

Cinema

Travails of making a prize-winning film on Bangladesh

Premiere of *Chittagong: Last Stopover* today at Alliance Francaise

FAYZA HAQ

ZEAUX Productions' *Chittagong Last Stopover*, which won the best director's award in Oregon, USA, and other prizes in Russia, Manheim (Germany) and Thailand be screened today at Alliance Francaise auditorium.

Shishir Bhattacharjee, an interpreter and organizer of the film, says about the background of the film, "Leo Desclozeaux is a French film maker. Normally he makes documentaries. He made his first film in Bangladesh in 1990 which was based on the River Jumuna focusing on Rulipara village. He captured the struggle of the people there and this comprised of an hour film which took one month. There is a copy of this at Alliance Francaise. Two years later he made another such film, *Return to Bangladesh* and this was a record of the state of affairs of the same people a couple of years later. In 1993 Desclozeaux made a third film on ship breakers in Chittagong. From here he got the inspiration to make a feature film. He is a bit eccentric by nature and tended to criticise the adverse aspects of the country which tended to irritate him. The French Embassy contacted me to help him out to have better rapport with the people. Patrick Benquet was the director along with this director.

At that time I was 25, and having lived in France I felt that there were adverse aspects of France too and Desclozeaux was being needlessly irritable. With time, he learnt to love the country and appreciate it to the last iota. Later Desclozeaux made a film on Myanmar on the life of Aung San Suu Kyi which had a duration of an hour and I worked on this film too. Desclozeaux still carried the hope of making a Bangladeshi film and sent people to write

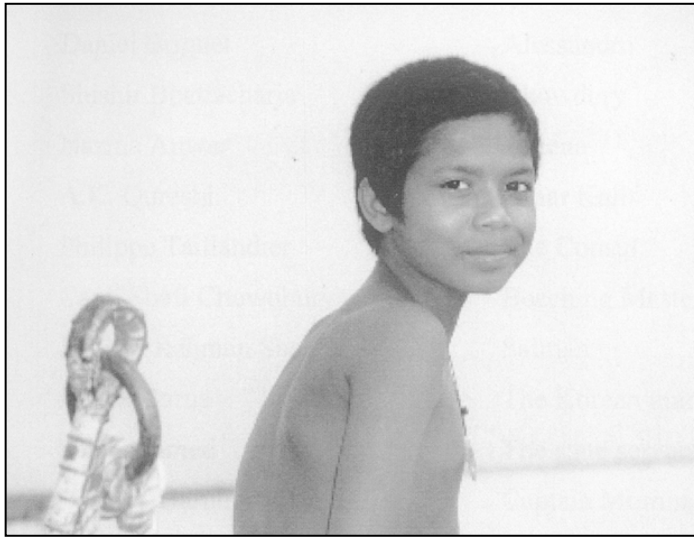
scripts. In 1996 he decided to write his own script. His idea was to combine Rulipara with little boats and water with small villages in the Jamuna pockets. He also wanted to include ship breaking. Ships can be used for 30 years on the maximum. His experience in Gaptoli included a beautiful young woman breaking stone. For him this was a wastage of human charm and energy. Touched by this scene he wanted to make a heroine of this destitute woman. He gave these points to Jacques Dubuisson, and Annick Denoyelle who are famous script writers and visited different points of Bangladesh including Sylhet, Chittagong and Rulipara to study the scenario. He sent Farida Sadiki, an Algerian film expert to stay in Bangladesh and study women's conditions in the country and she wrote a screen play. He returned in 1997 with cameramen and he could afford it as he has a film producing company of his own apart from running a film making school of his own.

"He wanted to bring the village woman in his story to bring in a French sea captain with a broken heart to the plot. He wanted them to develop a friendship and come to the village. Dubuisson wanted to include an image of his own son Oscar who was born in the later years of his life, and he is extremely fond of children. In the village the couple was to face some acute and I suggested banishment as I was inspired by Taslima Nasreen, whose works I had translated. In that terrible state, breaking bricks in the town the hero was to see her and fall for her charms... In the film he is portrayed as saying to himself, 'my ship is broken and I am so disheartened while this woman has nothing to her name and yet she is struggling bravely'. In 1998 he came twice more determined to

make the film before going back to France.

