

CULTURAL FEAST

International Festival of Docufilms

Title: 2nd International Festival of Docufilms on Liberation and Human Rights
Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum
Date: December 6
3:00pm onwards Drowned Out, Anek Kothar Ekli Kotha
5:30 pm Mandala

Film Screening

In aid of Sidi victims
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University
December 6
09:00am Shaolin Soccer
11:00am The Namesake

Dhaka Book Fair 2007

Organised by: National Book Centre
Venue: National Parade Square, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Date: December 1-16

Art Exhibition

Title: Nitu Kundu: The Creative Mind
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shipalaya, H 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: December 3-17
Time: 12pm-8pm

Title: Guernica: History of a Painting
Organiser: Department of Spanish, Institute of Modern Language, University of Dhaka
Venue: Zainul Gallery 2, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
Date: December 3-9
Time: 12am-7pm

Title: Tokai
Artist: Rafiqunnabi
Venue: Gallery Chitra, Road 4, House 21, Dhanmondi
Date: December 1-7
Time: 10am-8pm

"Talking Books": A reader's paradise

In conversation with Yasmeen Murshed

NIVEDITA RAITZ VON FRENTZ

TAKING a leaf out of a recently published book *How to Talk about Books that you haven't Read*, founder of Scholastica School, Yasmeen Murshed, came up with a slick volume of her own. Entitled *Talking Books -- the Thirsty Shore*, the book, a compilation of columns written for *The Daily Star* over the last three and a half years, was launched on November 21, 2007.

"The project took four months to com-

plete and I set limits to achieve this end. I have not tampered with the columns, so they have been reproduced as originally published."

Delving into the history behind the *Talking Books* columns, Murshed said, "I was cajoled into writing. I've always been passionate about books and used my column to convey this passion." She preferred not to write book reviews; rather, the columns were the outpourings of her personal musings, also quoting secondary sources to provide a healthy balance of opinions. For Murshed, writing always tended to "be on the heavy side," so she took up the gauntlet in 2003 to write a fortnightly column in a lighter vein.

"Writing always seemed like such a chore, with so much effort and research involved; take something like a deep discourse on religion. *Talking Books* gave me the fabulous opportunity to write off the top of my head," Murshed says.

Having grown up reading books by "Dead White Men and Austen," it is quite clear that Indian author and poet, Vikram Seth is her favourite among the contemporary writers. The former continue to haunt her and she revisits their books when she fancies entertaining herself. Murshed considers the explosion of writing in English by South Asian authors over the last quarter of a century "like the Renaissance all over again."

She remembers that the most stringent punishment her mother meted out when she was a little girl was not being allowed to read. "Reading has been my lifelong habit and companion. Although reading is a solitary pastime, I have never felt single or lonely, as my home and psyche have been peopled with books. Reading is



Yasmeen Murshed

life and life is reading," she says. "I internalise many things and so live a rich life from within." She is proud of her library, with its idiosyncratic cataloguing system.

Her bedside table sports a couple of books at any given time, one each of the "heavy and light stuff." She is currently reading *The Heirs of the Prophet Muhammad* by Barnaby Rogerson and a racy Dick Francis novel *Under Orders*. She feels that there has been a sharp decline in reading for pleasure, given all the professional reading one must cope with, and of

course, the numerous television channels only a fingertip away from viewers' surfing fingers. She thinks audio books are a great idea and regularly listens to poetry. "I am transported to delight when I hear the dulcet tones of Richard Burton reciting Shakespeare's sonnets," she says.

The first book experience whetted her appetite for reading up about language and writing styles, especially punctuation. She is a self-confessed irregular punctuation user. "I used to be careless with words," -- she has become much more conscious of the way in which words may be used. The exercise taught her the ins and outs of editing and publishing, and her respect for those professions has shot up dramatically. "A writer just provides the manuscript. The end product is the result of the amazingly hard work done by the editorial team."

In her role as an educationist, Murshed wishes to be non-controversial. She does not want to be thought of as tarred by any particular political brush and so prefers not to dabble in political writing. Commitments prevent Murshed from continuing the *Talking Books* column, but the sheer pleasure of being involved in her first book venture, has already led to another, with formatting to be completed in the not too distant future; the illustrations are already underway. The book will be a "personal food memoir", containing recipes and stories about vibrant Dhaka life. Expected to be out in a year's time, it is intended to be a tribute to her large extended family, scattered all over the world.

