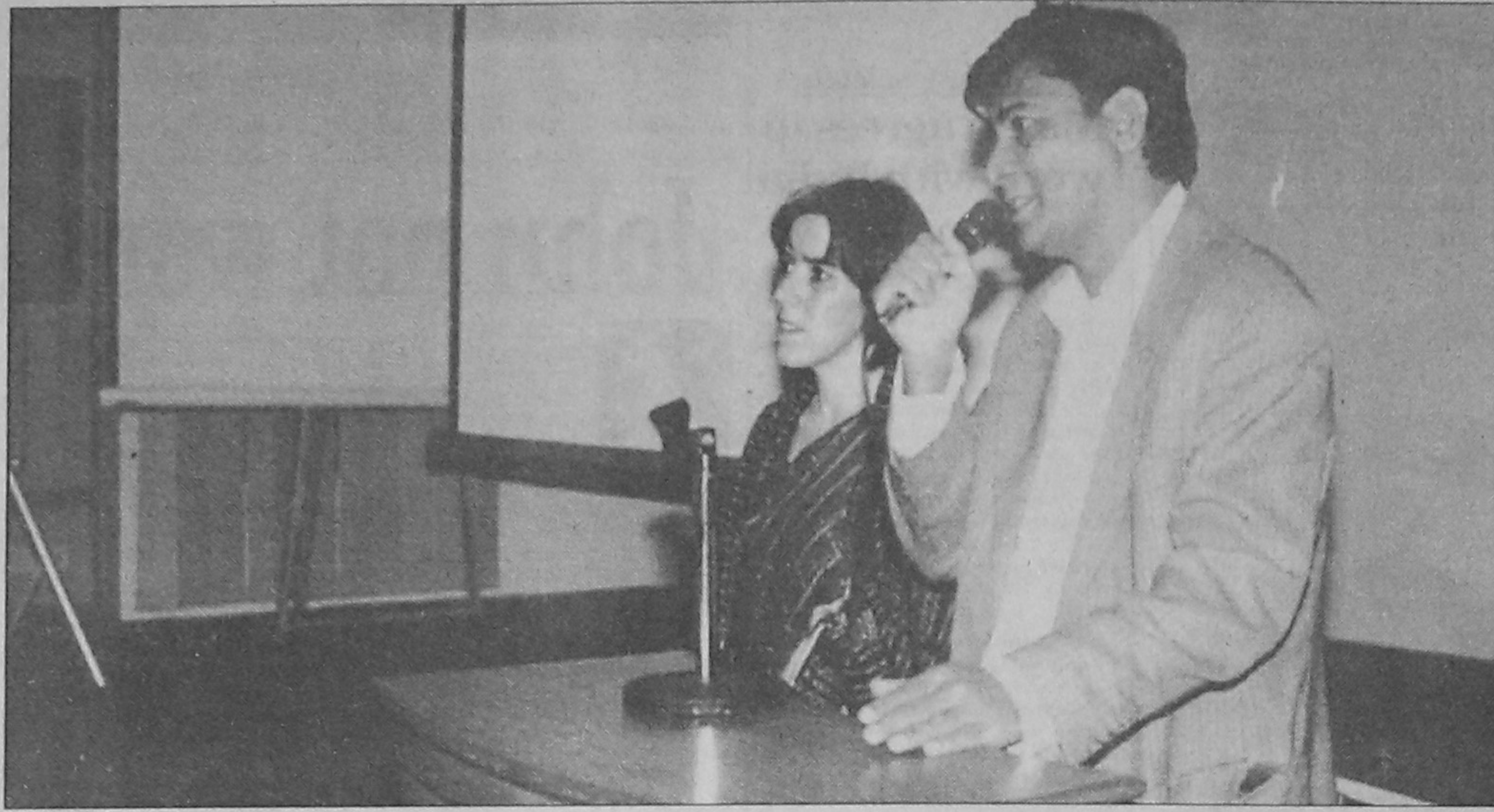
The film tells the story of a boy and his mother and is set against the backdrop of the tumultuous years of upheavals leading up to 1971. This film would highlight the beauty of the people and land of Bangladesh both at home and abroad. The story of the film, while culturally and socially specific to Bangladesh, is based on universal themes of fraternity and religious tolerance and co-existence.

