

Memoirs of a Nightingale

Lata Mangeshkar on playback then and now

She is the nightingale of the Subcontinent. Her golden voice has featured in over 980 Bollywood films.

Lata Mangeshkar started her career in 1942 and sings in over twenty Indian languages.

In the recently-released *Bollywood Melodies*, by Ganesh Anantharaman, Mangeshkar discusses her inspirations, her so-called rivalry with younger sister, Asha Bhosle (an equally accomplished singer), and her favourite contemporary singers.

Saigal (Kundan Lal, Bollywood's first superstar) as inspiration: As a child, I heard Saigal's music before I heard anyone else, barring my father, who was himself a reputed musician. I used to learn classical music from my father at home, and he'd have the final say in what music we got to listen. Film music was banned at home, but fortunately for me, my father approved of Saigal and I could listen to his music without censure. I liked Saigal particularly for his diction. Coming from Punjab, he sang Hindi and Urdu without a trace of accent, unlike other singers from Bengal at that time, who sang well, but with a Bengali intonation.

When I came into the Hindi film industry, Ameerbai Karnatak (actor) and Zohrabai Ambalewali (playback singer) were extremely popular. I liked Zohrabai's voice very much. It was a heavy voice, but it had more melody in it than the other voices of the 1940s. Her song *Akhiyan milaake* that I sang for *Shradhanjali* is my favourite.

Geeta Dutt (singer and actress) and I came at the same time, though she became popular with the songs of *Do Bhai* before I did. Geeta's voice was very charming, with a distinctive Bengali lilt to it. She had good enunciation and diction too. She relied more on instinct than practice, so her



Lata Mangeshkar and her sister Asha Bhosle

songs had a lot of spontaneity. But since she was not trained, I feel the range of songs she could sing was somewhat limited. Also, after I became popular in 1950, most composers gave their better songs to me. So Geeta did not have the advantage of getting the kind of compositions I did. But whatever she got, she sang really well. Not just as a singer, Geeta was a very sweet person too. I had a good personal equation with her.

Asha Bhosle, I have always maintained, is the singer with the maximum versatility in Hindi films. She could sing (and still can) every kind of song: classical, romantic, sad, *bhajan*, *ghazal*, cabaret, everything. I don't think even I can sing as wide a range of songs as she can. I haven't tried either. Asha, like me, had the advantage of a solid grounding in music from our father. She's worked very hard at her music

subsequently, which is why she's succeeded so much, and is popular even today.

If I do have that spiritual quality to my singing, it is because I am a God-fearing person, and I have never forgotten that it is His blessings that have given me so much. I have never tried to 'create' a spiritual effect. It can't be done as a technique. It has to come from within, naturally. In the earlier days, often while recording a song, I'd feel a benign presence beside me.

The playback scene today:

Among contemporary singers, I like Sonu Nigam best. He is serious about his music, has learnt classical and sings with confidence. I also like Udit Narayan because he sings in a completely original style. He is probably the only playback singer in Hindi films who never sang like anyone else. I think it's admirable that he has succeeded so much with his originality.

Alka Yagnik is good too. She's come a long way since she began in the 1980s. People say she sings somewhat like me, but I think Alka listened to my music and just took from that whatever she liked, what suited her. The rest is her own talent, her own effort. She would not have been singing successfully for twenty-five years if she did not have originality. Many other singers who came in the 1970s and 1980s were good singers per se, but either sang like me or like Asha. Which is why they faded out sooner or later. As long as the originals are going strong, where was the need for Xeroxes, tell me?

Sunidhi Chauhan has a good, expressive voice, but she's crafted a particular image for herself as the singer of fast, racy songs. She has the potential to be a complete singer, if she works hard.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Bjork in Shanghai: "Tibet! Tibet!"



AP, Shanghai

Icelandic singer Bjork has ignited criticism from Chinese fans after she declared "Tibet! Tibet!" to end a passionate performance of her song *Declare Independence* during a concert in Shanghai.