Talking about the problems that they faced in making the film, Shishir says, "As we needed the permission to make the film it fell on me to go and get it from the Information Ministry. When a foreign film-maker wants to make his own production like EPZ, it was not clear as what was required of us. We went to FDC and Dubuisson became a member of the producers' committee and we submitted the scripts to the Information Ministry. We were sent to the DFP and they wanted to examine the screen play and commented that this was not a positive film on Bangladesh. Dubuisson, meanwhile, had already taken three million francs loan from a bank and had brought the money to Bangladesh. In order to open an account in Bangladesh it had to be a personal account. To form a company to open the account we need the permission of BOI (Board of Investment). We waited for months and bureaucracy had to be handled with ingenuity and discretion. Finally Seauz Production was able to bring in the money as one crore takas.

"For the film we needed a big oil tanker in the Bay of Bengal and we required a patron of the ship who would let us enter the ship three or four days before the beaching. A beaching master had to be hired to bring the ship to the shore when the tide is high and the moon is full, as close to the beach as possible. We had seen a ship called 'Vega-T' but the proprietor was not agreeing to our price and this took time to resolve. It was in May 1998 when Desclozeaux could not wit any more with his crew and camera, we went through more red tapism and unavoidable underhand manipulation before things could be sorted out.



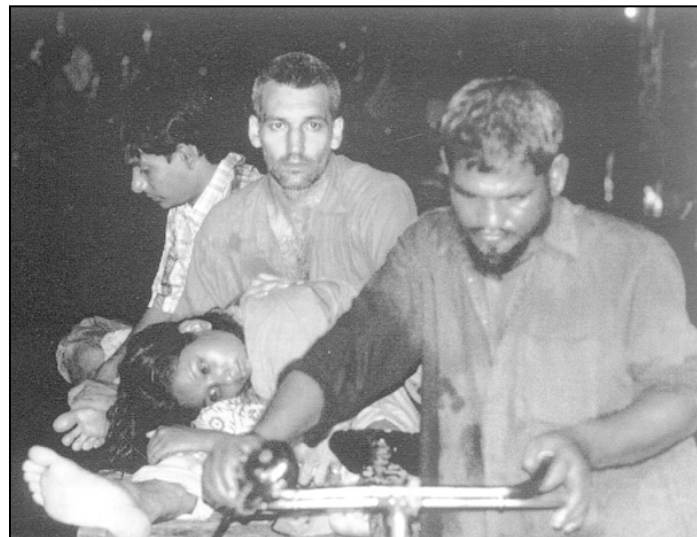
Moti, Alima's son.



Alima (Suchona) waiting for a bath near a water pump in the village Rulipara.



Ship breaking yard, an integral part of the film



Captain Paul (Julien Morel) and Bishwajit (Sulaiman) bringing Alima (Suchona) to a hospital in Chandpur.

Asked to explain the controversy over the well-known Bangladeshi actress Afsana Mimi, Shishir explains, "We had booked the whole train for just 20 people and this had an astronomical price, Afsana Mimi was one of the co-producers from 'Thikhana' with Kais Chowdhury and Tony Dais. She had a problem with the GMG flight coming to Chittagong as it had to take

off twice. She got superstitious about the project from the outset as a result. Again, she insisted on putting some colour on her skin in order to look like a typical village woman and our producer was irritated with this as he wanted not make up but natural beauty and this again flustered Afsana Mimi. Also, there were just the essential number of people required in the train,

whereas, Afsana Mimi felt that more people should have been included."

The caste includes Julien Maurel, Suchona, Bishwajit Sen Gupta, Bilal Mia, Daniel Briquet, Philippe Taillandier, Dr Md Harunur Rashid and others. The authors include Leo Desclozeaux, Olivier Marvaud, Anita Sool, Jacques Dubuisson and Annick Denoyelle. Camera

operator include Franck Rabel and Christophe Bidot. While the film editor is Anne-France Lebrun.

All problems overcome, the premiere of the film is now being held today at Alliance Francaise at 6pm, along with an introductory lecture by Shishir Bhattacharjee and Christophe Didot.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Ambiance

The inauguration of an exhibition titled 'Ambiance' by Debesh Goswami is being held at the National Museum. The exhibition will continue everyday from 9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. till December 20.

Eid exhibition

The Eid exhibition and the launching of www.kaykraft.com of fashion house Kay Kraft is being held at the VVA auditorium (H-20, Rd-27). The exhibition will continue everyday from 12:00 - 9:00 p.m. till December 15.

Photography for life

A charity exhibition titled 'Photography for life' for a little boy Badhon who has Blood Cancer is being held at the Indian Cultural Centre (754 Satmasjid Road). Organised by The Third Eye and supported by The High Commission of India the exhibition will come to an end today.

