Assessing the Local Art Scenario

by Fayza Haq

Chandra Shekhar Dey, who recently won an award in Japan and an honourable mention, believes that nothing has surpassed the sketches of Zainul Abedin of '43. He remarked, "Why do we go for abstractions in such a helter-skelter and obsessed manner? India is doing well enough without it. Satyajit Ray dealt with Bengal instead of rushing off for inspirations or ideas to the west. Why can't we present our culture in a remarkable way in the same manner so that the world can gaze and wonder at their work?"

artists of Bangladesh Shekhar Dey commented, "considering their shortcomings the young artists are doing well and are contributing adequately to the cultural development of the country. They are certainly contributing to our cultural progress."

The artist believed that the contemporary painters should be encouraged by the government by having their works exhibited abroad at the expense of the Bangladesh government. The Bangladesh embassies, he believed, could When the government gives work to the artists help out in this con

The painter also felt strongly about cs tablishing a museum of modern art as in Delhi "other-wise good pictures will leave the country swiftly," he warned.

What is his opinion of the achievement of the loca contemporary artists ? He said that they were doing well. "But we have a lot of European influence because of practical reasons. We get our information, guidance and training aesthetically from the west which we borrow, and we are tempted to do it because art flourishes in the west." Our connections," he added, "with the

Asian countries are

remains limited. Recently Japan has been encouraging our artist to go to Japan, learn, work and live. I hope this continues."

ings in the city the artist pointed out to me the Art College the appreciation for figurative that there is a tendency to have decorative work is diminishing rapidly while young artists paintings for our offices and houses. This has are getting famous without making the efforts been good all along, he felt, but the modern movement and the aesthetic cravings of the artists have become confused and complicated." tive," he added, "but there is not necessarily This type of painting is limited to Bangladesh because foreign viewers do not go for them.

Shekhar Dey continued, "We have very few museums and galleries. At the schools and colleges there are no subjects or training in the course of art. The Art College education in Dhaka is academic. The system of education has been impaired all over Bangladesh with 'hartals', strikes, processions and political movements so that the students do not concentrate on their work and neither do they tions like him.

A 30 member delegation of

Jatiya Jubo Sangha Foundation

called on President Abdur

Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban

members of the Foundation

from different districts ap-

Ansar, VDP members

to plant 50 lakh

saplings

Chowdhury Tucsday inaugu-

rated a week-long tree plant-

ing programme organised by

Ansar and VDP Academy at

Gazipur by planting a sapling of

"Sheel Koroi" at its premises,

5,000 Ansar and VDP mcm

bers, the minister urged all to

make the programme a suc-

cess to help protect ecological

walks of life come forward to

carry out the afforestation pro-

gramme as a social movement

it would be easier to face any

A total of 45 lakh Ansar and

VDP members, as part of the

countrywide tree planting pro-

gramme, will plant over 50

lakh saplings in their respec-

tive villages including 36 Ansar

Battalion Headquarter in the

He said if the people of all

balance of the country.

natural disaster.

country.

Addressing a rally of about

reports UNB.

Home Minister Abdul Matin

The delegation comprising

Tuesday, reports UNB.

Need for organising

'velopment programmes.

for organising the youth forces

He said the potentialities of

human resources should be

utilised for the development of

the society to establish peace

and discipline in the society,

and achieve progress and

the need for a congenial atmo-

smooth implementation.

Dodge meets

Tariqul

Bangladesh Cole P.Dodge had a

farewell call on the Minister

for Social Welfare and Women's

Affairs Tariqui Islam and the

State Minister Sarwari Rahman

at the Bangladesh Secretariat

yesterday, reports BSS.

UNICEF representative in

President Biswas stressed

to contribute to the nation

led the delegation.

building activities.

take their work scriously."

What does he feel about the experimentations that are ensuing in the country today? There is no hope but to go on experimenting whether for better or for worse. A large number of our artists have been commercialised Sometimes the moneyed men who promote art are pursuaded to spend money on them, but can find little real use for them. The sale is imposed and artificial. Meanwhile, it is good that our paintings are going abroad. We do not regret this because this makes our artists popular Talking about the achievements of the young abroad. It is a pity that Bangladeshis could not have bought them and have kept them within the country," the artist-cum-teacher replied,

with conviction. "The work produced by the artist sponsored the government, "Shekhar Dey continued, "for considerable money like the mural painting in front of the Cantonment, and the storks before the Bangladesh Biman, are lacking in suavity. There is no point in spoiling beautiful areas with the works that are not up to the mark.