The story is essentially a human one that is expected to appeal across cultures, countries and times. "We want to portray a very true picture of Bangladesh history and cultural heritage beyond Bangladesh," an ambitious Tareque expressed his dream while talking to The Daily Star.

A growing trend of making documentaries and alternative short films has been witnessed in recent years in the country to retain traditional history and cultural heritage on celluloid and to provide the audience with a wholesome recreation as well. Tareque and Catherine Masud are two veteran creative film makers who have already earned a critical and public acclaim in the field of what they say creative documentary through their brilliant productions *Muktir Katha* and *Muktir Gaan*.

Matir Maina (The clay bird) is now at its embryonic stage with a progress of one per cent so far.

Its makers want to meet international standards of production. This is such an enterprising endeavour that requires not only sound financial support



Tareque and Catherine Masud speak highlighting various aspects of their forthcoming feature film *Matir Maina* or *The Clay Bird*

but all kinds of logistic supports also.

Since there is little or no government support for serious cinema in our country, the makers of this film are out to seek for other services of support. They have looked outside the country too for funding. They have been lucky and honoured in this regard that they have been awarded the prestigious "South Fund" grant offered to creative film makers every year by the French government. The award provides partial in-kind support only in France mainly for laboratory, stock and equipment. They have also got an assurance of international distribution of the production through a reputed European distributor MK2.

But now they badly need local producer or co-producer to meet the local production costs.

Tareque and Catherine Masud shared their bitter experiences and sheer disappointment and frustration with distinguished guests present on the occasion in their failed attempt to avail bank loans in the past. "For our previous film 'Muktir Katha', we desperately tried to arrange a modest bank loan to cover some of the production costs, but in spite of the fact that even the bank defaulters get huge loans in this country, we were completely unsuccessful in our attempt," they said.

Now for this film they demand support in any form, from both the government and non governmental organization.

The film *The Clay Bird* has been designed to present a depiction of a synchronic picture of Bangladesh culture. In one clip shown on the occasion, a

synchronic festival Bishwakarmar meaning a boat festival suggests a universal aspect of Bangladesh Culture in which every one takes a part. Bangladesh has suffered from various disgraceful images which are out of tune with the reality of its rich culture, tradition and glorious history. Fame, floods and fundamentalism have featured Bangladesh in the global perspective. Film can help to reverse this negative notion about the country by framing an honorable image of the country through cultural exposure that will command better understanding and appreciation of Bangladesh.

The French ambassador in Bangladesh, Editor of the Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Jay Jay Din editor Shafiq Rehman, ADAB president Khushi Kabir and many other distinguished per-

sonalities attended the function and took part in post screening discussion.