The writer is a freelance contributor

Japanese cultural events held in the city

The Embassy of Japan, Dhaka recently organised the 'Japanese Cultural Events' alongside the Japan Trade Fair 2007 from November 29 at the Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city, says a press release.

The cultural programmes included photo exhibition, karate demonstration, Japanese dance and drama performance, kendo and ikebana demonstrations, Haiku-evening and counselling on 'Study in Japan'.

On the concluding day (December 1), several programmes were held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

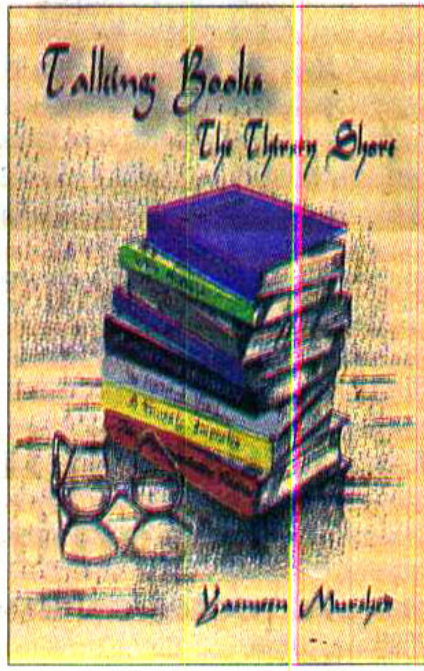
As part of the programmes, a drama titled *One Hundred Sacks of Rice* was staged on November 29 at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The counselling on 'Study in Japan' took place everyday from 1 to 5 pm at the embassy booth in the conference centre. Information on the study opportunities in over 700 Japanese universities and educational institutes were provided during the seminar.

The programmes were organised by the Embassy of Japan in association with Japan Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI), Meghdut and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.



Ikebana demonstration at the programme



Cover of Talking Books -- the Thirsty Shore

Photography for the visually impaired

In conversation with Partho Bhowmick

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

A much needed and exciting vista has opened up for the visually impaired -- photography. Thanks to Partho Bhowmick and his 'Blind with Camera', the public in Delhi recently got to see the 28 commendable works of nine such photographers -- Rahul Shirsat, R Dharmarajan, Sujit Chaurasia, Praveen Bhosale, Mahesh Umraniya, Raju Singh, Kanchan Pannani, Sunil Bhavsar and Nikhil Mundhe -- at Delhi's popular cultural haunt, the India Habitat Centre.

Many of the works caught the eye of the viewer. In the ranks was a photograph by Raju of the Victoria Terminus in Mumbai. Explaining his motivation in creating this effective work, the photographer says, "I wanted to create a different picture of the Victoria Terminus and learned the skill of multiple exposure... It may be interesting to imagine a dreamy image with 'closed eyes' but

it was even more exciting to create one by imagining it with open eyes, with limited sight."

What makes such a work unparalleled is Raju's remarkable courage that he has displayed amply in his life. Born with normal sight, he developed low vision at an early age. Currently he has low vision with limited depth of field and works as a computer instructor in a blind school. Amplifying on his philosophy, a brochure quotes him as saying, "I get very close to objects to see it 'somewhat' clearly. My low vision makes the normal sighted people see the abstractness they wouldn't see otherwise."

The photography exhibition, titled *Beyond Sight*, is the brainchild of Mumbai-based corporate Bhowmick. "Exhibitions such as this can promote considerable awareness about the visually impaired," he explains, adding "In the urban scenario we say let such people get

educated and make some living out of their art so that they can live independently. However in rural areas the scene is totally different, as they are either over protected or under protected."

Bhowmick and *Blind with Camera's* mentor is the French visually impaired photographer Evgen Bavar. "He has been a major inspiration because he was the first point of contact for me," says Bhowmick. Though he has not met Bavar, Bhowmick keeps in touch with him on the Internet.