> the middleman come in and this should be avoided, although I admit that in reality, this is not practical."

The artist continucd, "There is no permanent art gallery, the Shilpakala Academy is not enough. The Prime Minister has promised one in the near future but one has yet to see how much is achieved."

"The rich buyers," Shekhar Dey added, "could have made trustees of themsclvcs and established small muscums as in Paris This can give them some personal fame The young national exhibitions, painters young shows, the Asian Biennial Show are encouraging. The mul-

limited even though we are close to them. tinational companies like 'Coca Cola', 'Philips Many of our artists go to India regularly but the and 'Beximeo' can encourage the artists by givimpact of Indian culture in improving our own ing them awards which they can well afford to

Dwelling on the subject of abstractions, the artist insisted "When does abstraction come in? Speaking about the presently available paint - When the artist is disturbed by the society. In that their seniors made. I see this as a pure hoax, to put it bluntly. Abstractions are decoraany deep thought behind it."

The young artists that Shekhar Dey admired include Shahabuddin in Pairs and Munirul Islam in Spain. Shekhar Dey himself has had his paintings exhibited in various countries such as France, USA, Ircland, Germany, Norway, Japan, Malaysia and India. He specialises in oil colours The country would do well to have more painting with know-how, expertise and firm convicDhaka to get Tk 91 cr French grant

Bangladesh will receive Taka 91 crore equivalent to French Franc 130 million as grant from France, reports

An agreement to this effect was signed here yesterday between Bangladesh and France following conclusion of the annual bilateral economic cooperation negotiations for 1992.

The negotiations were held between the delegations of the two countries from July 5-7 here at National Economic Council Complex.

The 19-member Bangladesh side was led by Economic Relations Division(ERD) Joint Secretary Faizur Rahman Chowdhury and the 8-member French side was led by the visiting delegation leader, Joint Secretary, Treasury, Ministry of Finance of France Dev Zerag. The leaders of the delegations also signed the agreement.

As per the terms of the agreements France will finance productive infrastructure-developments of Bangladesh giving the priority to water supply for Dhaka city, telecommunications, TV relay stations and procurement of various commodities. Implementation of the flood action plan was also given due attention during the negotiations and in the agree-

Besides these grants France is also supporting Bangladesh in the fields of food aid-assistance. Forty thousand metric tons of wheat have been received from France during the fiscal year 1991-92.

Population

stands at

10.98 cr

105 murdered in Dhaka city during '91-92

A total of 105 persons were murdered in the Dhaka metropolitan area during 1991-92 financial year, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports

in a written reply to a question from Sheik Ansar Ali (Jamaat-Satkhira) the Home Minister said 105 cases were instituted with the police stations against 375 persons on charges of murder.

The total population in Bangladesh stood 10,98,76,977 according to census report of 1991. Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan informed the Jatiya Sangsad Tuesday, reports BSS. In a written reply to a

question from Tabibar Rahman Sardar (AL-Jessore) the Planning Minister said the full fledged report on the 1991 census was expected to be completed by December,

• What's on today

Reception for Bar Council members

The Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kallyan Samity will hold a reception today (Wednesday) for the newly-elected Bar Council members of Bangladesh Ainjibi Shamannoy Parishad at the Engineers Institute beginning at 4.30 pm. Justice Kamal Uddin Hossain will be the chief guest.

Seminar on 'Tree Plantation'

Islamic Foundation Bangladesh will hold a seminar on "Tree Plantation to Preserve the Environment: In the light of Islam" today (Wednesday) at the Foundation auditorium at 5 pm. The key-note paper will be presented by AZM Shamsul Alam. Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Abdul Awal will be the chief guest.

Press Conference

Bangladesh Jewllers Samity will hold a post-budget press conference today (Wednesday) at the National Press Club at 6

Bangladesh Share Investors Forum will hold a press conference on 'the 1992-93 budget and development of the capital market' today (Wednesday) at the National Press Club at 4:30 pm.

Iodine plant inauguration

The iodide salt plant at Messers Azmir Salt Industries at Pagla of Narayanganj will be inaugurated today (Wednesday) at

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan will present as chief guest of the inaugural function.

South Asian Commission

The third meeting of the Independent South Asian Commission on poverty alleviation begins today (Wednesday) at 9.30 am at Sheraton Hotel. The meeting will continue till July 13.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held today (Wednesday) at 5-30 pm at Sonargaon Hotel.

... and tomorrow

Seminar

Bangladesh National Congress will organise a seminar on "The Urgent need of Unity Among the Nationalist forces in view of the Present Socio-Economic and Political Situation" tomorrow (Thursday) at the National Book Centre beginning at 3 pm.