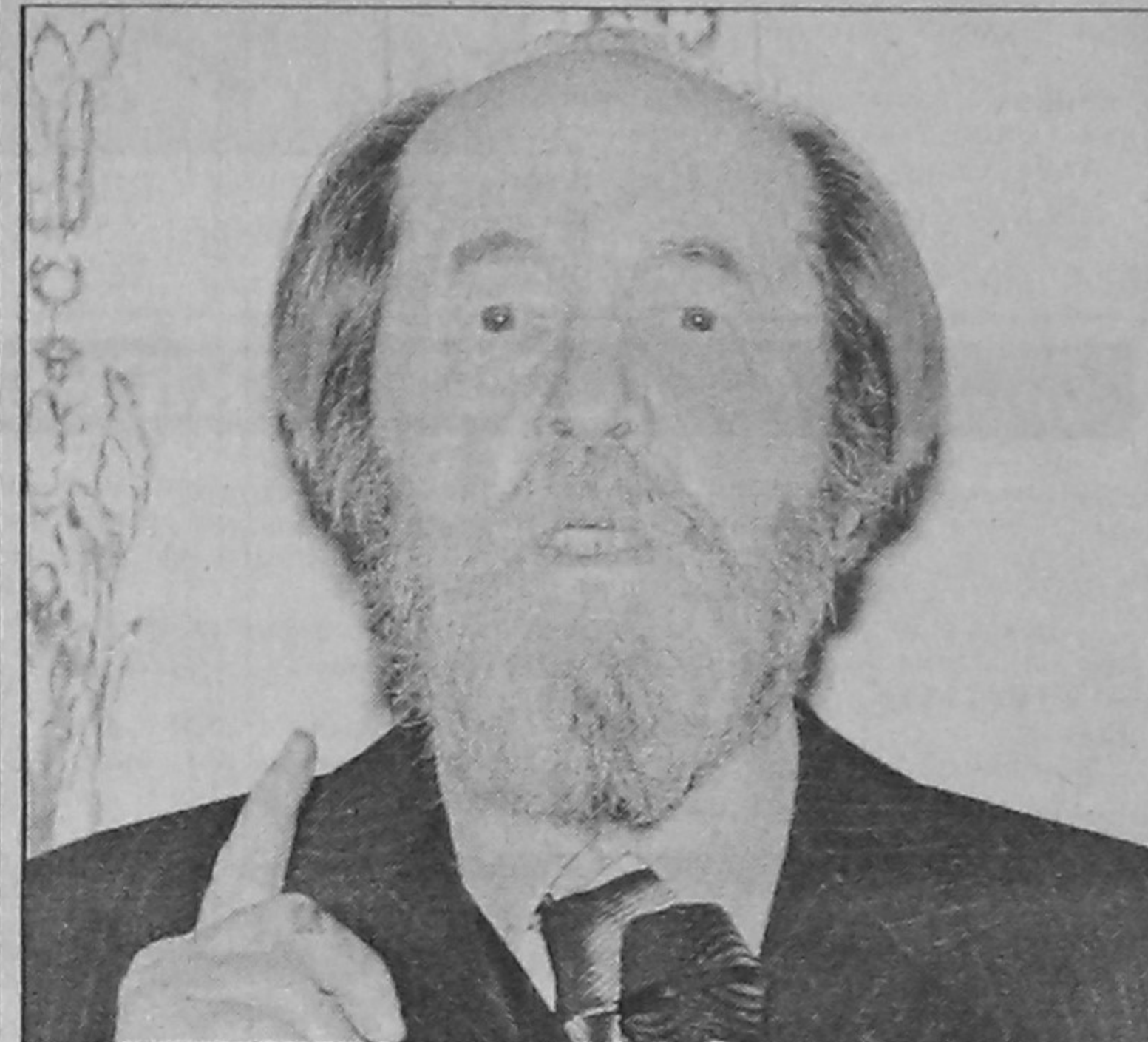
Shafiq Rehman said, "Seeking support for such a purpose is not begging but its a demand to the government."

Mahfuz Anam, while expressing his opinion, remarked, "we should support this kind of film making endeavour simply because of the fact that this is not a film like 'Shami Keno Ashami'. He appreciated Catherine's efforts in promoting Bangladesh history and culture despite being a different national. He termed Tareque-Catherine couple as an instance of intercultural marriage that proved to be creative union. Khushi Kabir said that she would extend her hand of cooperation in realizing support from the government for these two outstanding sort film makers.

international



Nobel laureate in literature Chinese born Gao Xingjian (R) arrives with Celine Yang at the Stockholm Royal Palace 11 December 2000, for the traditional gala dinner. --AFP Photo



Famous Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn delivers a speech at the French embassy in Moscow, after being awarded the 50,000 FF (6,766 USD) Grand-Prix of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of France, on December 13, 2000. --AFP Photo

Recommendations



Exhibition

A photography exhibition on the war victims of 1971 titled War Veterans of Bangladesh is being held at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, at road # 27, Dharmadhi. This show, held as part of the 1st Festival of Photography in Asia, will run till December 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00p.m. every day.

Painting Exhibition

Painting exhibition by Nurul Amin now being held at the Divine Art Gallery at 11:00a.m.

Eminent art critic Sayeed Ahmed inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest, while artist Professor Abdus Sakoor was present as special guest.

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 10:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. till December 18.

Exhibition on Liberation

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Liberation War, the Liberation War Museum has put up a month long exhibition titled *Gourabmoy Atmadan Chiro-Jagoruk*.

The remains found in the killing fields of Jalladkhana and Nur Masjid and some photographs are being exhibited.