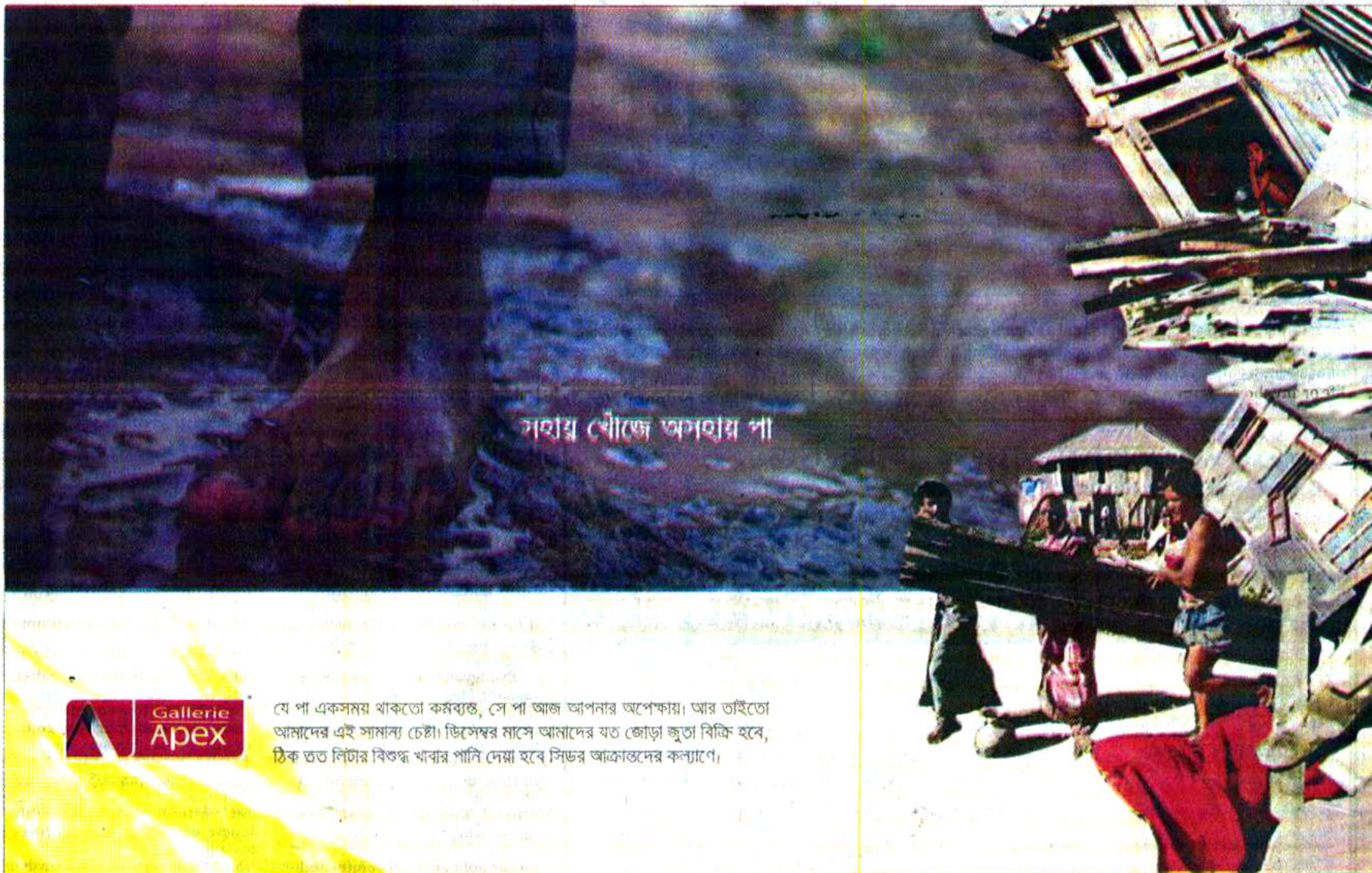
Prior to showing in Delhi, *Beyond Sight* has been held in Mumbai and Bangalore. The exhibition will travel to other Indian cities in 2007 and 2008 to raise awareness and sensitise people to the needs of the visually impaired. The "inclusive" exhibition provides touchable images, Braille footnotes, visual aids and audio description for the visually impaired visitors.

To promote his calling, Bhowmick also organises self-funded workshops on photography with the visually impaired. These are free of cost (barring the fees for his stay and travel). In addition to *Beyond Sight*, his aim is to boost Disability Arts culture at various academic, social and cultural forums in India.

It is tightrope walking for him to balance his job with his passion for photography. However, as he says he has to squeeze out time to combine both. It is a measure of his commitment to his art that he spares every available moment on it. Here's to many more shows such as this -- not just in India but all over the world.