Satyajit Ray film week

Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies has organised a Satyajit Ray film week beginning tomorrow (Thursday) at the Shishu Academy Auditorium at 6 pm. The first day's programme will be inaugurated by Poet Shamsur Rahman while the Indian High Commissioner Sri K Raghunath will be present as the chief guest on the occasion. Ray's last film "Gono Shatru" will be screened on the inaugural session.

Public meeting of transport workers

Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union (Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Union) will hold a public meeting tomorrow (Thursday) at the north gate of the Baitul Mukarram mosque at 3 pm.

Weather

Rain or shower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or shower is likely at many places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday.

Meteorological office said that day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. No marked change would be noticed in subsequent two

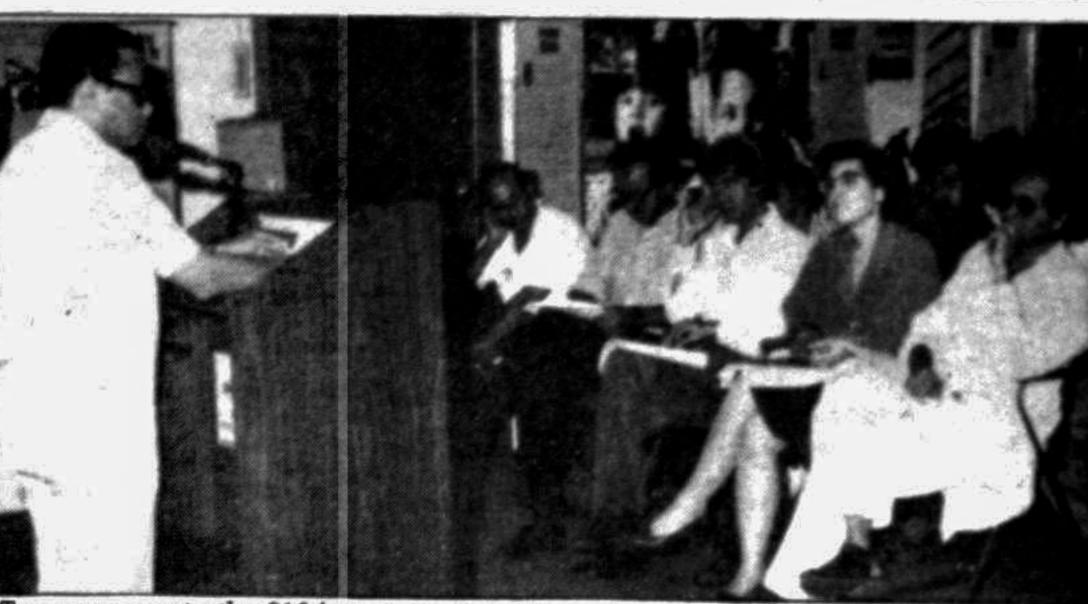
days. Rainfall recorded at major cities and towns on Tuesday were 15mm in Dhaka,77mm in Ishurdi, 41mm in Satkhira, 35mm in Jessore, 29mm in Rajshahi, 22mm in Tangail, 20mm in Patuakhali, Chuadanga 17mm, Mymensingh 12mm,

The sun scts today (Wednesday) in Dhaka at 6-51 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5-11 am. Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities

Khulna 11mm, Sylhet 7mm, Bogra 2mm and Comilla 1mm.

and towns on Tuesday were: Humidity in Temperature in degree Celstus percentage Min 9 am 26.7 78 30.5 25.2 74 32.0 100 24.4 28.4

Citics/Towns 6 pm 85 Dhaka 77 Chittagong 92 97 Rajshahi Khulna 31.5 23.6 25.5 30.3 Tangail 90 25.2 Barisal 32.2 24.9 29.0 Cox's Bazar 90 22.7 29.3 Sylhet 85 26.0 31.6 Rangpur



To commemorate the 216th anniversary of US Independence the USIS-American Centre held a lecture-discussion and video programme on Monday. Dr Syed Anwar Husain, Professor of History, Dhaka University, presented the key-note paper on "American Independence: A Harbinger of Democratic Revolution".

Bus-truck owners' assoc urges stern action against toll-collectors

Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners' Association yesterday urged the government to take effective measures to stop clashes over realisation of illegal tolls in different districts. reports UNB.

Stern actions by the government may put and end to illegal toll collection from the country's transport sector by this month, the association said in a press release.