Abrar's creative jewelry

Abrar Rahman opens a week long exhibition of his exclusive collection of gold plated costume jewelry. The ethnic designs in gold plated silver are set with wooden, plastic and semi-precious stones and beads. This is the third exhibition of the jewelry designer in the city and showcases a truly exclusive collection of collectible jewelry for fashion conscious women. The exhibition is being held in the VVA auditorium at House no 20 of Dhanmondi road number 27 (old) 16 (new).

TV GUIDE

EKUSHEY TV

- 2:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 2:05 Aiker Patrikay
- 2:14 Ekatturer Ei Dine
- 2:15 Bangla Film: Hangor Nodi Graned
- 3:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 3:05 Bangla Film: Hangor Nodi Graned
- 4:30 Gillette World Sports Special
- 5:00 Islamic Program: Oishee
- 5:30 E Shoptaher Bishsho
- 6:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 6:05 WWF Smackdown
- 6:55 Ekushey Headlines
- 7:00 Mukto Khobor
- 7:30 Ekushey News
- 7:58 Ek Minute
- 8:00 Anondo
- 8:30 Ekushey Shapthahik 2000 Eid Fashion-2001
- 9:00 Ekushey News
- 9:05 Shukrobarer Natak: Dayagonj
- 10:00 News : Simulcast from BTV
- 10:30 Drama Serial: Nilanjona
- 11:00 Ekushey Late Night News
- 11:30 Ei Shoptaho
- 12:00 Ekushey Headlines
- ATN BANGLA**
- Morning Programme**
- 03:30 Sehri Prog. "Mobarak Ho Mahey Ramadan"
- 05:30 "Islamic Prog" Directed by Arkan Ullah Haruni.
- 07:00 Islamic Prog. "Sunder Jeebaner Jannee"
- 07:35 Film Prog. "Goto Saptaher Chobi"
- 08:00 ATN Bangla News
- 08:25 Musical Prog. "Gan Sudu Gan "Singer: Kanij Subarna
- 09:00 Musical Prog. "Amar Sukh Amar Biroh"
- 09:35 Kawali Prog. "Mahy Ramadan"
- 10:10 Reporting Prog. "Prekha Pot"
- 11:30 "Islamic Prog" Directed by Arkan Ullah Haruni.
- 12:00 ATN Bangla News
- Evening Programme**
- 04:30 Iftar Prog. "Mobarak Ho Mahey Ramadan"
- 06:07 Child's Prog. "Cholo Gan Gai"
- 06:45 Viewers Request Prog: "Motamot"
- 07:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
- 07:35 Drama Serial "Uttaran"
- 08:10 Musical prog. "Merial Tumar Janne Gan"
- 08:45 Eid Fashion Show
- 09:20 Drama Serial. "Goenda Kahent"
- 10:00 ATN Bangla News
- 10:45 Drama "Shemany Aka" Bengali feature film "Dhaka-86"
- 11:30 ATN Bangla News

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 Today/World Business Report
- 9:00 BBC News
- 9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
- 10:00 BBC News
- 10:30 World Business Report/Sport Today
- 11:00 BBC News
- 11:30 World Business Report
- 12:00 BBC News
- 12:30 World Business Report/Sport Today
- 1:00 BBC News
- 1:30 Top Gear
- 2:00 BBC News
- 2:30 Hardtalk
- 3:00 BBC News
- 3:30 Talking Movie
- 4:00 BBC News
- 4:30 Life
- 5:00 BBC News
- 5:30 Hardtalk
- 6:00 BBC News
- 6:30 World Business Report/Sport Today
- 7:00 BBC News
- 7:30 Talking Movies
- 8:00 BBC News
- 8:30 Life
- 9:00 BBC News
- 9:30 Asia Today
- 10:00 BBC News
- 10:15 World Business Report
- 10:30 Hardtalk India
- 11:30 World Business Report/Sport Today
- 12:00 BBC News
- 12:30 Hardtalk
- 1:00 BBC News
- 1:30 QED, Clarkson
- 2:00 BBC News
- 2:30 World Business Report
- 3:00 BBC News
- 3:30 Correspondent ex supporting Roles
- 4:00 BBC News
- 4:30 World Business Report/Asia Today
- 5:00 BBC News
- 5:30 Hardtalk
- HBO**
- 6:30 Tales From The Crypt: Demon Knight
- 8:30 Murderous Vision Vampire In Brooklyn
- 10:30 The Huntress
- 2:15 Official Denial
- 4:00 Mercy
- 5:45 I know What You Did Last Summer
- 7:45 October Sky
- 10:30 Twister
- 12:15 Band of Brothers 07: The Breaking Point Vampire In Brooklyn
- 1:45

