

CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre Festival
Title: Angkey Boichitrey
Organiser: Theatre
Venue: Experimental theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: November 27-December 03, at 6:30pm everyday
Schedule
 November 29 Prachya (Dhaka Theatre)
 November 30 Jalbalika (Podatik Natya Shangshad)
 December 01 Shampannaiya (Uttaradhikar, Chittagong)
 December 02 Raktakarabi (Nagorik Natya Shamprodaya)
 December 03 Madhobi (Theatre)
Sponsor: HSBC
 Tickets available at Shagar Publishers, Baily road and Pathak Shambesh, Shahabgh

Painting Exhibition
Artist: Ranjit Das
Venue: Shilpangan, Road #5, House #25, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
Time: November 28-December 11, 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8:30pm

Exhibition
Title: Christmas & Winter Collection
Organiser: Art & Soul Gallery
Time: November 28-December 26, from 11am to 6pm
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, House 15, Road 36, Gulshan I

Documentary Show
Title: Month of Documentary
Organiser: Alliance Francaise
Time: November 28-30
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road
Schedule:
 November 29
 5:00pm Marguerite telle qu'en elle-meme
 7:00pm La vie sans Ibrahim
 November 30
 5:00pm Grand Littoral
 7:00pm On n'est pas des marques de velo

Another laurel for Aly Zaker

ERSHAD KAMOL

ALY Zaker scored another win two days ago--the prestigious Martyr Muneir Chowdhury Award for his life time achievement in theatre. After a break caused by illness, eminent theatre personality of the country, Aly Zaker, is back to his cultural groove. A few months ago he remade a popular Nagorik production *Kopiniker Captain*. Now, he is busy with the adaptation of playwright Hanif Kureshi's stage-play *The Borderline* for his group.

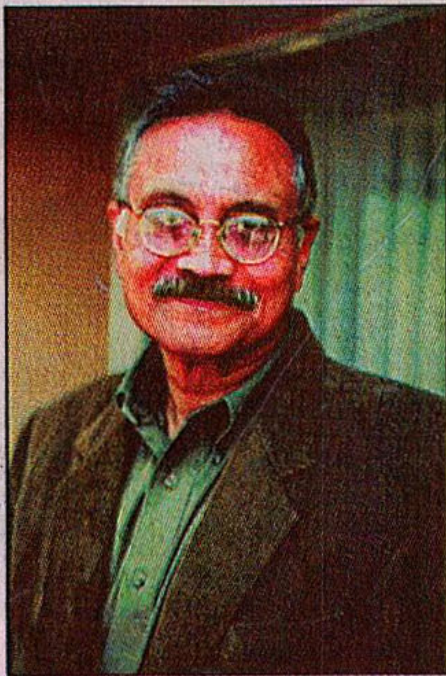
Talking about the problems faced in the course of the re-staging process of *Kopiniker Captain*, Zaker who is the President of Nagorik Natyasamradya, says, 'Most of the performers of the current production of *Kopiniker Captain* are young and are doing very well. In few cases they are doing better than the performers of the earlier production of the same play. That is why I have not faced many problems.

In fact, new theatre activists have potential and their approach is very positive. Those who are continuing in theatre, after a certain period are proving their talents because they are being trained by experts. This was tough to get in earlier days,' he adds.

On the subject of when he plans to stage the adapted version of *The Borderline*, Zaker says, 'Hopefully within three months through a festival. I am talking with Ataur Rahman, the general secretary of Nagorik to arrange a festival including only Nagorik productions.

We have three current productions already. I am planning to re-start our popular play *Dewan Gazir Kissa* where I will perform. I am also editing Shamsul Haq's *Shesh Jodha*. Moreover, senior members of our group are also working for some new productions. That is why arranging a drama festival is not a problem for Nagorik.'

Aly Zaker has a stellar role in the country's drama history. He was the director of the play *Baki Titash* by Badal Sarkar. This was a landmark as it was the first play in Bangladesh where the audience bought tickets to watch the show.



Aly Zaker: A stellar role in theatre

Says a nostalgic Zaker, 'I still remember those moments. That was a launch into an abyssal voyage. Our youth was our only asset. Though there were technical glitches, our disciplined performance on the stage received a favourable response from the audience. I still remember this vividly, though the play was held way back on February 3, 1973, at the British Council auditorium. The following day, the print media claimed it as a 'revolution'. We also introduced Mahila Samity Stage in stage drama.'

