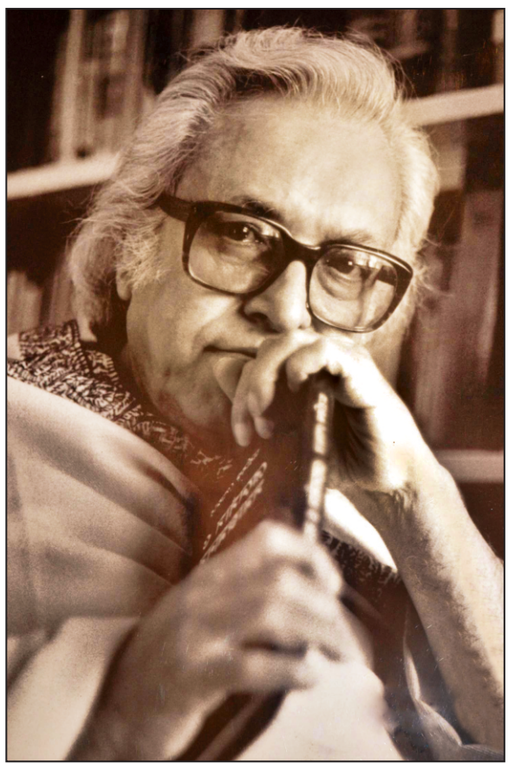
Bangladesh in his heart

Photography exhibition on Shamsur Rahman



PERHAPS no other poet could make an impact to the extent of Shamsur Rahman in post-Liberation Bangladesh. Neither perhaps could any of his contemporaries enjoy the same degree of mass adulation. Though the wizard of words is no more, his verses remain an inspiration to millions. The indivisible bond between a mother and her offspring -- often a metaphor for one's ties with the motherland -- was a recurring theme in Rahman's poetry.

A photography exhibition titled *Buk Taar Bangladesh-er Hridoy*, featuring images of the poet, shot by MA Taher was inaugurated at Bengal Shilpalaya on January 16. Taher, a freelance photographer, was close to the poet and had the opportunity to accompany him at key public events as well as catch glimpses of his casual family life.

Zohra Rahman, widow of the poet, was the chief guest at the event; Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and Professor Kabir Chowdhury were special guests. Among other dignitaries attending the event were artistes Qayyum Chowdhury, Ferdausi Priyobhashini and Murtaja Baseer.

Taher prefers themed photographs. His work has appeared in several government and non-government publications, newspapers, calendars and posters. He is the International Affairs Secretary and FIAP liaison officer of Bangladesh Photographic Society.

Taher is a recipient of honourable mention at the BPS Annual Contest (1999), Photography Award, USA (1996-94), 23rd Seikyo International Award, Japan (1993), Certificate of Merit and Young Buddhist Association of Thailand (1992). His solo exhibitions include *Buddhists of Bangladesh* (New York, 1995), *Ruposhi Bangladesh* (New York, 1994), *Life of Visuddhananda Mahathero* (Dhaka) and more.

At the inaugural, the photographer said, "One of Shamsur Rahman's endearing traits was his ability to befriend people. I was always treated like a family member."

Photographs bring to light not only a Bangladeshi icon but also a family man; a public figure taking a stand against fundamentalists and enjoying solitude. Both black and white and colour photographs are included in the exhibition. As portraits, the back and white images stand out for their obvious aesthetic appeal and display of a photographer's love affair with lights and shadows. Colour photographs document important events in the poet's life.