3:45 The Natural STAR GOLD

- 10:30 Amul Bollywood News
- 11:00 Geet Bahar
- 11:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
- 12:00 BBC News
- 3:00 Amul Bollywood News
- 3:30 Anhonee (Sanjeev Kumar, Leena Chandavarkar)
- 7:00 Geet Bahar
- 7:30 Saturday Shukrawar Balika Badhu(Sachin)
- 11:00 Amul Bollywood News
- 11:30 Haqueqat (Balraj Sahni, Dharmendra)
- 12:30 Haqueqat (contd)
- 3:00 Geet Bahar
- 3:30 Anhonee (Sanjeev Kumar, Leena Chandavarkar)
- 7:00 Balika Badhu(Sachin)
- STAR WORLD**
- 6:00 Happy Days
- 6:30 3rd Rock From The Sun
- 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 8:00 Water Rats
- 9:00 Roswell
- 9:00 Temptation Island
- 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 12:00 Maria Law
- 1:00 Media TV
- 1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
- 2:00 Mork & Mindy
- 2:30 Happy Days
- 3:00 Baywatch
- 4:00 The Simpsons
- 4:30 3rd Rock From The Sun
- 5:00 Star News Asia
- 5:30 Friends
- 6:00 World's Wildest Police Videos
- 6:45 Asia News
- 7:00 Nash Bridges
- 8:00 Bugs
- 9:00 Friends
- 9:30 World's Wildest Police Videos
- 10:30 Nash Bridges
- 11:30 Bugs
- 12:30 World's Wildest Police Videos
- 1:30 Nash Bridges
- 2:30 It's Supernatural
- 3:00 Morris Cerullo
- 3:30 Exalted Word
- 4:00 Creflo Dollar, Changing Your World
- 4:30 World News
- 5:00 Mission Impossible
- STAR PLUS**
- 6:00 Sanskruti
- 6:30 Star Geetmala
- 7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain
- 8:00 Aatma
- 9:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

- EKUSHEY:** 9:05 p.m. *Dayagonj*. Dayagonj is a typical village of Bangladesh. Village girl Tia has a childhood dream - to become an actress. She does not miss a single film. Then one day she meets Bablu, in who she finds her dream character. But when Bablu leaves she is in pain. Then one day she leaves the village in search of Bablu.
- EKUSHEY:** 10:30 p.m. *Nilanjana*. Episode 4: Shila tells Rimi that she will marry Reshad. On the other hand Tuli advertises in the paper for Reshad, it said - 'Pinu did not die. Reshad Bhalya come back'. In the morning Shila wakes up and realises that there is no bandage on her eyes and she can even see. Seeing her Reshad and Rimi thinks that she is still having problems with her eyesight.
- STAR MOVIES:** 7:00p.m. *youpicktheflick.com: A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The classic Shakespearean romantic comedy, featuring Pfeiffer and Everett as the King and Queen of the fairies, as well as a pair of confused lovers falling in and out of love in a magical forest. Raves for Kline's performance as the donkey-headed Nick Bottom.

PICK OF THE DAY

- Twister**
- Travel with a bunch of dedicated and crazy scientists as they try to unravel how tornados work. Their mad operandi is simple. Get inside them. This film marks the collaboration of some of the finest talents Hollywood has seen.

SPORTS

- 6:30 Nickelodeon On Zee
- 7:00 Nickelodeon
- 7:30 Ek Nazar
- 8:00 Hip Hip Hurray
- 8:30 Ek Tukda Chand Ka
- 9:00 Mujhe Dore Koi Khinche
- 9:30 Choti Maa Ek Anokha Bhandhan
- 10:00 Koi Apna Sa
- 10:30 Aaj Bhi... Ateet
- 11:00 Dollar Bah
- 11:30 Shri 420
- 12:00 Gharana
- 12:30 Koshish Ek Aashaa
- 1:00 Aaj Bhi... Ateet
- 1:30 Dollar Bahu
- 2:00 Hip Hip Hurray
- 2:30 Gudgudee
- 3:00 Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani-Feature Film
- 3:30 News in Hindi
- ZEE CINEMA**
- 7:00 Tararum
- 7:30 Amar Shakti -Feature Film
- 10:15 Kuch Lamhe Kuch Nagme
- 10:30 Kab Tak Chup Rahungi - Feature Film
- 1:15 Madhyantar
- 1:30 Aao Pyar Karen Feature Film
- 5:00 Darpan
- 5:15 Making of a Legend
- 5:45 Film Time
- 6:00 Suraj Feature Film
- 9:15 Cine News
- 9:30 Ikke Pe Ikka
- 10:00 Shatranj Ke Khiladi
- 10:30 NaukarFeature Film
- 12:00 My Friend Su Feature