Drawing and Sketch Show

A selection of drawing and sketches done in charcoal, pastel, watercolour and acrylic by gifted artist Kufu will be put on display at the residence of Mrs. Chowdhury at Road 9, House 4, Gulshan-1. The two-day show begins on December 16 and will continue until December 17 from 2 to 8 pm.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Beethoven

on HBO at 10 pm.

Dad George Newton (Charles Gordin) and mom Alice (Bonnie Hunt) finally relents to his three children adopting a helpless pup 'Beethoven' who becomes slobbering, furry and drooly 185-pounder.

Show 8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 2 Guys and a Girl and A Pizza Place 9:30 Naggue Winters 10:00 Ally McBeal 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 The Practice 1:00 Three Perfect Days

1:30 The Bold And 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 6:00 World's Wildest Police Video

6:55 Star News Asia (5 mins) 7:00 Walker Texas Ranger 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Friends 9:30 Star News 10:00 World's Wildest Police Video 11:00 Walker Texas Ranger 12:00 Martial Law 1:00 World's Wildest Police Video 2:00 Walker Texas Ranger 3:00 Creflo Dollar Daily 3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries 4:00 Life In The Word With Joyce Meyer 4:30 World News 5:00 Ooh La La

Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 4:00 Charwali Uparwali 4:30 Chupa Rustom 5:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 5:30 Hit Ya Fit 6:00 Cine Jharokha

STAR MOVIES
7:30 Drama: Someone To Love Me 9:30 Comedy: Three Fugitives 11:30 Drama: An Element Of Truth 1:30 Midday Movie: Voyage of Terror 3:30 Thriller: Midnight Heat (Moonstone) 5:30 Thriller: Reprisal 7:30

Discovery 8:30 India Week 9:00 India Week 9:30 Discover Magazine 10:00 Popular Science 10:30 Lands of Legends 11:00 Sea Legends 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 India Week 2:00 India Week 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

CNN
4:00 CNN This Morning 4:30 Asia Business Morning 5:00 CNN This Morning 5:30 Asia Business Morning 6:00 CNN This Morning

6:15 Asia Business Morning 6:30 Asian Edition 6:45 Asia Business Morning 7:00 CNN This Morning 7:30 Moneyline 8:00 Larry King Live 9:00 World News 9:30 World Sport 10:00 World News 10:30 Showbiz Today 11:00 World News 11:30 & (replay) 12:00 World News 12:30 World Sport 1:00 World News 1:30 World Sport 2:00 World News 2:30 Insight 3:00 Larry King Live (replay) 4:00 World News 4:30 Biz Asia 5:00 Asia Tonight 5:30 World Sport 6:00 World News 6:15 Asian Edition 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 The Artclub 8:00 Asia Tonight 8:30 World Sport 9:00 World News 9:30 Business Unusual 10:00 World News 10:30 Biz Asia 11:00 World News 11:30 Q&A South Asia 12:00 World News 2:00 CNN Hotspots 1:30 World Business Today 2:00 World News 2:30 Q&A News 2:30 Q&A 3:00 World News Europe 3:30 CNN Newsroom



N'Sync Holiday Special on Star World at 10 pm. N'Sync, currently the most popular band in the US, will perform their first ever TV special, featuring their mega hits Bye, Bye, Bye, Tearing Up My Heart and It's Gonna Be Me as well as the traditional Christmas favourite, O' Holy Night. There will also be personal interviews with Lance, JC, Joey, Chris and Justin.

ZEE CINEMA

6:30 Lal Chunaria (Parakshit Sahani, Zanna Wahab) 10:30 Kamagni (Alok Nath, Tina Munim) 2:00 Mere Sajana (Navin Nischol, Rakhi) 6:30 Purani Haveli (Ameeta Nagina, Deepak Parashar) 10:30 Jeet (Sunny Deol, Karishma) 2:30 Jungle Love (Goga Kapoor, Kirti Singh)

ZEE MGM

6:30 Manhunt Search for the Nightstaller 9:00 Roadie 11:30 Hotel Oklahama 2:00 Gang Land 4:30 Love At Large 7:00 Underground Aces 9:30 China Moon 11:30 Something Short of Paradise 1:30 And The Violins Stopped Playing 4:00 Great LA Earthquake



Phenomenon on Star Movies at 10 pm. As a result of an extraordinary occurrence, George Malley's (Travolta) seemingly unremarkable life takes a mystifying and wondrous turn. With this remarkable power comes compassion, spirituality, love and partnership; but his sudden hunger for learning and new-found psychic ability lead life-long friends to turn away. Now George must comprehend this amazing gift and find his place in the scheme of things.