The outburst at the finale of Bjork's Sunday

night concert drew rare public attention inside China to Beijing's often harsh rule over the at times independent Himalayan region of Tibet.

Bjork's statement was not reported in the state-controlled media, but online sites were aflame with angry comment after word leaked out.

"If she really did this, then this woman really makes people throw up," one comment on popular Chinese Web site Sina.com said.

Some at the Shanghai concert said the politically tinged finale made audience members uneasy.

"The atmosphere was very strange, uncomfortable compared to the rest of the concert," said audience member Stephen Gow, a British teacher who lives in Shanghai. People didn't boo, Gow said, but they left the Shanghai International Gymnastic Centre hurriedly.

Officials at the China-based company promoting the concert, Emma Ticketmaster, said they had no comment.

Bjork has used *Declare Independence* -- the lyrics include the entreaty *Raise your flag!* -- to declare political support for various causes.

She dedicated the song to Kosovo while performing last month in Japan. Her video for the song shows her in a jumpsuit bearing the flags of Greenland and the Faroe Islands, far-flung territories controlled by Denmark.

China's 58-year rule over the formerly independent mountain nation of Tibet has drawn frequent condemnation from foreign governments and activists, often inciting a prickly nationalism among the Chinese government and ordinary people. Many Tibetans consider the exiled Buddhist spiritual leader the Dalai Lama as their rightful leader.

In a sign of Bjork's reputation for unpredictable behaviour, Shanghai's English-language newspaper, *Shanghai Daily*, last month heralded her concert date with the headline "Bjork's Shanghai Surprise".

Coen brothers' next film to "Burn"

Movie fans won't have to wait long to see the next film from Joel and Ethan Coen, the Oscar-winning brothers behind *No Country For Old Men*.

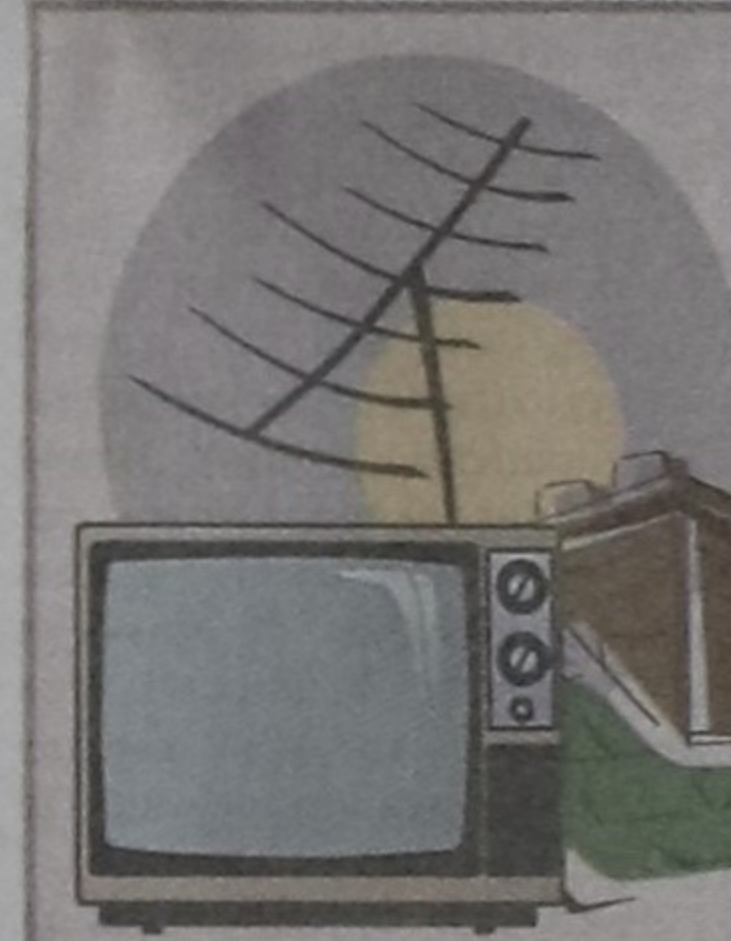
Their next project, the dark espionage comedy *Burn After Reading*, will be released September 12 via Focus Features, the studio said last Monday. The cast includes George Clooney, John Malkovich, Brad Pitt, Tilda Swinton, and Frances McDormand, Joel Coen's wife.