A photograph at the exhibition



ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Amader Nurul Huda
On ATN Bangla at 9:20 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Mahfuz Ahmed, Riaz



The Knights of Prosperity
On Star World at 9:00 pm
TV Series
Cast: Donal Logue, Sofia Vergara

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, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.

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

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

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:30 pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 4:00 pm.
News Headlines (English) at 8:05 pm.

Rtv
News (Bangla) at 10:15 pm, and 12:15 am.

ntv
News (Bangla) at 7:30 am, 12:02 pm, 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 1:00 am.

ETV
News (Bangla) at 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

BTV

06:45 Bishwa Bichitra
09:05 National Cricket League
05:05 Saimpur
05:30 Entertainment Show: Ilyad
06:40 Dharma O Jibon
07:00 Compulax
07:20 Drama Serial: Heera Phool
07:45 Bijoy Amar Bijoy
08:40 Drama: Chinar Jaton
10:30 Phile Asa Din
11:00 Talk Show: Date Line Dhaka

ATN BANGLA

09:15 Drama: Rang Manchoy Teal
10:30 Talk Show: Akbar Oryodishat
11:05 Drama: Shambhob Oshombhob Golpo
12:15 Musical Programme: Shurur Madhuri
12:45 Shodepati
01:30 Musical Programme
02:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House
03:10 Shundor Jibon
04:10 Debate
05:00 Gram Gonjer
06:40 Khorob
05:20 Islamic Programme
06:25 Fashion Show
06:40 Shai Shob Din Raatri
08:00 Drama Serial: Mouchakey Dhill
08:40 Drama Serial: Ochlin Pakhi
09:20 Drama Serial: Amader Nurul Huda
11:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House
12:00 Grameenphone Lead

News

CHANNEL 1

09:30 Shangbadpotry
09:45 Bangladesh League
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone Trilomatra
11:05 Na Bole Kotha
12:30 Citycell Tarokakathana
01:05 Ebong Cinegar Gan
01:30 Sa Re Ga Ma
02:40 Grameenphone Trilomatra April
03:05 Hridoya Mati O Manusher Daak
04:05 Hridoyer Gaan
04:30 Talk Show
05:30 Muktiudho Protidin
08:00 Ek Dul Teen
06:30 Amar Chhobi
07:50 Drama Serial: Aguner Alo
09:20 Drama Serial: Advanturey
09:35 Drama Serial: Ankush
10:00 Selected Programme
11:30 Aste Aste
12:00 Grameenphone Akbar Shangbadpotry

Rtv

08:15 Gaanchil Ei Din
09:00 Riv Exclusive
09:35 Akbar the Great
10:00 Musical Programme: Tomar Beta Tarar Geed
10:30 Protidin
11:30 Drama Serial: Dohon
12:35 Wedding of the World
01:00 Gaanchil Ei Din
01:30 Dhaliwood Beats
02:30 Bangla Feature Film
06:00 Protidin
06:35 Akbar the Great

08:00 Drama Serial: Dohon
08:40 Cinema Ar Cinema
09:20 Drama Serial: Kugor Manush
11:00 Just Band
11:30 News Watch
12:00 Riv Exclusive
08:55 Cookery Show
09:30 Ki Kotha Tahar Shasthey
10:05 Gaaner Shomay
10:30 Drama
12:10 Ei Shomoy
01:05 Japan Video Topic
02:30 Drama Serial: To-Let
03:15 Teen Parush
03:50 Drama Serial: Neer
06:00 Ekusher Chokh
04:25 Chand Poka Ghuno Poka
06:45 Amra Tomader

05:30 Chetony Islam
06:15 Shubho Shondha
06:45 Selected Programme
08:15 Shokkhabash
08:50 Glamour World
09:45 Drama Serial: 111 A Nelson Number
11:35 Ei Shomoy
08:45 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
04:00 Dhinak Dinak Ta Shanskriti Shathdin
05:45 Ekusher Shondhya
06:15 Sms Menia
06:30 Desh Jurey
07:30 Nishi Kushum
08:30 Te Na Na Na
09:30 Ekusher Shomoy
10:30 Ekusher Chokh
11:45 Reporters File
08:15 Bhubona
09:30 The One
11:00 Proshno Uttar
08:30 Desh Jurey Shonglap Drishti
01:30 Drama Serial: Bondhon
02:00 Cine Beats
04:00 Dhinak Dinak Ta Shanskriti Shathdin
05:45 Ekusher Shondhya
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06:30 Desh Jurey
07:30 Nishi Kushum
08:30 Te Na Na Na
09:30 Ekusher Shomoy
10:30 Ekusher Chokh
11:45 Reporters File
08:35 Shubho Shokal
09:05 Media Bhubon
09:30 Swapnochura
10:10 Desh-ar Pathhey
10:40 Drama Serial: Kachhey Durey
11:30 Nana Rang-ar Dinguli
01:00 Drama Serial: Mohanagar
02:30 Drama Serial: Shesh Odhoy
03:15 Praner Gaan
04:15 Sports Vision
04:45 Citycell Diner
05:30 Top Story