EkusheyTV
2:30 Aik er Potrikay
2:40 Drishti 3:00
Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Drama Series Dipannita 3:30
Bhalobasha Kare Koy 11:00 Kono Ek Din
4:00 Mon Mon Re 11:30 Chena Mukh



Drama Nisada Ghunpoka on Ekushey TV at 8 pm. Starring Sayed Hasan Imam, Sharmee Ahmad and Shahid Khan.

Amar 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Religious Musical Program 5:30 Drishti 5:50 Aik Potrikay 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:05 Classic Cartoons 6:30 Chardike 7:00 Ovaltin Presents: Kemon Achen 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 Drama: Nishobdo Ghoon Poka 9:00 Meizan Roshonar Bashona 9:30 Ami Brangona Bolchi 10:00 BTV News 10:20 Noorjahan 11:15 Ekushey Late Night News 11:30 E Shoptaher Bishsho 11:45 Ekushey News Headlines

ALPHA BANGLA TV

6:30 Alaap 7:00 Grihasajja 7:30 News/Arghya 8:00 Din Protidin 9:00

News/Bharat
Bhromon 9:30 Bahari Aahaar 10:00
Grihasajja 10:30
Bhawani Purer/Chattujera 11:00 Kono Ek Din
11:30 Chena Mukh



I Dream of Genii on channel i at 8:40

Today/World Business Report 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 10:00 BBC News 10:30 HARDtalk 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Talking Movies 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Wheels 1:00 BBC News 1:30 HARDtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Reporters ex World Review 3:00 BBC News 3:30 HARDtalk 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Jancis Robinson's Wine Course ex Life 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Reporters ex World Review 6:00 BBC News 6:30 Wheels 7:00 BBC News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 Click Online 8:00 BBC News 8:30 HARDtalk 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Face to Face 11:00 BBC News 11:15 World Business Report 11:30 Holiday



Overtime Kemone Achen on Ekushey TV on 7 pm hosted by Dr. Mirza Faisal and Jhuma Khan.

6:00 BBC News 6:30 World Business Report 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC News 6:30 World Business Report 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia

Wins 7:00 Survivor 8:00 High Action Adrenalin/Space Warship Yamamoto Yoko 9:00 Dual/Shadow Skills 10:00 Burn Up Excess/Who Dares Wins 11:00 Survivor 12:00 Earth Final Conflict III/Arrival 1:00 Movie: Joan of Arc Pt2 3:00 Who Dares Wins/Space Warship Yamamoto Yoko 4:00 DUAL/Shadow Skills 5:00 Burn Up Excess/Who Dares Wins 6:00 Survivor 7:00 Profiler III/Las Brisas Pt1 8:00 Profiler III/Las Brisas Pt2 9:00 World Extreme Games 10:00 Profiler III/Las Brisas Pt1 11:00 Profiler III/Las Brisas Pt2 12:00 World Extreme Games 1:00 Earth Final Conflict 1/Scorpio's Dream 2:00 Big Sky II/The Right Thing 3:00 Silk Stalkings IV/Carrie & Jessie

STAR GOLD

8:30 Bollywood News 9:00 Bandhan Kuchey Dhaagon Ka (Shashi Kapoor, Rakhee, Zeenat Aman) 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 Jeene Ki Raah (Jeetendra, Tanuja) 3:30 Bollywood News 4:00 Sehra (Sandhya, Prashant) 7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Lamhe Pyaar Ke - Ankhen (Dharmendra, Mala Sinha) 1:0:30 Bollywood News 11:00 Anand Math (Gita Bali, Pradeep Kumar, Prithviraj Kapoor) 12:30 Anand Math (contd) 2:00 Geet Bahar 2:00 Sehra (Sandhya, Prashant) 5:30 Anand Math (Gita Bali, Pradeep Kumar, Prithviraj Kapoor)

STAR WORLD

6:00 World World Squares 6:30 The New WKRP in Cincinnati 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey



Walker, Texas Ranger on Star World at 11 pm