

Interview

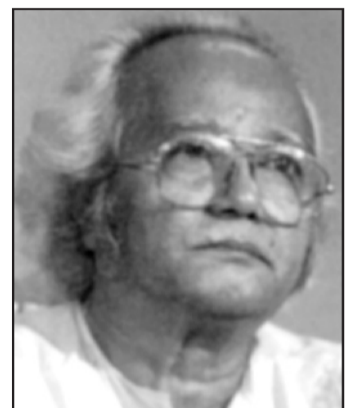
## When painters parley and pour out their thoughts

### Artists who had taken part in the "Contemporary Art of Bangladesh--Trends" speak out their minds

FAYZA HAQ

THE artists who had participated in the "Contemporary Art of Bangladesh" exhibition got together at the residence of Pinak R Chakravarty, the Deputy High

Commissioner of India, and spoke with one another about themselves and their work. Saifuddin Ahmed, in talking about the exhibit said, "I had given three paintings in the exhibition and my line and texture work are different from that of others as the lines balance the colours in a unique manner. At times this has not been easy but I have not been deterred in experimenting with textures too. As I progress, both my earlier works and later ones appeal to me and I hope they do so too to the viewers. I am the same person working in my own individual way so that whether earlier or later, the work is basically the same. As for my comments on the work of young artists, I think they are doing good work and painting with a purpose. I think that they are on par with the painters in the neighbouring countries."



Qayyum Choudhury

Aminul Islam said, "I have always liked my own work, otherwise I would not have been pursuing this art for decades. I was told that an exhibition of paintings of senior artists, with their different stages and different styles were required. I complied and gave samples of my work of the 50s, 60s and 90s. They are my favourite ones and those I could manage to procure from my house. My works have normally gone to galleries or have been sold off so that I hadn't much to choose from. We were also told that only medium sized work would be included in the display and this too was a restriction."

Monirul Islam, who is here for a working holiday from Spain, says, "This display had been a special cultural programme by the Indians and they are good friends of the artists and poets. I had not changed my style specially for the occasion but carried on with my routine style and subjects. I wanted to maintain my present vision and the tendencies of lines and colours. My work has not been purely abstract as they had a lot of metaphors and symbols in them so that they have psychological overtones and undercurrents. I was not out to preach or convey messages. Basically, painting is a design with lines, forms tones and colours. Lines that you found so profusely in my work had a language of their own whether they be vanishing, soft, broken, wide or firm. Lines create tension for the viewer."

"This work was different from the ones I had done earlier, for instance the colours had been muted and the forms different. What I paint today is dead for me tomorrow. I seek new images and forms

every day. I am seldom satisfied with my work and aspire to improve with time. I have used home-made materials and I liked surprising my viewers with my work."

"The exhibition which brought in the different tendencies during different periods presented a



Aminul Islam

same philosophy as mine in their own style."

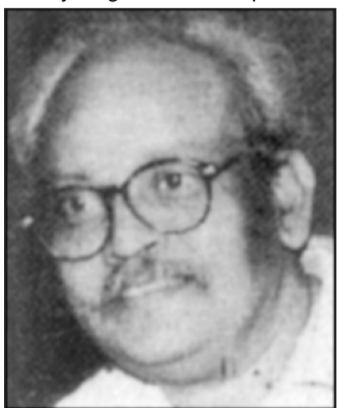
Rafiqun Nabi said, "Painting for me is the only media in which I can

historical background of 14 leading artists. The selection of the paintings were good too. The Indian High Commission gallery was clean and well-lit."

Qayyum Choudhury said, "I had given works of 1972, 1974, 1989 and 2001, which were figurative at first, such as 'Bangladesh '71,' while the second one was totally nonobjective and contained masses of motifs and designs. The third piece brought in nature. Today I'm concentrating on Bangladesh as before because I feel committed to bring in the images of our people on my canvas. I feel my painting should necessarily reflect my culture and heritage. I went into painting originally as it is in this way that I can best express myself and most other painters will tell you the same about themselves. I feel that the way social life is progressing, there is a definite lack of patriotism among our people."