However, *Baki Titash* is not his first stage play. He first acted in Muneir Chowdhury's *Kabar* directed by Mamunur Rashid, which is an Aranyak Natya Dal production. He first appeared on the stage for any Nagorik produc-

tion is Michael Modhshudan Datt's *Buro Shaliker Ghare Ro*, directed by Ataur Rahman.

In his long acting career he has portrayed diverse characters. His favourite role is that of Gallelio. Says Zaker, 'I empathise with this character. I have seen a few people in the audience cry in the pin drop silence during the delivery of a few philosophical dialogues of the character.'

Along with acting and directing stage plays, Zaker has adapted many popular plays of Shakespeare, Chekhov, Moliere, Brecht, Zuckmayer, Ionesco and a few others. Explaining the creative process, Zaker says, 'A drama has two beginnings--once during writing, another during production. That is why the translator or the adapter of the foreign plays must be acquainted with the stage. Otherwise, their works will only serve academic purposes.'

Shakespeare, Ibsen, Brecht, Beckett, Syed Shamsul Haq, Selim Al Deen and Mamunur Rashid are his favourite playwrights.

Can professionalism be introduced in Bangladeshi theatre? Zaker says, 'Never. Government patronage is a must for professionalism in any country. Even the theatrical groups of the developed countries like UK and Germany get government support.'

Zaker, also a popular TV actor, however, appears infrequently on television. As he says, 'The introduction of package drama is a positive development. However, because of the commercial approach of the channels and sponsors very few quality TV plays are produced. That is why I am very selective in my roles.'

What is the solution to the crisis? He says, 'Private channels should take the initiative to launch at least two quality plays a week without any business interest.'

Zaker's cultural activities have won acclaim. He was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 1999 for his contribution to theatre. Moreover, he has received many prestigious awards like National Academy of Performing Arts in 1977, Critic Circle of India Award in 1984, Sequence Award of Merit as outstanding Theatre Personality in 1984 and others.

Diversity in Design Theatre's drama festival



Drama festival begins with fanfare

The beats of the *dhol* and *mandira* ushered in Theatre's weeklong drama festival at the Experimental Theatre Stage on Saturday last. The colourfully clad chorus singers of the theatrical group handed a lamp to eminent educationist Sardar Fazul Karim who inaugurated the function. An enthusiastic audience greeted the performers with applause at the opening ceremony.

Professor Kabir Chowdhury was in chair while Ramendu Majumdar was the host of the opening arrangement. Adil Islam, the Corporate Banking Head of HSBC, the sponsor of the drama festival, also delivered a speech.

Ramendu said that Theatre has been arranging drama festivals since 1977. The festivals are held to observe special occasions. This year the group has arranged it on the 79th birth day of martyr Muneir Chowdhury.

Adil said, 'Along with the economic and political development, cultural advancement is important for a nation's progress. That is why we are now promoting the rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh.'

Chief guest Sardar Fazul Karim said, 'A martyr never dies, rather he is resurrected in every progressive individual. Martyr Muneir Chowdhury lives on in the heart of each and every cultural activist in



Theatre activists greet Sardar Fazul Karim and Professor Kabir Chowdhury at the inauguration ceremony

Bangladesh.'

The chairperson Professor Kabir Chowdhury said, 'Being the founder President of Theatre, I believe that my group not only stages quality plays but also produces enlightened human beings.'

The name of the winners of the two awards-- Martyr Muneir Chowdhury Award and Zakaria Smrity Padak-- was announced by

Abdullah Al Mamun, the Steering Committee Member of Theatre. This year Aly Zaker and Masum Reza have received the awards respectively. Later, the winners expressed their gratitude to the organisers of the prestigious awards.

After the inauguration ceremony, the premiere show of Theatre's latest production *Mukti* was staged at the Experimental Theatre Stage.