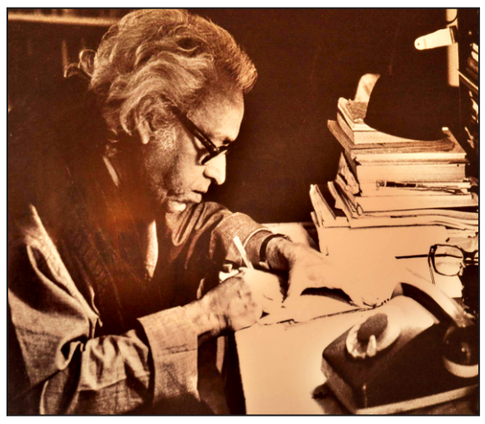
Images frame the poet with Kalim Sharafi, Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Syed Shamsul Haque and Kamal Lohani at the fourth anniversary of Ghatak Dalaal Nirmul Committee; meeting Ila Mitra and Ramen Mitra at their Kolkata home, receiving his D Lit at Rabindra Bharati University; exercising his rights as a citizen by casting his vote; with his mother and wife.

Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui compared the relationship between the poet and Taher to that of Dr Johnson and Boswell. An unmistakable bond between the photographer and his subject -- the poet -- is apparent in the photographs.

The exhibition will continue till January 22.

BY KARIM WAHEED

Shamsur Rahman at a voting centre



An engrossed poet at work

'Balcony': Of infinity and calm

Sanjib Barua's solo exhibition

The artist at the exhibition

Balcony, the first solo exhibition of Sanjib Barua, a young painter from Chittagong, is something to write home about. Inaugurated on Monday last at the Alliance Francaise de Chittagong by Nazlee Laila Mansur amongst a gathering of students, artists, critics and other personalities, this exhibition stands out for the commentary on the artwork heard in the gallery.

The theme could be considered both creative and mundane, depending on the quality of interpretation. The balcony is portrayed here as a space that opens to the outer world of tranquillity. In the urban jungle, where trees are uprooted and replanted in constricting pots that remain inside or on the periphery of the living space, the balcony is the only way out to infinity and calm.

However the outside, which is an expanse of uprooted trees, of pieces of the sky visible through a labyrinth of skyscrapers from the balcony, induces the feeling of being trapped. Dark colours of the night, interspersed with green for life and red for harsh reality, depicting free movement contained in solid forms, all form a panorama that points together towards obstruction and deprivation. The juxtaposition of dark and light, of green and red build a message that is conveyed in stages, from one tableau to another.

A realistic style containing an element of abstraction, a fine eye for detail and a high level of sensitivity characterise Barua's burgeoning style. The series of paintings and drawings stand witness to tedious research behind the depiction of a clearly enunciated idea. The integrity of thought and of form, the subtle social commentary, the poignant religious symbolism and the obvious aesthetic value of Barua's work deserve a special mention.

Barua graduated with a Masters in Fine Arts from Chittagong University in 2001. He has participated in a few group exhibitions and has received the Best Award in the Berger Young Painters Competition in 2006.

The exhibition ends today.

BY ROOPAM SINGH-LE BERRIGAUD, an art critic

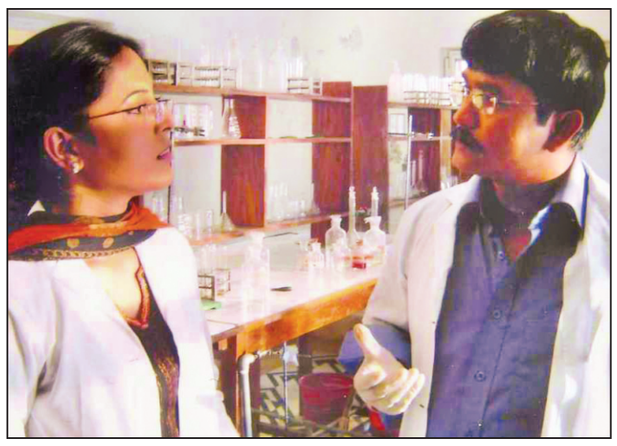
Drama serial 'Bishokhoy' to be aired tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen-episode drama serial *Bishokhoy* will be telecast tonight at 9:45pm on ntv.

The story line: Mushfiq, a PhD in Pharmacy returns to Bangladesh with the intention of serving his country. He dedicates his research activities to find drug addiction repressants. A young woman joins him as his assistant in the project. In course of time, a schism develps between him and his wife. At one point, his wife Shila hires a goon to put an end to the relationship between Musfiq and his assistant.