The Coens last month won the best picture, directing and adapted screenplay Oscars for *No Country For Old Men*. The Miramax Films/Paramount Vantage co-production is the most commercially successful of their career, with domestic ticket sales of \$69.7 million to date.

Source: Internet



The Coen brothers at the Oscars this year



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

On Air

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, 11pm. News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm.
 Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 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 7:30 am, 1:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:30 pm.
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 4:00 pm.
 News (English) at 6:00 pm.
Rtv
 News (Bangla) at 10:15 pm, and 12:15 am.
ntv
 News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 12:02 pm, 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 1:00 am.
ETV
 News (Bangla) 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

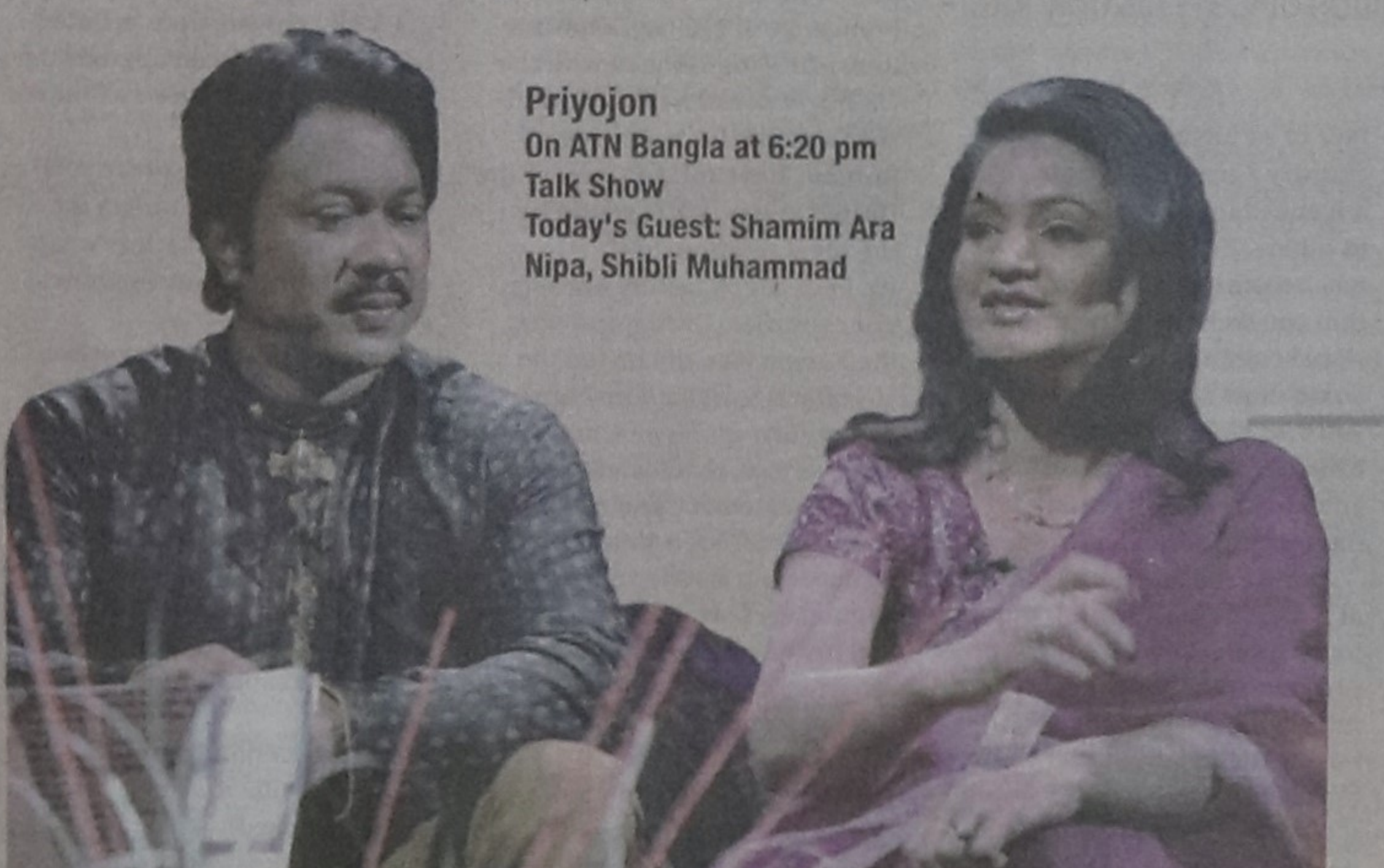
BTv
 08:15 Shuprobhaat
 08:45 Musical Programme
 11:15 Documentary Programme: Swadeshi Desher Gaan