Niranjan Adhikari awarded Naren Biswas Padak '04

HARUN UR RASHID

RECITATION group Kanthoshilon conferred this year's Naren Biswas Padak on Niranjan Adhikari, Associate Professor of Department of Sanskrit and Pali, Dhaka University. President of Kanthoshilon poet Shamsur Rahman handed over the medal to the recipient at a programme at the Liberation War Museum on November 27--the 5th death anniversary of Naren Biswas, an eminent pronunciation perfectionist. Kanthoshilon has been honouring personalities who have contributed to the field of refined pronunciation of Bangla on this day for last four years.

Eminent Wahidul Haque, reciters Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay and Ashraful Alam, instructor of Kanthoshilon Mir Barkat, and DU professor of Bangla Soumitra Shekhar were present at the event.

Professor Naren Biswas was the pioneer of refined pronunciation of Bangla in the country. He was also one of the founding members of the recitation group Kanthoshilon.

He started lecturing on his favourite subject, pronunciation, at Kanthoshilon. In 1988, Naren Biswas along with Professor Anisuzzaman, Wahidul Haque and Jamil Chowdhury brought out a dictionary of practical Bangla pro-

nunciation. In 1990, Bangla Academy brought out Naren's *Bangla Uchcharan Obhidhan*. During the last days of his life, Naren Biswas recorded his lectures on Bangla pronunciation. He also supervised the 13 volumes of the audio production *Ottijer Ongikar* (Promises of Culture), a collection of recitation from the rich treasure trove of Bangla literature and music. *Priyo Pongkimala* is one of his own recitation albums produced from Shabdoroo, a recitation group.

Niranjan Adhikari has made a remarkable contribution to the field of recitation and theatre. He has published several books of plays and poems including *Kalo Ashok Lal Phul*, *Dukkho Theke Picnic*, *Nichok Ananda Noy* and *Porikha Pasher Shahoj Upay*. During the Liberation War of Bangladesh, Niranjan worked as an orator at the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra under the pseudonym of 'Shobuj Chakroborty'. He also worked as a journalist for the weekly *Urtal Padma* published during the war.

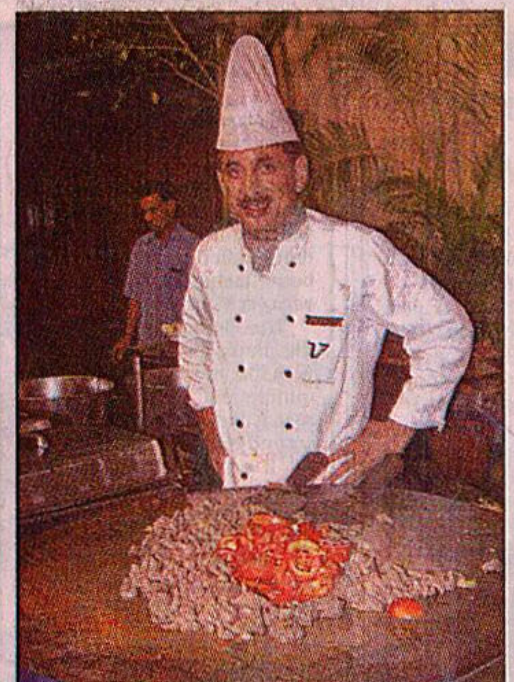
The previous recipients of the Naren Biswas Padak are Nazim Mahmud, Golam Mustafa, Nikhil Sen, Ashraful Alam and Sanjida Khatun.

PAKISTAN FOOD FESTIVAL A feast for the senses

MANISHA GANGOPADHYAY

Sheraton Dhaka's four-day Pakistan Food Festival that began on November 25 and ended yesterday, was a delectable feast for the senses.

Much of the spread offered dishes familiar to the Bengali palate--kebabs, biryani, halwa and kheer while other regional specialties of Pakistan offered new delights.



The *khatakat*, named so for the noise made during the preparation of the food when two heavy iron spatula come down on a 2-foot long iron rimless pan, over which mutton kidney and liver was sauted with fresh tomatoes and turmeric sauce.

The food festival, held by the poolside, was also a feast for the eyes and ears. Upon entry, one was whisked away to the land of snowy mountains with posters of Pakistan's hilly terrain and strings of the national flag decorated along the pillars on the periphery of the pool. Flutist Faisal Abed from Pakistan, regaled the visitor with Punjabi and classical music with accompaniment from Bangladeshi tabla player Sobuj Ahmed.