"It is because we are not sure of cultural basis that there are so many conflicts and confusions facing us. If you can make the people love their country rather than hanker for aping the other progressive nations, I think we can make our country more

livable. I have enjoyed working in water-colour, acrylic and oils as my mediums. Pastels and pen and ink have also been very dear to me. My own teachers have inspired and influenced me greatly, specially Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hassan and Saifuddin Ahmed. I would like other younger artists to express the



Rafiqun Nabi

best express my views and emotions. This particular exhibition was interesting because it brought in the work from Saifuddin Ahmed to Mahmudul Haque, all the artists having given four paintings each, tracing their stages of progress up to the present time. The retrospec-



Mahmudul Haque

dimension. There are numerous mediums and trends, and they must select from one of them and work on that seriously, having found out what suits them best. In our time opportunities had been limited and our choices were fixed and few. We had a single target that we wanted to be painters with a purpose."

Mahmudul Haque said, "My paintings there were on a dream, spring, and an Untitled piece. When we had decided to have a painting exhibition, three or four of us planned it with Riva Ganguly of Indian High Commission. Since India is our neighbouring country, it is essential to have good relations with it and I think that this is best possible through art and culture. Thus exchanges of song, dance, theatrical performances and painting are essential to establish this friendship, whether this be through government or non-government process. In this way we will understand each other better. We hope that this exhibition will be taken to Delhi and other parts of India, so that without even being there ourselves, our works will be seen and appreciated. The Indians can thus have a chance to see what we are doing after the Liberation."

"An exhibition of such a stature has never been taken to India and what exhibits of our work have taken place in India have been of a scattered nature. It is essential to have a vital impact with this exhibi-

tion and not let it go as just any other display. This exhibition had presented 40 years of efforts of our senior painters. After this we hope to have an exhibition of 15 painters and yet another one bringing in younger generation of artists. Thus in the cities of India there will be a



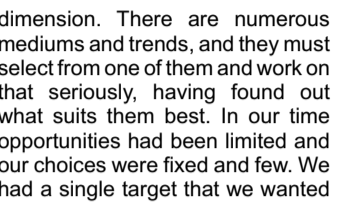
Safiuddin Ahmed

wakening of interest in Bangladesh via these paintings.

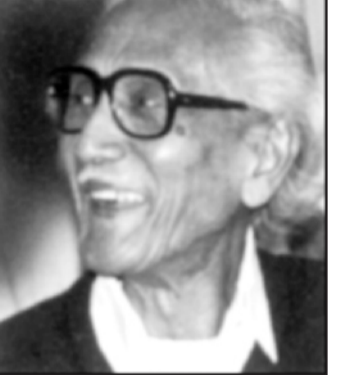
"As a teacher, I have tried to encourage my students to retain their heritage and to be very aware of their historical past. And these paintings should speak for themselves just as do the works of senior artists like Mohammed Kibria."

Abu Taher said, "I have brought out a book on my works via the Shilpakala Academy last year. I work on abstract expressionism and in my work are my feelings and emotions. The subject evolves from the canvas and grows through the process of work, taking a shape. In the present exhibition I had four abstract forms. I don't do my abstracts for the common man to comprehend just as he doesn't understand the theory of relativity. Similarly the common man will not appreciate 'Uchchanga Sangeet'. I prefer this style as perhaps it suits my creative urge."

Talking to the artists at the Indian High Commission function made one feel that one had drunk deep into some flagon of nectar. They spoke about their work and those of others and from them one could pick up many guidelines.



Abu Taher



Nazrul Islam

Nazrul Institute, in celebration of 102nd birth anniversary of National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, has chalked out a two-day long elaborate cultural and discussion programme on June 2&3 at Kabi Bhaban, House# 330/B, Rd.# 28, Dhanmondi R/A. Programme opens at 10:00 a.m. everyday.

### Contemporary Art of Bangladesh - Trends

Organised by the High Commission of India, a ten daylong exhibition titled 'Contemporary Art of Bangladesh - Trends' is being held at the High Commission of India Cultural Centre.

The exhibition will remain open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. till June 2.

### Group Exhibition

A group exhibition by six front ranking artists of the country will start at the Bengal Gallery from June 8.

The artists are - Saifuddin Ahmed, Mohammed Kibria, Kazi Giasuddin, Monirul Islam, Shahid Kabir and Shahabuddin.