SPORTS

- 1:15 Cine News
- 1:30 Kamasutra Feature Film
- 4:00 Kuch Lamhe Kuch Nagme
- 4:30 Naya Daur Feature Film
- ZEE MUSIC**
- 6:00 Music Plus
- 7:00 Aalaap
- 7:30 Tara Rum
- 8:30 Hit Pe Hit
- 10:30 Hit Mix
- 11:00 Dil Se
- 11:30 Music Box
- 12:00 Music Plus
- 1:00 Hit Pe Hit
- 2:30 Jharokha
- 2:35 Pyaar Mohabbat Etc
- 3:05 Tara Rum
- 4:00 Hit Pe Hit
- 5:00 Music Box
- 5:30 Hit Mix
- 6:00 Artist Of The Fortnight
- 6:30 Music Plus
- 7:30 Hit Pe Hit
- 8:30 Dial M
- 9:30 Music Box
- 10:00 Sizzlers
- 10:30 Jharokha
- 11:05 Compact Disc
- 11:35 Phoren Maal
- 12:35 Shabab
- 1:05 Music Box
- 1:30 Jharokha
- 2:00 Hit Pe Hit
- 3:00 Dil Se
- 3:30 Tara Rum
- 4:30 Phoren Maal
- 5:30 Sizzlers
- ALPHA TV BANGLA**
- 6:00 Chokher Bali/Football
- 6:30 Tritiyo Purush
- 7:00 Nayantara
- 7:30 News In Bengali
- 8:00 Surer Ei Jharnadhara
- 8:30 Monniye
- 9:00 News
- 9:05 Bharat Bhraman
- 9:30 Ki Likhi Tomai
- 10:00 Bideshini Bodhu
- 10:30 Bhalobasa Mandosa
- 11:00 Nayantara
- 11:30 Ebar Jombe Moja
- 12:00 Jhara Samayer Uapakatha
- 12:30 Chena Mukher Shari
- 1:00 Ingit
- 1:30 Ek Akasher Niche
- 2:00 Pratibimba
- 2:30 Sharna -Feature Film
- 5:00 Surer Ei Jharna Dharay
- 5:30 Dour
- 6:00 News In Bengali
- 6:30 Chokher Bali/De Re
- 7:00 Nayantara
- 7:30 Monniye
- 8:00 Pratibimba
- 8:30 Ek Akasher Niche
- 9:15 Chena Mukh Shari

SPORTS

- 9:30 Fox Kids Daily
- 10:30 Small Wonder
- 11:00 Pal Chhin
- 11:30 Saahil
- 12:00 Shanti
- 12:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
- 1:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
- 1:30 Blackout
- 2:00 Mirch Masala
- 2:30 Star Bestseller- Bhoron Ne Khilaya Phool
- 3:00 Jubilee Plus
- 4:00 The Simpsons
- 4:30 3rd Rock From The Sun
- 5:00 Star News Asia
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- 4:00 Creflo Dollar, Changing Your World
- 4:30 World News
- 5:00 Mission Impossible
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SPORTS

- 1:30 Here On Earth
- 3:15 For The Moment
- 5:15 Three Days
- 7:00 2100 MV Sea
- 9:00 Titan A E
- 10:45 Mumford
- 12:30 Ring Of Fire II
- 2:30 Blackout
- 4:15 Going To Kansas City
- ZEE TV**
- 6:00 Yaadon Ke Pal
- 6:30 Nba Acton Goals!
- 7:00 Here We Go
- 7:30 Sportscenter Hindi
- 8:30 Here We Go
- 9:30 Nba Basketball Memphis, TN USA Minnesota Timberwolves @ Memphis Grizzlies
- 11:30 Sportscenter Hindi
- 12:00 Cricket Magazine India's Greatest Cricket Moments Dhaka, Bangladesh India @ Pakistan 98 B'Desh Silver Jubilee 2' Odi H/Ls
- 1:00 Italian Serie A Football Italian Serie A 2001/2002 Turin, Italy Perugia @ Juventus FC
- 3:00 Sportscenter Hindi
- 3:30 Boxing Series Friday Night Fights Ledyard, CT USA
- 5:00 Women's College Volleyball Women's Big Ten Volleyball Columbus, OH USA Michigan state @ Ohio State
- 6:00 Ek Nazar
- 11:00 Ek Tukda Chand Ka
- 11:30 Ek Nazar
- 12:00 Woh Haseen Pal
- 1:00 Hamare Tumhare
- 1:25 Jhalak
- 2:00 Koi Apna Sa
- 2:30 Choti Maa Ek Anokha Bhandhan
- 3:00 Gharana
- 3:30 NaukarFeature Film
- 6:00 Ek Nazar