Other delicacies at the festival include, Lahori fried fish, mutton biryani made from *basmati* rice, brain masala, and beef *sheekh kebabs*.

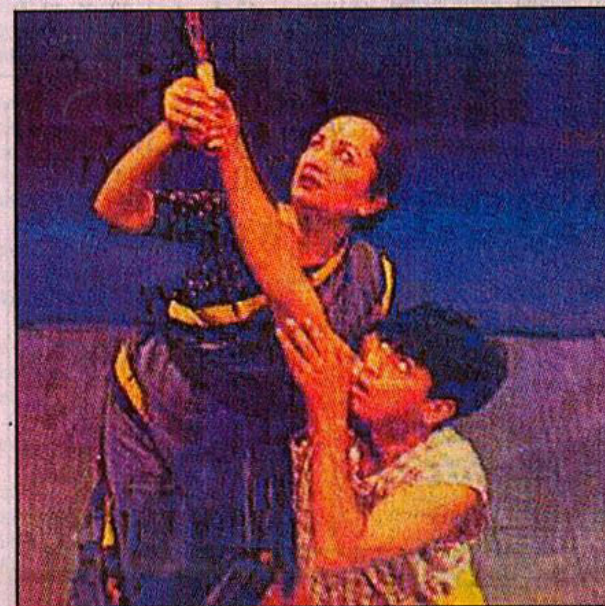
One of the main attractions of the festival was a whole steamed lamb displayed prominently in one corner - somewhat reminiscent of another 'whole' meat served at Thanksgiving, this time of the year - from which slices were carved out for guests.

Carrots were another popular item on the menu, featured in some of the rice dishes as well as in the dessert items.

Even for those with a weak sweet tooth, the myriad desserts were a more than perfect ending to the perfect meal. With two different types of *kheer gajar* (of course) and rice - and four different types of *halwa gajar* (again), dal, egg and date, the dessert spread was heaven for the Bangladeshi palate.

The sweetened rice with meat, served alongside the dessert, was a new taste that gave a fresh meaning to the word 'sweetmeat'.

The dessert that overwhelmingly won many hearts was the melt-in-your-mouth date halwa. Not too sweet, nor too heavy, this remarkably light, dark delicacy was greatly appreciated.



Protagonist Selim with narrator Shimul at the play

Prachya: A narrative play

In *Prachya*, Selim Al Deen has created a parallel myth derived from *Manusha Puran*. The storyline of the play is simple: the death of a bride by snakebite on her wedding night and the arduous journey of her vengeful husband. In the play, Selim has wonderfully depicted the culture of the feudal rural Bangladesh. This includes the relationship between feudal lord and peasant, man and nature and others. That is why, Selim Al Deen's narrative play *Prachya* can be interpreted in different ways.

Today, Dhaka Theatre stages *Prachya* at the Experimental Theatre Stage at 6:30 p.m. as part of the ongoing drama festival arranged by Theatre.

Nasiruddin Youssuff is the director, set designer and music composer of *Prachya* while Zahurul Islam Ripon is the light designer.

Pijush Bandyopadhyay, Shimul Youssuff, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Rosy Siddiqui, Faruk Ahmed and others perform in the play.

Alicia Keys Calls for African AIDS Action

REUTERS

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Alicia Keys is calling on her peers in the music industry to raise their voices to help millions suffering from AIDS in Africa.

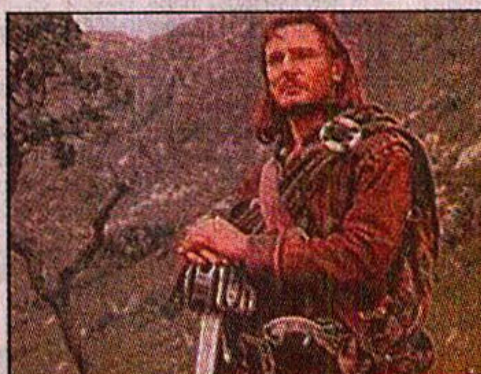
'Just for a moment imagine the media hysteria and global outrage if 25 million Americans, many of them children, died from a treatable disease because the medicine was too costly,' Keys writes in a commentary published in Friday's issue of *Billboard* magazine. 'Imagine if another 42 million people were infected and had no hope of paying for life-saving treatment... This is exactly what is happening throughout sub-Saharan Africa.'