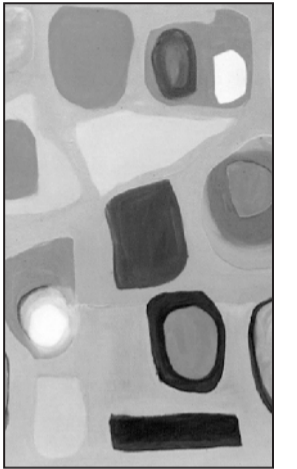
### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Dance Evening

Nreetyanchal presents a dance evening (Manipuri and Kathak) at the Natmondal, Dhaka University Campus (adjacent to the central mosque) on June 2 at 7:00 p.m.

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## TV GUIDE

### TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



**EKUSHEY: 8:00 p.m. Othi Apon.** Episode 3: Illut, Niyamat and Madhu tries to live in the house. They plan and write a letter to Oboni. But they fail to reach her even the second day.



**EKUSHEY: 8:30 p.m. Meril-Prothom Alo Award.** The award ceremony was held on May 1 with the presence of celebrities from different ranges. Hosted by Afzal Hossain it was definitely a glorious evening.



**HBO: 9:00 p.m. The Street: 07. Miracle on the Wall.** Jack Kenderson has grown accustomed to high pressure situations in his professional life, but nothing prepares him for the personal turmoil he faces with his fiancé, Alex Bill.



**STAR WORLD: 12 midnight Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World.** The Games: Empress Centuria has ordered her Lizardman to hunt and kill Tribune, who flees to the treehouse for help.

### PICK OF THE DAY



**Ed**  
On HBO at 10:00 p.m.  
Matt LeBlanc plays Cooper, a minor league pitcher experiencing a pitching slump. His dubious luck brings him an amazing roommate a new third baseman named Ed who just happens to be a chimp with amazing throwing skills.

### BTV

- Morning Session**  
9:10 Kheladhula  
9:35 Angona  
10:00 Shilpakol  
10:25 Shashatathaya  
10:40 Cultural show: Hrituranga  
11:10 Monche Nepothye  
12:30 Closing
- Evening Session**  
3:15 Magazine Show: Ityadi (Repeat)  
4:00 Khabar  
4:15 Tele-film: Brishtir Shabda  
6:00 Khabar  
6:10 Nibedan  
6:35 Programme from Chittagong station  
7:00 News Headlines  
7:05 Geetimalya  
7:30 Earth Final Conflict  
8:00 News in Bengali  
8:30 Drama of the week: Wonderland  
9:00 News Headlines  
9:30 Chitragagath  
10:00 Talk Show: Khola Janala  
10:30 News in English  
10:55 Sea is Green  
11:30 Khabar / The News  
11:45 Closing
- EKUSHEY TV**  
12:00 Ekushey Headlines  
12:05 Aiker Potrikay  
12:14 Ekattaurer Ei Dine  
12:20 Mukto Khobor  
12:50 English Film: The Fly  
2:30 Ei Shoptaho  
3:00 Ekushey Headlines  
3:05 Shorashori  
4:00 Mega Serial: Noorjahan  
5:00 Amazon  
6:00 Ekushey Headlines  
6:05 English Series: MacGyver  
7:00 Cartoon: Totally Tooned In  
7:30 Ekushey News  
8:00 Drama Serial: Othi Apon  
8:30 Bangla Film: Nishpotti  
10:30 News: Simulcast from BTV  
11:15 Ekushey Late Night News