It said realisation of all kinds of toll has been stopped at Gabtali inter-district bus terminal at Mirpur. Only parking fees of Dhaka City Corporation are being paid there.

Bus and mini-bus owners have been asked not to pay an illegal toll to anybody, the press release said.

Meanwhile, General Secretary of the association A Gafur in a statement has urged the owners to write to the local administration if any owner is forced to pay illegal toll.

If it is proved that toll has been given by the owners, then the association will inform the government of the matter and those owners will have to bear all the consequences, it said.

Dr. Somporn new CIRDAP director

Dr. Somporn Hanpongpandh yesterday took over as the new director of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific(CIRDAP), a press release said, reports BSS.

Dr. Hanpongpandh, who served as the economic and planning adviser to FAO in Western Samoa before joining CIRDAP, had also worked in CIRDAP as Deputy Director from July 1986 to September 1990. He also worked as Director, Asean Agricultural Development Planning Centre, Bangkok during 1980 to 1984.

Dr. Hanpongpandh who is from Thatland held many senior positions in his govern-

Dr Hanpongpandh replaced ATM Shamsul Haque, who relinquished his responsibilities at the end of his tenure.

400-bed hospital at ICVD soon

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that a new 400-bed hospital would be set up at the Institute of Cardio-Vascular Discases (ICVD) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, reports

Replying to a call attention notice moved by Shajahan Chowdhury (Jamaat Chittagong), the Health Minister said work on the proposed 400-bed hospital would start soon.

Referring to the shortage of

Compensation for driver killed during strike demanded

Leaders of different trans port workers unions vesterday expressed their deep sympathy to the bereaved families of driver Shahidullah and helper Nurul Islam who succumbed to injuries during the recent transport strike, reports UNB.

They demanded proper compensation to the families of the victims and treatment to others injured in armed attacks during the strike, said a chair. press release.

In a joint statement, they said the killors were freely moving around and no steps were taken to arrest them.

Among the signatories were President of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Union Abdur Rouf Mia and General Secretary Abdul Khaleque, President of Dhaka District Truck Drivers' Association Abdur Rashid and General Secretary Abu Taher, President of Bangladesh Auto Tempo Drivers' Federation Akkel Ali and General Secretary Munsoor Ali.

Bank holiday July 12

The Bangladesh Bank and all other scheduled banks will remain closed on July 12 (Sunday), on account of holy Ashura, a BB press release said, reports UNB.

beds and other facilities at the only national Institute of Cardiovascular Discases as pointed out by Shajahan Chowdhury, the Health Minister said the Suhrawardy Hospital set up in 1977-78 can accommodate at present 200beds against facilities of 110

Dismissing allegations of shortage of additional beds, blankets, mattresses and other facilities, the Health Minister said the patients were being taken good care of

Postal Dept asked to ensure quick delivery

The parliamentary standing committee meeting on Post and Telecommunication Ministry directed the postal department to ensure quick delivery of letters, parcels and other postal articles to the respective address throughout the country, reports BSS.

The meeting held Dhaka Tuesday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Post and Telecommunication Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali in the