Keys, who recently travelled to Africa, noted that UNAIDS estimates 100 million people will be infected with the AIDS virus by the end of this decade, and that fewer than 1 percent of Africans with AIDS have access to antiretroviral treatment that has greatly improved the lives of AIDS patients in Western countries.



TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Rob Roy
 On Star Movies 7:00
 Genre: Drama / Action / Romance / War
 Cast: Liam Neeson, Jessica Lange, John Hurt
 Direction: Michael Caton-Jones



Shushtha Thakun Live
 On ATN Bangla at 9:00pm
 Live Health Show
 Host: Dr. Saheli Ahmed Sweetley
 Guest: Dr. K.C Tan from Singapore South Elizabeth Hospital

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

News Bulletin

BTV
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
 News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
 Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
 News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 7:15 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
 Teletext of BTB news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
 News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
 Teletext of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
 News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
 Teletext of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
 News-headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
 Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
 Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
 Every hour on the hour

BTV
 07:30 Bangladesh Hridoy Holey
 09:00 Satellite Programme
 12:15 Shongbad Potrer Pata Thekey
 12:30 Natun Kuni
 01:05 Selected Programme
 01:30 Selected Programme
 02:05 Computer Round
 02:30 Jonaki
 03:35 Shukhi Panibar
 04:05 Lekha Pora
 04:30 Open University
 05:05 National Television Debate Competition
 05:10 Mishi Kotla
 08:25 Protidin Bangladesh
 08:30 Drama Serial: Ajana Saikate
 09:00 Drama Serial: Nunul Huda Ekada
 09:30 Drama Serial: Chhandakol
 12:05 Satellite Programmes

CHANNEL-i
 09:45 Tritiya Meira
 11:30 Channel-viewers forum
 12:00 Chhiti Pelam
 12:30 Aaj Dupurey
 01:00 Ebonj Cinemar Gaan
 01:25 Public Reaction
 01:30 Bangla Feature Film
 04:30 Aamadar Chhito Nadi Sa Re Ga Ma
 04:50 Alokto Bangladesh
 05:30 Music Plus
 06:00 Banjo o Arhoniti
 07:50 Drama Serial: Koboi Resat Hoyo Jay
 08:25 Sunskil Opara
 08:30 Film Show: Shompura Rangin
 10:00 Career Show

ntv
 09:20 Ain O Jibon

10:05 Nil Paharer Gaan
 10:30 Dhakar Cinema
 02:30 Drama Serial: Rupar Alanka
 03:05 Right Click
 03:40 Akashev Anek Raat
 04:25 Putul Nasch
 05:20 Aapnar Jigyasha
 06:00 Desher Khabar
 06:20 Shubho Shondhaya
 06:50 Crime Watch
 08:15 Drama Serial: Sporsher Bairay
 08:50 Fashion Talkies
 09:40 Drama Serial: Protyagata
 11:20 Dindarpan

ATN BANGLA
 10:30 Anandorishi
 11:15 Drama Serial: Ek Janame
 11:35 Musical Programme
 12:30 Bangla Feature Film
 03:50 Uro Cola Saast Rang
 04:20 Flying House
 05:00 Gram Ganjer Khabor
 05:45 Islami sawaal o jawab
 06:20 Poraner Gaan
 08:00 Adal Badal
 08:30 Drama Serial: Shimshin Shimanya
 09:00 Sushtha Thakun Live
 10:35 Katha Mala

HBO
 9:15 Vanilla Sky
 12:00 Orange County
 1:45 House Arrest
 4:00 Slap Shot 2: Breaking the Ice
 5:45 The Wild Thornberrys Movie
 7:30 Zoomlander
 9:30 The One
 11:15 Carnivale 09: Inconnia
 12:15 Soldier

STAR MOVIES
 8:05 Bad Company

10:00 Random Hearts
 12:10 Go
 1:45 Colors
 3:45 Hildegarde
 5:15 Dick Tracy
 7:00 Rob Roy
 9:15 Long Time Dead
 10:50 Random Hearts
 1:00 Chopin: Desire For Love

STAR GOLD
 9:55 Sur - The Melody Of Life
 1:30 Saajan Chale Sasural
 4:30 Border
 8:30 Hum
 12:20 Kartavya