### BBC WORLD

- 6:30 World Business Report  
7:30 Asia Today/World Business Report  
8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report  
9:30 Asia Today/World Business Report  
10:30 Talking Movies  
11:30 Eur Dir  
12:30 Click Online  
1:30 Correspondent  
2:00 Pole To Pole  
3:00 El Nino  
4:30 Holiday  
5:30 This Week  
6:00 Pole To Pole  
7:30 Click Online  
8:30 Face/Leptrosy  
9:30 El Nino  
10:30 Wheels  
11:30 This Week  
12:30 Earth Report  
1:30 Pole To Pole  
2:30 Talking Movies  
3:30 Face/Leptrosy  
4:30 Eur Dir  
5:30 This Week
- STAR GOLD**  
10:30 Woodland Bollywood News  
11:00 Geet Bahar  
11:30 Bawre Nain (Raj Kapoor, Geeta Bali)  
3:00 Woodland Bollywood News  
3:30 Albel (Bhagwan, Geeta Bali)  
7:00 Geet Bahar  
7:30 Saturday Special: Pyaar Kiye Jaa (Shashi Kapoor, Mehmoond, Kishore Kumar, Mumtaz)  
11:00 Rahein Na Rahein hum  
12:00 New Wave Cinema Dharavi (Om Puri, Shabana Azmi)  
12:30 Dharavi (Contd...)  
3:00 Geet Bahar  
3:30 Honeymoon (Rishi Kapoor, Ashwini Bhawe)  
7:00 Singaar (Madhubala, Suraiya)
- HBO**  
6:30 Space Jam  
8:30 Christmas On Division Street  
10:30 Nick Of Time  
12:15 Blowback  
2:00 Christina's House  
4:00 My Giant  
6:15 Contact  
9:00 The Street 07: Miracle on the Wall Street  
10:00 EDilee Plus  
12:00 Flight Of The Intruder

### 2:15 Nick of Time

- 4:00 Shakespeare in Love  
**STAR WORLD**  
7:00 The Simpsons  
7:30 Things People Do  
8:00 The Bold & The Beautiful  
10:00 That '70s Shows  
11:30 Travel Asia  
11:00 Fox Kids  
Goosebumps  
1:00 World Championship Wrestling Worldwide  
2:00 Mission Impossible  
3:00 Baywatch  
4:00 Hercules  
5:00 Xena  
6:00 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World  
7:00 First Wave  
8:00 Water Rats  
9:00 3rd Rock From the Sun  
9:30 Star News  
10:00 Baywatch Hawaii  
11:00 First Wave  
12:00 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World  
1:00 Xena  
2:00 Hercules  
3:00 Key of David  
3:30 Morris Cerullo  
4:00 Benny Hinn  
4:30 Space Island One  
5:30 Doggie Howser  
6:00 JAG  
**STAR PLUS**  
6:30 Star Geetmala  
7:30 Ek Main Aur Ek Tu  
8:00 Hit Ya Fit  
8:30 Good Morning India (Mumtaz)  
9:30 Fox Kids  
10:30 National Geographic Special  
11:30 Hit Ya Fit  
12:00 Kuchha Papad Pucca Papad  
12:30 Mirch Masala  
1:00 Sonpari  
1:30 Gharwali Uparwali  
2:00 I Love My India  
2:30 National Geographic Special  
3:30 Tea Time Cinema: Hum Intezar Karenga (Mithun, Padmini, Shakti Kapoor)  
4:30 Fox Kids Sunday  
7:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshiri  
8:30 STAR Events: Govinda No. 1  
11:30 Aaj Ki Baat  
11:45 Govinda No. 1 (contd)  
12:30 Jubilee Plus  
1:00 Kalash

### 1:30 Ji Mantriji

- 2:00 Tu Tu Main Main  
2:30 Sonpari  
3:00 Ek Main Aur Ek Tu  
3:30 National Geographic Special  
4:30 Musafir Hoon Yaroon  
5:00 Gharwali Uparwali  
5:30 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehti Thi  
**STAR MOVIES**  
6:15 Drama: He Got Game  
8:30 Action: Silicon Towers  
10:00 Comedy: The Parent Trap  
12:15 Drama: Blue Sky  
2:00 Comedy: Just One Night  
3:30 Drama: He Got Game  
5:45 Action: Nowhere In Sight  
7:00 Thrillennium: Enemy of the State  
9:15 Action: Final Impact  
11:00 Action: Silicon Towers  
12:30 Drama: One From The Heart  
2:00 Drama: He Got Game  
4:15 Comedy: Off Beat  
5:45 Thriller: Hand That Rocks The Cradle  
**HALLMARK TV**  
1:00 Sea Change  
2:00 Danger Bay  
3:00 Pack Of Lies  
5:00 Sesame Street  
6:00 The Baron And The Kid  
8:00 Ghostwriter  
8:30 Wishbone  
9:00 Sesame Street