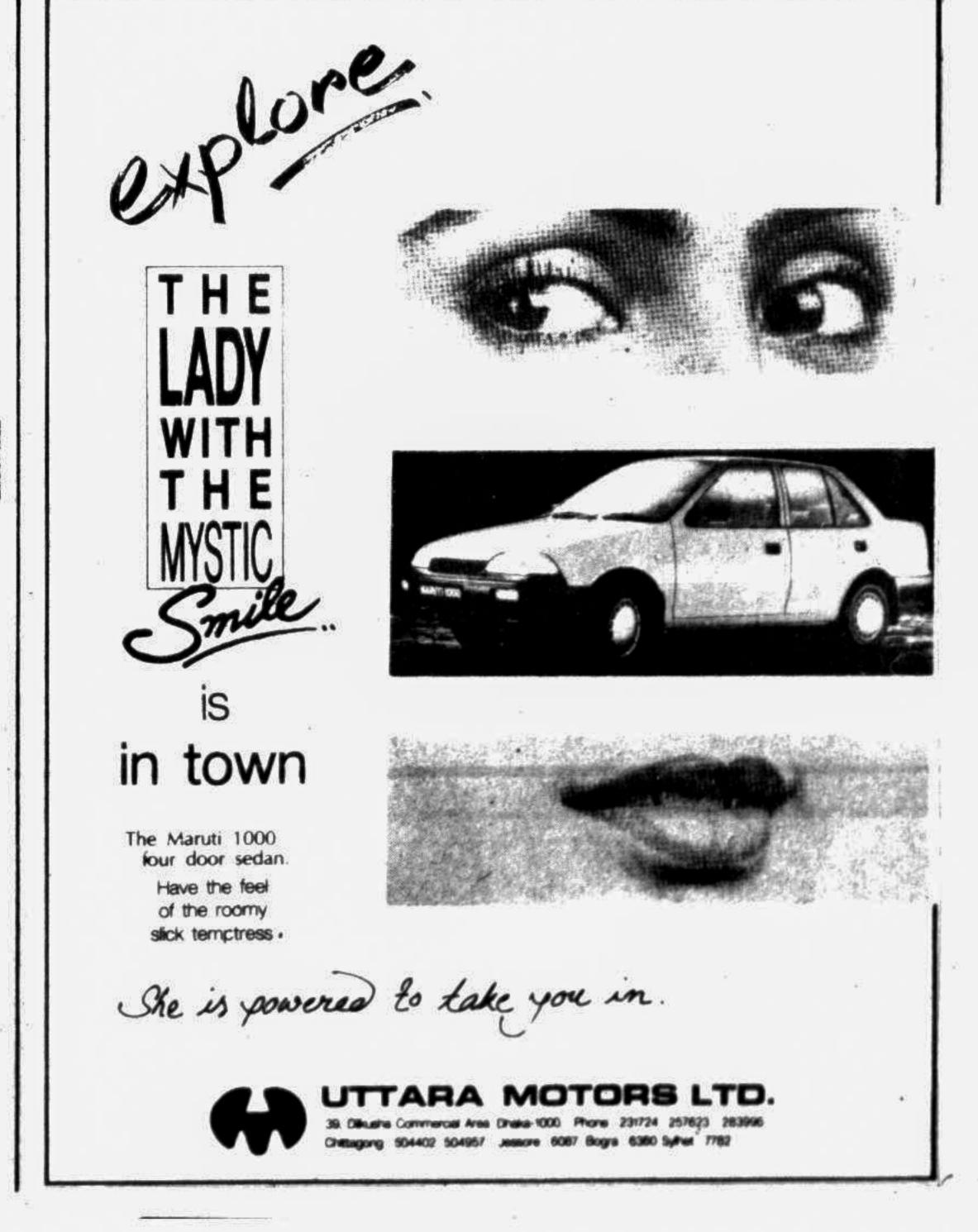
Members of the Parliament Salahuddin Ahmed, Principal MN Mazrul Islam, Md Mizanur Rahman Manu, Md Nasiruddin and Barkat Ullah Bhulu took part in the discussion.

New ambulance for DNMIH

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf handed over the key of an ambulance for the Dhaka National Medical Institute Hospital (DNMIII) to the State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain here yesterday, reports BSS.

Sadek Hossain is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the hospital. State Minister

Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mosharef Hossain Shajahan was also present on the occasion.





Development Bank speaking at the inaugural function of a three-week long training course on "Marketing Development Programme" organised jointly by BSCIC, ILO and ADB Tuesday.

Govt to formulate flood action plan

youth forces stressed By Staff Correspondent State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and prised the President of their Flood Control Mosharraf activities on various youth de-Hossain said that the government would formulate the Chief Advisor of the Foun-Flood Action Plan (FAP) after dation Mahtab Uddin Ahmed completion of the 26 studies, being conducted in various Talking to them, the places of the country by 1994-President stressed the need

> The State Minister while replying to a question by a member of the parliament also said that the progress of the studies was half way through.

> He said that 15 donor countries and organisations would provided with 150 million dollars (equivalent to Taka 600 crore) as grant for conducting the studies.

sphere for blooming the talent of the country's youth forces. The Minister said it would He called upon the voluntake 15 to 20 years to impletary organisations to make an ment the flood action plan. But integrated programme throthe government has in the ughout the country on youth meantime started some pilot development and ensure its projects in several districts on priority basis to cope with the flood situation, he added.

> Replying to another question the State Minister said there were 38 flood control projects in the revised ADP (Annual Development Programme) of 1991-92 of which 22 projects would be implemented by the current fiscal year.



Wednesday Opening announcement Al-Quran

Programme summary News in Bangla Recitation from the Geeta Campus 6.00 Sports Programme: Gillete World Sports Special Shamachar 7.05 Hijal Tamal News in Bangla 8.00

Biswa Parikrama 8.30 Film Show: MacGyver 9.00 News in English 10.00 Parliament Round up 10.25 Mukhamukhi 10.35 Khabar/The News Thursday's programme 11.45 Closing