The serial is written by Masum Reza and directed by Diponkor Dipon. Azizul Hakim, Jitu Ahsan and Chandni are the main cast members of the serial.



Azizul Hakim (R) and co-artiste in the serial

Shilpa Shetty faces racist barbs on UK reality show

Shilpa Shetty unwittingly became the symbol of officially multi-cultural Britain's very public, sometimes two-faced, fight against racism (last Tuesday) with at least 4,500 viewers of the reality TV show *Celebrity Big Brother* officially complaining the film star is being victimised and bullied on live TV because she's an 'Indian'.

Ofcom, Britain's official TV watchdog, confirmed late on Tuesday that viewers' complaints said "it's racism pure and simple (against Shetty)".

Appalled viewers across the board white, brown and black have been objecting from Monday evening to Shetty's treatment by white housemates.

Shilpa (R) with a housemate in the show

This includes one contestant repeatedly referring to Shetty as "the Indian" and refusing to pronounce her name; another alleged to have described her as a 'Paki'; a third describing her as a "dog"; a 'girl gang' of three poking fun at her accent and still others making derogatory comments about India's habitual ill-health just because Shetty presented a slightly underdone chicken curry to the inmates of the Big Brother house.

Observers said Shetty, who was initially not in the running to win the show, may now have the bonus of benefiting from the racist bullying and actually stand a chance of winning.

Shetty, who surprised her fans just weeks ago by electing to take part in a reality TV programme that has often been described as vacuous pap, has already bared her soul to millions of Britons by spending much of her time on the show in floods of tears.

Source: Internet

CULTURAL FEAST

Photography Exhibition on Shamsur Rahman

Title: Buk taar Bangladesh-er hridoy
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: January 16-22

Documentary Screening

Title: Bostro Balikara
Director: Tanvir Mokammel
Venue: Shawkot Usman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: January 19
Time: 5:00pm

Film Screening

Organiser: Indian Cultural centre
Venue: House# 25, Road# 96, Gulshan 2

Date: January 19
Title: Lage Rago Munnabhai

Date: January 27
Title: Biallish-42 (Bangla)

Date: January 28
Title: Legend of Bhagat Singh

Date: January 29
Title: Fanaa

ALL TIME GREATS

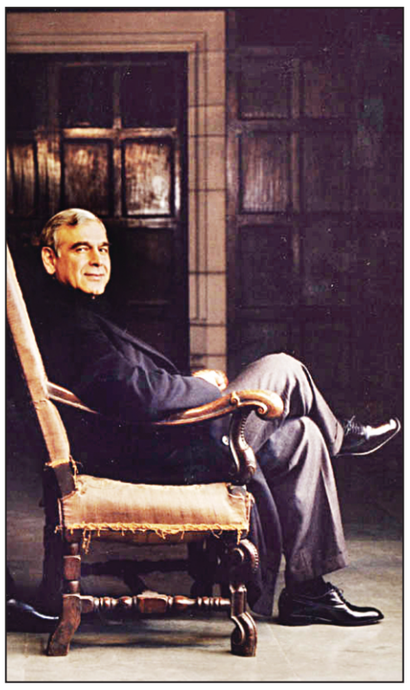
Ismail Merchant: From Bombay to Hollywood and beyond

Ismail Merchant (December 25, 1936-May 25, 2005) was an Indian-born film producer best known for his famously long collaboration with Merchant Ivory Productions (MIP) and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala. On his partnership with the duo, Merchant once commented, "It is a strange marriage we have at Merchant Ivory...I am an Indian Muslim, Ruth is a German Jew and Jim is a Protestant American. Someone once described us a three-headed god. Maybe they should have called us a three-headed monster!"

Until Merchant's death in 2005, MIP produced a number of award winning films. Merchant and Ivory made over close to 40 films together. In fact, their partnership even made it to the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest partnership in independent cinema history.