### 10:00 A Childs Cry For Help

- 12:00 Rose Against The Odds  
2:00 The Baron And The Kid  
4:00 The Inspector PITT  
Mysteries: The Cater Street Hangman  
6:00 Brooklyn South  
7:30 Daisies In December  
9:00 CADFAEL: One Corpse Too Many  
11:00 Weird World  
**ANIMAL PLANET**  
6:30 Hollywood Safari  
7:30 Animal Hospital  
8:00 Wild Rescue  
8:30 Animals A-Z  
10:00 Natural World  
10:30 Zoo  
11:00 Parklife: Africa  
12:00 Zig & Zag: Alpha Dog Challenge  
12:30 Planet's Funniest Animals, The Season 2  
1:00 Wild On The Set II  
1:30 Jeff Corwin Experience, The  
2:30 Champions of the Wild II  
3:00 Living Dangerously I  
3:30 Animal Planet Safari  
4:30 Animal Dramas  
5:30 Animal Encounters II  
6:00 Amazing Animals  
6:30 Twisted Tales  
7:00 Animal Legends

### 7:00 [V] Best of Jumpstart

- 7:30 [V] Billboard US Countdown  
11:30 [V] Saturday Stack  
2:30 [V] Mainstage  
3:30 [V] Saturday Stack  
5:30 [V] Weekend Spl  
6:30 [V] Saturday Stack  
8:00 [V] Karaoke  
8:30 [V] [V] Billboard US Countdown  
9:30 [V] Saturday Stack  
10:00 [V] Saturday Stack  
10:30 Club [V]  
11:30 Weekend Spl  
12:30 [V] So Long Gone  
**SONY TV**  
7:30 Amrit Varsha  
8:00 Sant Asaram Wani  
8:30 Uttar Ramayan  
9:00 Shree Ganesh  
10:00 Indian Holiday  
10:30 Good Morning Disney  
11:30 Mere Angans Mein  
12:00 Family No. 1  
12:30 Hum Sub Ek H  
1:00 Yeh Duniya H Rangeen  
1:30 Weekend Mati  
5:30 Chartisters  
6:00 Music Mantra  
6:30 Disney Hour  
7:30 Boogie Woogie  
8:00 Makingof Sik  
8:30 Salsila  
12:30 Boogie Woogie  
1:00 Heena  
1:30 CID  
2:00 Aahat  
2:30 Makingof Sik  
3:00 Indian Holiday  
3:30 Late Night fi  
6:30 The Popaddun show  
7:00 Rang Birang  
**SET MAX**  
7:30 Mini Movies: Zabak  
8:30 Harmony  
9:30 Tansen  
12:30 Hotlist  
1:30 The Art Collection: Sazaye Maut  
4:30 Kahani Poori Film Hai: Mere Apne  
5:30 Saturday Evening HFF: Ek Ladka Ek Ladki  
9:30 Aaya Toofan  
1:30 Harmony  
2:30 Sazaye Maut  
5:00 Shan-E-Khuda  
**ZEE TV**  
6:15 Yaadon Ke Pal  
6:45 Old Is Gold  
7:00 Bhakti Geet  
7:30 Amrit Kalash  
8:00 Jai Ganesha  
9:00 Nickelodeon (Sponge Bob)  
9:30 Nickelodeon (Rocko's S)  
10:00 Guldasta  
10:30 Filmi Chakkar  
11:10 Chota Muh Aur Badi Baat  
11:30 Yeh Hi Hai Zindagi  
12:00 Amanat  
12:30 Khana Khazana  
1:00 Zee & You  
1:25 Jhalak  
1:30 Saath Saath  
2:00 Yeh Hai Mumbai Jaan...  
2:30 First Take  
3:00 Rishyeh The - Love Stories  
4:00 Naye Nazrane  
4:30 Antakshari  
5:00 Gaane Anjane  
6:30 Nickelodeon On Zee  
7:00 Nickelodeon (Allen)  
7:30 Saregama  
8:30 Fareb  
11:30 Hamare Tumhare  
12:00 Guldasta  
1:30 Basera  
Rishyeh The - Love Stories  
2:30 Aasmaan Se Tapki  
3:00 Gaane Anjane  
3:30 Shabnam  
**ZEE MUSIC**  
6:00 Dial M  
7:30 Alaap  
8:00 Tararum  
8:30 Hit Pe Hit  
10:30 Hit Mix  
11:00 Fillers  
11:30 Zee Music Box  
12:00 Best Of The Best  
1:00 Hit Pe Hit  
2:00 Jharokha