 Drama Serial: Kon Gram-er Meye
 12:05 Maa O Shishur Katha
 12:30 Shaphalyo Gatha
 01:00 Nitrit Taisy Taisy
 01:30 Shukhi Poribear
 02:15 Agricultural Programme
 03:00 Cartoon
 03:30 Onushlon
 04:05 Saangseta
 04:30 Apon Bhumil
 05:05 Sisimpur
 05:30 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
 08:15 Aker Shangbadpotro
 08:30 Drama Serial: Mouchakey Dhi
 09:15 Entertainment Show: Rang Manchoyo Taal
 10:30 Talk Show: Onyodrishti
 11:05 Drama: Mitur 71
 12:15 Musical Programme: Shurer Madhuri
 12:45 Shodapali
 01:30 Cinema Cinema
 02:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House
 03:45 Shundor Jiboner Jonjo
 04:20 Selected Programme
 05:00 Gram Gonjer Khorob
 05:20 Islamic Programme
 06:20 Priyojon
 08:00 Drama Serial: Mouchakey Dhi
 08:40 Drama Serial: Ochin Pakhi
 09:20 Drama Serial: Amader Nurul Huda
 11:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House
 12:00 Gramsephone Lead News
CHANNEL-i
 09:30 Shangbadpotroy Bangladesh Public Reaction
 09:45 Gramsephone Tritomatra
 09:50 Selected Programme
 11:05 Citycell Tarakathon
 12:30 Citycell Tarakathon
 01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
 01:30 Sa Re Ga Ma