06:25 Shurer Bhubon
08:25 Mohanagar
09:05 X Crime
09:45 Drama Serial: Shilbhira March 16
11:25 Shudhu Gaan
12:00 Shongbad Protidin
09:00 Doctor Doolittle 3
10:45 Behind Enemy Lines
12:30 Moscow Heat
02:15 Hot Shots
03:40 Airheads
05:15 Big Momma's House 2
08:35 Dragon Boys - Ep. 2
10:10 Vip Access
10:40 Sahara
10:30 American Dragon: Jack Long
11:00 101 Dalmatians
02:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
03:00 Saanrhi
04:00 Kayamath
06:30 Bidaai
07:00 Shararat: Thoda Jaadu
07:30 Sangam
08:00 Santaan
08:30 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi
09:00 Roshni
09:30 Kasauli Zindagi Kay
10:30 Bidaai
10:30 Kasturi
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kayamath
07:30 Ghost Whisperer
09:30 Eureka
11:30 Ugly Betty
12:30 Cine Dion Taking Chances
01:30 Fashion House
02:30 The Ellen Degeneres

STAR MOVIES

03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00 General Hospital
05:00 The Closer
06:00 Rodney
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Hope & Faith
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 Hey Paula
09:00 The Knights Of Prosperity
09:30 The Office (Us)
10:00 Two & A Half Men
10:30 The Jane Show
11:00 Cries Angel Mindfreak Moments
11:30 Most Haunted
08:30 Asterix And Obelix: Versus Caesar
11:00 Drowning Mona
01:05 Agatha Christie Repeat
03:05 Snapshots
05:05 The Sixth Day
07:45 Traffic
11:00 Father Of The Bride 2
09:30 The Air Campaign
10:30 Firebird
11:30 English Friend
11:45 India Shoppee
12:00 Brahmyan
01:30 Incidents at A Wedding
02:30 Cities of the under-world
03:30 Harry Truman
04:30 Hawkins and Boggs
05:30 Ford GT-40
06:30 Augustus: First Emperor
07:30 Fountain of Youth
08:30 Battling the Insurgents
09:30 Regimental Silver
10:30 Man Moment Machine
11:30 Going Ballistic

STAR PLUS

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Radio Foorti 88.0 FM

07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)
11:00am Amar 88.0 (Nusrat)
03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib)
07:00pm Seven Eleven (Sadia)
11:00pm Late Night Show (Shuvo)
07:15am Good Morning Dhaka (Biplob)
07:45am Today's Happy Moments
08:45am Shokaler Khabor
12:00pm Today's Adda (Nudrat)
01:45pm Dupurer Khabor
04:00pm U-turn (Khoris & Tania)
06:45pm Shondher Khabor
08:00pm Tobe Tai Hok (Sayem)
09:45pm Raater Khabor
11:45pm Moddho Raater Khabor

Radio Today 89.6 FM

07:15am Good Morning Dhaka (Biplob)
07:45am Today's Happy Moments
08:45am Shokaler Khabor
12:00pm Today's Adda (Nudrat)
01:45pm Dupurer Khabor
04:00pm U-turn (Khoris & Tania)
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HISTORY CHANNEL

03:30 The Air Campaign
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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY

11:15 Fat Bluster
11:30 Car Chases
12:30 Inside: North Korea
01:30 AIDS JaaGo
03:30 Wrinkled Lipped Bats
04:30 I Didn't Know That
05:00 The Devil Boas Of Cozumel
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Radar Crows
06:30 SnowReal Asia 4
07:30 Wild Dog Diaries
08:30 Megastar Churches
09:30 Colossal Churches
10:30 Hong Kong's Big Bang