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11:30 Zee Music Box  
12:00 Best Of The Best  
1:00 Hit Pe Hit  
2:00 Jharokha

### 2:35 Compact Disc

- 3:05 Tararum  
4:00 Hit Pe Hit  
5:00 Zee Music Box  
5:30 Hit Mix  
6:00 Just Jammin  
6:30 Dial M  
7:30 Hit Pe Hit  
8:30 Zee Music.Com  
9:30 Zee Music Box  
10:00 Sizzlers  
10:30 Jharokha  
11:5 Zee Music Live/ Cool-Age  
11:35 Zee Music Live/Pyar Mohabbat Etc  
12:00 Phoren Maal  
12:35 Phoren Maal  
2:35 Zee Music Box  
1:30 Jharokha  
2:30 Hit Pe Hit  
3:00 Just Jammin  
3:00 Tararum  
**ALPHA TV BANGLA**  
6:00 Jeebon Rekha  
6:30 Swami Vivekanand  
7:30 News Bulletin  
8:00 Aalaap  
9:00 News Bulletin  
9:05 Bharat Bhraman  
9:30 Cine News  
10:00 Mayurakshi Tumi Dile  
10:30 Daibaddho  
11:00 Swapnoneel  
11:30 Gihashaja  
12:00 Bahari Ahaar  
12:30 Swapno Niye/Phire Elam  
1:00 Ingt  
1:30 Ek Akasher Niche  
2:00 Nayantara  
2:30 ANUPAMA-Feature Film  
5:00 Daibaddho  
5:30 Beauty Parlour/ Disney  
6:00 Alpha Khabor  
6:05 Jhankar  
6:30 Aatpake Bandha  
7:00 Saffalya  
7:25 Jhankar  
7:30 Sur Taal  
7:55 Jhankar  
8:00 Saat Rang  
8:30 Chokher Bali  
9:00 Jonotar Dorbare  
9:30 Triyo Purush  
10:00 News Bulletin  
10:05 Ek Palake  
10:00 Saat Kahan  
10:40 Ek Palake  
10:45 Nati Binodini  
11:15 Alpha Khabor  
11:40 Ek Palake  
11:45 Netaji Subhash Chandra  
12:15 Surer Ei Jhama Dhara  
23:55 Ek Palake  
0:00 Cine News  
0:30 Bharat Bhraman  
1:00 Bengali Feature Film  
3:30 Swapna Niye

### SPORTS

- ESPN**  
7:30 NBA Playoffs Conference Finals Game #6 (If Necessary)  
10:00 Sportscenter Hindi  
10:30 NBA Action  
11:00 US Women's Open Golf  
11:30 Women's Pro Billiards  
12:30 World Cup Qualifying  
2:30 ATP Tennis Show  
3:00 Championship 2001  
1:00 ECB International Cricket  
2:00 National Spelling Bee  
4:00 Bowling World Tenpin Masters 2001  
5:00 Women's Pro Billiards  
6:00 NHL Playoffs-Stanley Cup Finals Game #3  
**STAR SPORTS**  
6:30 ECB International Cricket  
7:30 The Npower Test Series  
8:00 The Npower Test Series  
8:30 Pakistan @ England 2nd Test, Day 3, 1st Session  
9:00 Spanish League Highlights 2000/01 Spanish League Highlist  
9:30 ECB International Cricket  
10:00 The Npower Test Series  
10:30 Manchester, England  
11:00 Pakistan @ England 2nd Test, Day 3, 2nd & 3rd Session  
11:30 PGA Tour Golf Memorial Tournament Dublin, OH USA First Rounds  
12:00 Sudirman Cup 2001  
12:30 Seville, Spain Fianls  
1:30 Spanish League Highlights 2000/01 Spanish League Highlist  
2:00 Formula Nippon 2001  
2:30 Twin Rink Motegi, Japan Round  
3:55 ECB International Cricket  
4:30 The Npower Test Series  
5:00 Manchester, England  
5:30 Pakistan @ England 2nd Test, Day 3, 1st Session  
6:00 Spanish League Highlights 2000/01 Spanish League Highlist  
6:30 ECB International Cricket  
7:00 The Npower Test Series  
7:30 Manchester, England  
8:00 Pakistan @ England 2nd Test, Day 2, Highlights