02:35 Selected Programme
 03:05 Hindoye Mati O Manusher Daak
 04:05 Educational Programme: BSB Cambrian Medha Bikash
 05:30 Mukhti Judhgo Amar Ohonkaar
 06:00 Talk Show: EK Dui Teen
 06:30 Amar Chhobi
 07:50 Drama Serial: Aguner Alo
 08:20 Drama Serial: Rasta
 09:35 Drama Serial: Chhayabari
 10:00 Drama Serial: Poran Kandey Dukhikhey
 11:30 Aste Aste Aste
 12:00 Gramsephone Aker Shangbadpotro
ETV
 08:00 Ekush-er Shokaal
 12:30 Ekush-ey Business: Special Focus of Business
 01:30 Ekush-ey Business: Shophol Jara
 03:30 Cine Hits
 05:15 Shanskriti Shatidin
 05:45 Ekusher Shondhya
 06:15 SMS Mania
 06:30 Desh Jurey
 07:45 Ekusher Chokh
 08:30 Drama Serial: Poribibi
 09:30 Ta Na Na Na
 10:00 Ekush-er Shomoy
 12:00 Ekush-er Raat
Rtv
 08:15 Gaanchil Ei Din
 09:00 Rtv Exclusive
 09:05 Prithibir Pathey Pathey
 09:35 Tomar Bina Taarer Geeti
 10:00 Drama Serial: Anondojatra Taroka Alap
 11:00 Drama Serial: Aguntuk
 11:30 Musical Programme: Gaan Ar Gaan
 01:00 Gaanchil Ei Din
 01:30 Dhallywood Beats
 02:30 Bangla Feature Film
 06:00 Profidin
 06:35 Apon Shimay
 08:00 Drama Serial: Kala Kaitor
 08:35 Musical Programme: Cinema Ar Cinema
 09:20 Drama Serial: Anondojatra
 11:00 Just Bard
 11:30 News Watch
 12:00 Rtv Exclusive
ntv
 08:30 Aker Shokaal
 08:55 Drama Serial: To-Let
 09:30 Bajo Ebong Bajao
 12:10 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy
 01:05 Cartoon
 02:30 Drama Serial: To-Let
 03:15 Drama Serial: Teen Purush
 03:50 Drama Serial: Neer
 04:25 Cartoon
 05:30 Chetonay-e Islam
 06:15 Shubho Shondhya
 06:45 Amar O Gaitey Ichhey Holo
 08:15 Drama Serial: Swapnojal
 09:00 Glamour World
 09:45 Drama Serial: 111 A Nelson Number
 11:35 Ei Shomoy

CHANNEL 1
 08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
 10:30 Bangla Feature Film
 02:00 One Sports
 03:30 Drama
 04:30 Padma Raag
 05:15 Selected Programme
 11:00 Prashna Uttar
BANGLAVISION
 09:00 Media Bhubon
 09:30 Drama Serial: Swapnochura
 10:10 Agamir Kontho
 11:05 Drama Serial: Shunyopata
 11:35 Nana Rang-er Dinguli
 05:30 Top Story
 06:05 Citycell Din-er Sheshey
 06:20 Children's Programme
 06:50 Shur-er Bhubon
 08:25 Drama Serial: Mohanagar
 09:05 X Crime
 09:45 Drama Serial: Shilbha March 16
 10:00 Swarm
 11:35 Crazy/Beautiful
 01:15 Smile
 03:05 Bone Collector, The
 05:10 Illusionist, The
 07:00 Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle
 08:45 Material Girls
 10:30 There's Something About Mary
 12:30 Treasure Raiders
STAR PLUS
 09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
 10:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
 10:30 Saibaba
 11:30 Gihasti
 12:00 Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat
 12:30 Bidaai
 01:00 Kis Desh Me Hai Meraa Dil
 01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
 02:00 Bhabhi
 02:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
 03:00 Gihasti
 03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
 04:00 Kayamath
 04:30 Sangam
 05:00 Santaan
 05:30 Kasturi
 06:00 Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat
 06:30 Bidaai
 07:00 Gihasti
 07:30 Sangam
 08:00 Santaan
 08:30 Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat
 09:00 Kis Desh Me Hai Meraa Dil
 09:30 Bidaai
 10:00 Kasturi
 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
 11:30 Kayamath
 12:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
STAR WORLD
 09:30 Smallville
 10:30 American Idol
 11:30 Two & A Half Men
 12:00 The Simpsons
 12:30 Seinfeld
 01:00 Friends
 01:30 Desire: Table For Three
 02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show
 03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
 04:00 General Hospital
 05:00 Enterprise
 06:00 Malcolm In The Middle
 06:30 The Simpsons
 07:00 My Wife And Kids
 07:30 Friends
 08:00 Seinfeld
 08:30 American Idol
 09:30 The Office (Us)
 10:00 Scrubs
 10:30 Love You To Death
 11:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak
 11:30 Most Haunted
 12:30 Seinfeld
AXN
 10:30 Top Chef (Season 1)
 12:00 Fear Factor (Season 6)
 Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season II)
 02:00 The Contender Asia
 03:00 World's Most Amazing Videos (Season 3)
 04:00 Fear Factor (Season 6)
 05:30 Guinness World Records:
 Primetime (Season II)
 06:30 The Contender Asia
 07:30 Nazi Ghost Train
 08:30 Breakout from Normandy
 09:30 Waterloo
 10:30 Ancient Discoveries
 11:30 Modern Marvels