MIP's first production, *The Householder*, premiered in 1963. Based on a novel by Jhabvala (she also wrote the script), the film became the first Indian-made film to be distributed internationally by a major American studio, Columbia Pictures.

In addition to producing films such as *The White Countess* (2005), *Heights* (2004), *Cotton Mary* (2000) Merchant directed a number of films such as The *Mystic Masseur* (2002), *Cotton Mary, Lumiere and Company* (1995, jointly directed by Ivory), along with two television features. For television, he directed *Mahatma and the Mad Boy* (1974) and a full-length TV feature, *The Courtesans of Bombay* made for Britain's Channel Four.



Merchant made his own directorial debut with 1993's *In Custody*, based on a novel by the well-known Anita Desai. The film, which starred Bollywood actor Shashi Kapoor, was filmed in Bhopal, India and went on to win national awards from the Government of India for Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Costume and Best Production Design. His second directorial venture, *The Proprietor*, filmed in Paris, starred Jeanne Moreau, Sean Young, Jean-Pierre Aumont and Christopher Cazenove. In 1998 he was a jury member at the Venice Film Festival. In 2002, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan.

The food connoisseur Merchant also wrote several recipe books such *as Ismail Merchant's Indian Cuisine; Ismail Merchant's Florence* and *Ismail Merchant's Paris: Filming and Feasting in France.* He also wrote books on filmmaking, the latest being *My Passage from India: A Filmmaker's Journey from Bombay to Hollywood and Beyond.*

Merchant died in London at the age of 69, following surgery for abdominal ulcers. He was buried in the Bada Kabrestan in Marine Lines, Mumbai in keeping with his wish to be laid to rest with his ancestors.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

TV GUIDE

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.** (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at **7:15 am. 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.**

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at **7:00 am.10:00am. 2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm, 11pm.**
News (English) **8:20am,7:00pm**
Latest News (Bangla) at **9:00 a.m,10:00 am, 11:00 am.1:00pm.3:00 pm. 4:00pm.6:00 pm and 8:00 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.**

CHANNEL 1
News (Bangla) **at 8:00am. 12:00pm. 2:30pm. 6:30pm. 7:30pm. 10:00pm. 12:30am**

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at **8:00am. 2:00pm. 6:00pm. 7:15pm. 10:30pm.**
News Headlines (Bangla) at **9:00pm**
News Headlines (English) at **9:05pm**

RTV
News (Bangla) at **7:00am. 3:00pm. 7:15pm. 10:00pm.**
News Headlines (Bangla) at **10:30am**

BTV
- 11:15 Cookery Show
- 11:40 *Angona*
- 12:05 *Maa O Shishur Kotha*
- 01:00 *Shukhi Poribar*
- 02:15 Children's Drama
- 02:40 *Esho Gaan Shikhi*
- 03:05 Cartoon
- 04:00 *Esho Computer Shikhi*
- 04:30 *Bansuri*
- 05:05 *Matri Bhasha*
- 06:40 *Jiboner Alo*
- 07:00 *Shangita*
- 08:30 *Protidin Bangladesh*
- 08:40 Drama of the Week
- 10:30 Musical Programme

ATN BANGLA
- 09:15 Drama Serial: *Shokal Shondha*
- 10:30 Talk Show: *Aktel Anyodristi*
- 12:15 Bangla Feature Film
- 03:45 *ATN Ranna Ghar*
- 04:20 *Shundor Jiboner Jonno*
- 05:10 *Amader Joto Kotha*
- 05:45 Islamic Programme
- 06:20 *Aktel Protidin*
- 08:00 Drama Serial: *Shokal Shondha*
- 08:40 Drama Serial: *Koto Chena Koto Ochena*
- 09:20 Drama Serial: *Chhaya Mukh*