STAR WORLD
 9:30 Oprah Winfrey Show

10:30 The Apprentice
 11:30 The X Files
 12:30 Stupid Behavior
 Caught On Tape
 1:00 When Hidden Cameras Attack
 1:30 Magnum P.I.
 2:28 Star Asia Travel
 2:30 Oprah Winfrey
 3:30 Bold And Beautiful
 4:30 Hollywood Squares
 5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
 5:30 Miami Vice
 6:30 The Simpsons
 7:00 Home Improvement
 7:30 Friends
 8:00 Just Shoot Me
 8:30 That '70s Show
 9:00 Everybody Loves Raymond

9:30 Mad Mike And Mark: Big Five Big trouble
 10:30 Savage Tall Blondes
 11:30 The Private Life Of Plants

DISCOVERY
 10:30 Night Safari: Night In The Jungle
 11:30 CIA Files: America's Secret Warriors Brotherhood
 12:30 Wild and Nature Time of Plenty
 1:30 Becoming A Man In Africa
 2:30 Becoming A Man In Siberia
 3:30 Night Safari: Night In Underwater
 4:30 CIA Files: America's Secret Warriors Betrayal
 5:30 Romantic Escapes
 Chincoteague, Va
 6:00 Mega Movie
 Magic Performance
 Animation
 6:30 Emergency Metal Monsters
 7:30 Wild And Nature: The Chamois goat
 8:30 House to Home
 9:00 Baby Whisperer: Tina Ratnavira
 9:30 Largest Building in the World (Boeing Plant)
 10:30 America's Most Haunted
 Las Vegas
 11:30 FBI Files: The Crime Spre

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 8:30 Storm Stories
 9:30 National Geographic Special
 10:30 National Geographic Amazing Moments
 11:30 Quest For K2

12:30 Six Experiments That Changed...
 1:00 Gene Hunters
 1:30 Wild! Life Adventures
 2:30 Explorations
 3:30 Storm Stories
 4:30 National Geographic Special
 5:30 Monkey Business
 6:00 Crittercam-Wildtech
 6:30 \$100 Taxi Ride
 7:00 Game For It
 7:30 National Geographic Special
 8:30 National Geographic Special
 10:30 Riddles Of The Dead
 11:30 National Geographic Amazing Moments

STAR SPORTS
 9:00 New Zealand Tour Of Australia 3 Mobile Test Series 2nd Test Day 4(L)
 1:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Fulham Vs Blackburn Rovers (T)
 3:30 Asian Tour Magazine Show(R)
 4:00 Internationals In England Rugby Hq Asia (T)
 4:30 Internationals In England England Vs Australia (R)
 6:30 New Zealand Tour Of Australia 3 Mobile Test Series Australia Vs New Zealand 2nd Test Day 4 Highlights(S)
 8:00 Sportsline (L)
 8:30 Spanish Football League 2004/05 (R)
 10:30 Sportsline(R)
 11:30 English Premier League Highlights 2004/05 (T)

ESPN
 10:30 World Tenpin Bowling

Masters 2004 (T)
 11:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Tottenham Hotspur Vs Middlesbrough (S)
 1:30 International Ironman Triathlon 2004/05 Usa (S)
 2:30 In The Driver's Seat
 Tough Trucks Racing Indianapolis In Usa (R)
 3:30 Spanish Football League 2004/05 (R)
 5:00 Final Score (S)
 5:30 Fa Cup Classic Matches
 Sheffield United Vs Blackburn Rovers Fa Cup 92/93 Round 6
 7:30 English Premier League Highlights 2004/05 (T)
 8:30 Sportscenter India (L)
 9:00 Uefa Champions League Magazine Shows (R)
 9:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Liverpool Vs Arsenal (S)
 11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
 12:00 Sportscenter Asia (S)

TEN SPORTS
 8:00 Gillette World Sport
 9:00 WWE: Heat
 9:30 ICC Cricket World
 11:30 Cricket Classics
 2:30 WWE Specials: Survivor Series
 Italian Serie A: Inter Milan v Juventus
 5:30 History of Football
 7:30 WWE: Raw
 8:00 ICC Cricket World
 9:00 Telen Telen World Sport
 9:30 Speed
 10:00 Gamer TV
 11:00 Italian Serie A - Highlights