SPORTS

- 7:30 Sportsline Today
- 8:30 Fim Asia Road Racing C'Ship Review
- 9:30 International Motorsports News International Motorsport News 2001
- 10:30 The Straits Cup 2001 Straits Cup Guilin, China Day Three Highlights
- 12:30 Sportsline Today
- 1:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League
- 1:30 Golf Tournament Holden Australian Open Golf Championship Queensland, Australia Day One
- 3:30 Sportsline Tonight
- 4:00 Sports Unlimited
- 5:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 5:30 The Straits Cup 2001 Straits Cup Guilin, China Day Three Highlights
- 8:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 9:00 Here We Go!
- 9:30 Football Asia
- 10:30 Australian Domestic Cricket Adelaide, Australia New Zealand @ Southern Redbacks Day 3 Highlights
- 10:30 Sportsline Tonight
- 11:00 Champions Trophy Sharjah, UAE 5' Odi, Highlights
- 12:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 12:30 Cricket Programming Super Selector November Winners
- 1:30 Golf Tournament Holden Australian Open Golf Championship Queensland, Australia Day One
- 3:30 Sportsline Tonight
- 4:00 Sports Unlimited
- 5:00 Sportsline Tonight
- 5:30 The Straits Cup 2001 Straits Cup Guilin, China Day Three Highlights

SPORTS

- 9:45 Ingit
- 10:15 Dai Baddha
- 10:45 Ek Palake
- 10:50 Bangla News Bulletin
- 10:55 Ek Palake
- 11:00 News In Bengali
- 11:30 Talk Jhaal Misti
- 11:55 Ek Palake
- 12:00 Chokher Bali/De Re
- 12:55 Ek Palake
- 12:30 Bangla Feature Film
- 3:00 Ki Likhi Tomai
- 3:30 Bharat Bhraman
- 4:00 Pratibimba
- 4:30 Ek Akasher Niche
- 5:00 Chena Mukher Shari
- 5:30 Zee Jalsa
- STAR NEWS**
- 07:00 Breakfast News
- 6:00 Star Khel
- 6:30 Bollywood News
- 7:00 Star Bazaar
- 7:30 Saat Baje
- 8:00 Hotline
- 8:30 Tonight at 8
- 9:00 Star Samachar
- 9:30 Star News English
- 10:00 Star Business News
- 10:30 Star Newshour
- 11:30 Star News English
- 12:00 Star News Hindi
- 12:30 Sports Tonight
- SET MAX**
- 12:30 Kutumb
- 1:00 The Good Home Show
- 1:30 Kkusum
- 2:00 Ek Mahal Ho Sanno Ka
- 2:30 Tulpe Dil Qurban
- 3:00 Aahat Specials
- 4:00 Boogie Woogie
- 4:30 Just Mohabbat
- 5:00 Mahayaga
- 5:30 Challenge
- 6:00 Kaun Apna Kaun Pararya
- 6:30 Yeh Shaadi Nahi Ho Sakti
- 7:00 Saaya
- 7:30 Amrit Varsha
- 8:00 Vani Sant Asaram
- 8:30 Chartbusters
- 9:00 Good Morning Disney
- 10:00 Music Mantra
- 10:30 Indian Holi
- 11:00 Mahayaga
- 11:30 Challenge
- 12:30 Saaya
- 1:00 Thodi Si Bewafa
- 1:30 Kkusum
- 2:00 Kanyadaan
- 2:30 Tulpe Dil Qurban
- 3:00 Weekday Matinee: Pyar Rahi
- 6:00 Just Mohabbat
- 6:30 Disney Hour
- 7:30 Chartbusters
- 8:30 Music Mantra
- 9:00 Boogie Woogie
- 9:30 Dil Se Door
- 10:00 Heena
- 10:30 CID