CHANNEL i
- 09:30 *Shanghbad Potre Bangladesh*
- 09:45 Public Reaction
- 09:50 *Grameen Phone Tritiyomatra*
- 12:30 *Citicell Tarokakothon*
- 01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
- 01:30 *Shanghbadpotre Bangladesh*
- 01:45 Public Reaction
- 02:40 *Tritiyo Matray Apni*
- 03:05 *Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak*
- 04:25 *Nirbachoni Olympiad*
- 04:35 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
- 05:30 Cartoon: *Montu Miar Obhijan*
- 06:20 *Amar Chhobi*
- 07:50 *Aktel Saaf Kotha*
- 09:35 *bddl Ekhoni Shomoy*
- 10:00 Drama Serial: *Nishidho Bonobhumi*
- 12:00 *Grammenphone Ajker Shangbadpotro*

ntv
- 08:35 *Ajker Shokal*
- 09:00 *Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe*
- 09:30 *Ki Kotha Tahar Shatey*
- 10:05 *Cholochitro Kotha*
- 01:05 Japan Video Topic
- 02:35 Drama Serial: *Labonyoprobha*
- 03:15 Drama Serial: *Shaola*
- 03:50 Drama Serial: *Neer*
- 04:25 *Mon Amar Shondhan Kori*
- 05:15 *Dindarpan*
- 05:20 *Smritir Janalay*
- 06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
- 06:50 Rightclick
- 08:25 Drama Serial: *Megh Bolechhe Jabo Jabo*
- 09:00 Glamour World
- 10:00 Drama Serial: *Bishkhoy*
- 11:25 *Dindarpan*

Channel 1
- 08:40 *Shuprovat Bangladesh*
- 09:30 *Chokh Mele Dekhi*
- 10:00 Cartoon
- 10:30 Bangla Feature Film
- 02:00 Show Case
- 03:30 Drama Serial: *Ghughur Basha*
- 04:00 Drama Serial: *Dash Diner Ghotona*
- 04:30 *Baker Pathey*
- 05:10 Sports Star
- 06:00 *Saaj Bela*
- 06:45 *Itihasher Pathdhorey*
- 07:00 *Shombhabonar Bangladesh*
- 08:15 Drama Serial: *Ghugur Basha*
- 09:00 Drama Serial: *Dash Diner Ghotona*
- 09:30 The One
- 11:00 *Kaal Kotha*

BANGLAVISION
- 09:05 *Ebong Classer Bairey*
- 09:30 *Amader Ranna Ghar*
- 10:10 Drama: *Rupantor*
- 10:45 Drama: *Shomudrey Shontrash*
- 12:30 Media Bhuban
- 02:30 Drama Serial: *Joba Kushum*
- 03:05 *Cinebit Shadakalo*
- 03:40 *Rupantor*
- 04:20 *Shurer Bhuban*
- 05:00 *Ichhey Ghuri*
- 05:30 *Diner Sheshey*
- 06:30 *Shurer Bhuban*
- 08:05 Drama Serial: *Dokhinayon*
- 09:20 Drama: *Akasher Oparey Akash*

HBO
- 11:45 The Making of Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow
- 12:00 Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous
- 02:15 Little Black Book
- 04:30 Tales From the Crypt
- 24: As Ye Sow
- 05:15 The Making of Hell boy
- 05:45 Soccer Dog: European Cup
- 07:30 Are We There Yet?
- 09:30 XXX: The Next Level
- 11:30 The Bone Collector
- 02:00 Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous

STAR MOVIES
- 10:35 Mechanik
- 12:15 Shark Zone
- 01:45 Wedding Date, The
- 03:15 Mrs Doubtfire
- 05:20 American Pie 2
- 07:00 Desperado
- 08:45 Star Wars: Ep. Iii - Revenge Of The Sith
- 11:15 Cube Zero
- 01:00 Dark Harvest
- 08:30 Kyun Hota Hai Pyarrr
- 09:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
- 09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
- 09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
- 10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
- 10:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
- 11:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
- 11:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
- 12:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
- 12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
- 12:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
- 01:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay

PICK OF THE DAY

Dokhinayon
On Banglavision at 8:05pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Mahfuz Ahmed, Tomalika

American Idol
On Star World at 8:30pm
Season 6 of the popular talent hunt kicks off
Host: Ryan Seacrest

- 01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
- 02:00 Bhabhi
- 02:30 Kesar
- 03:00 Saarrthi
- 03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 04:00 Kahiin To Hoga
- 04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
- 05:00 Krishna Kathaiyen
- 05:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
- 06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
- 06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
- 06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
- 07:00 The Legend Of Trazan
- 07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
- 07:30 Golu Ke Goggles
- 07:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
- 08:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
- 08:30 Antariksh
- 09:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay
- 09:30 Viraasat
- 10:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
- 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
- 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 11:30 Kahiin To Hoga
- 12:00 Paraya Dhan

STAR WORD
- 10:30 American Idol
- 12:30 Grey's Anatomy
- 01:30 Law & Order: S.V.U.
- 02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
- 03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 04:00 General Hospital
- 05:00 Desire: Table For Three
- 06:00 Arrested Development
- 06:30 The Simpsons
- 07:00 Cheers
- 07:30 Friends
- 08:00 Seinfeld
- 08:30 American Idol
- 10:30 The Office
- 11:00 Two And A Half Men
- 11:30 Desire: Table For Three

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
- 10:30 African Adventures
- 11:00 Stuntdawgs
- 11:30 Dangerman Adventures With Geoff Mackley
- 12:30 Finest Hotels In The World
- 01:30 Nigel Specials
- 02:30 Detectives Stories
- 0:3:30 Animal Camera
- 04:00 Zach's Ultimated Guide
- 04:30 Wildest Week
- 05:30 Building The Biggest
- 06:30 Stunt Junkies
- 07:00 Stuntdawgs
- 7:30 Nigel Specials
- 08:30 Serengeti Is Alive
- 09:30 Meerkat Manor
- 10:00 Animal Camera
- 10:30 Ten Ways
- 11:30 A Haunting

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
- 10:30 Telemall: Sauna Belt
- 11:00 Telemall
- 11:30 Inside
- 12:30 Ultimate Disaster
- 01:30 Killer Leopards
- 02:30 Namib
- 03:30 Is It Real?
- 04:30 Nat Geo Junior
- 05:30 Big Bang
- 06:00 Honor Of The Killer Habu
- 06:30 Is It Real?
- 07:30 Wild
- 08:30 MegaStructures
- 09:30 Frontline Of Construction
- 10:30 Is It Real?
- 11:30 Polar Bear Alcatraz

STAR SPORTS
- 12:30 The Ubs Golf Club (Golf)
- 01:00 Asian Tour Weekly 2007 (Golf)
- 01:30 Australian Open 2007 Presented B
- 03:30 Cricket Crazy (Cricket)
- 04:30 2007 Euromilhoes Dakar (Auto Rac
- 05:00 Australian Open 2007 Presented B
- 06:00 2007 Euromilhoes Dakar (Auto Rac
- 06:30 Australian Open 2007 Presented B
- 07:30 Nokia Football Crazy (Soccer/Fut
- 08:30 Sri Lanka Tour Of New Zealand (C
- 09:30 Jamie's Greatest Hits (Magazine)
- 10:30 Tna Xplosion (Wrestling)
- 11:30 Australian Open 2007 Presented B

ESPN
- 11:00 English Premier Football League
- 01:00 Indian Premier Hockey League (Fi
- 03:00 English Premier Football League
- 05:00 Sachin The Great (Cricket)
- 05:30 Goals! (Soccer/Futbol)
- 06:00 Nokia Football Crazy (Soccer/Fut
- 07:00 Indian Premier Hockey League (Fi
- 09:30 Sportscenter India (Sport News)
- 10:00 Close Encounters (Cricket)
- 10:30 Sportscenter India (Sport News)
- 11:00 Sportscenter Asia (Sport News)
- 11:30 The Natwest Series (Cricket)