Poribibi
 On ETV at 8:30 pm
 Drama Serial
 Cast: Sweety, Joy
 06:00 Saaj Bala
 06:45 Rokto Gham Potaka
 07:00 Amar Ghar
 08:15 Drama: Badla
 09:30 Boishakhi Shur
 02:00 Drama Serial: Mohanagar
 02:30 Vocab
 02:40 Drama Serial: Pingol Akash
 03:05 Pran-er Gaan
 04:20 Sports Vision
 11:25 Shudhu Gaan
 12:00 Shongbad Protidin
STAR MOVIES
 08:25 Body Armour
 Priyojon
 On ATN Bangla at 6:20 pm
 Talk Show
 Today's Guest: Shamim Ara Nipa, Shibli Muhammad

Radio Foorti 88.0 FM
 07:00am Hello Dhaka
 11:00am Amar 88
 03:00pm Dhaka Calling
 07:00pm Seven Eleven
 12:00am Back to Back music
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 (Kibria & Tania)
 06:45pm Shondher Khabor
 08:00pm Tobe Tai Hek (Sayem)
 09:45pm Raater Khabor
 11:45pm Moddho Raater Khabor



06:30 Primetime (Season II)
 07:30 The Contender (Season 2)
 08:30 Fear Factor (Season 6)
 09:30 Video Zonkers
 10:00 Video Zonkers
 10:30 Top Chef (Season 2)
 11:30 Damages
 12:30 Video Zonkers
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
 09:30 India With Sanjeev Bhaskar: Episode 3
 10:30 Painted Nation
 11:30 Futureweapons: No Place To Hide
 12:30 Baby Story, A (Season 6): Baby Eglow
 01:00 Healthy Living: No Pain All Gain
 01:30 Hunters: Dawn Of The Dragons
 02:30 Dinosaur Planet: Little Dads Hunt
 03:30 Chasing Nature (Season 1): Bats
 04:30 Ancondas With Nigel Marven
 05:30 Mega Builders: Quake - Proofing An Icon (San Francisco)
 06:30 Man Vs. Wild: Costa Rican Rainforest
 07:30 Hunters: Giant Grizzlies, The
 08:30 Meerkat Manor (Season 3): Farewell My Lovely
 09:00 Animal Camera - Surveillance On Survival: Episode 4
 09:30 Last Lions Of India, The
 10:30 Danganman Adventures With Geoff Mackley: Eye Of The Storm, The
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 10:30 Tasmania: Land of Devils
 11:30 The Face Of Genius
 12:30 Osama Rising
 01:30 Hollywood Science
 02:30 Built for the Kill
 03:30 World's Biggest Shredder
 04:30 Athens
 05:00 Cambodia Pit Vipers
 05:30 Big Bang
 06:00 Snake People
 06:30 Avalanche At Montroc
 07:30 Built for the Kill
 08:30 Mega Thursday
 09:30 Dubai's Dream Palace
 10:30 Mega Factories
 11:30 Mega Thursday
THE HISTORY CHANNEL
 10:30 1967 VW Beetle
 11:30 TVM - Swarna Heera
 12:15 Eye Max
 12:30 Spartacus
 01:30 Waterloo
 02:30 The Universe
 03:30 Casanova
 04:30 Cars and Planes
 05:30 Low Riders
 06:30 Spartacus
 07:30 Nazi Ghost Train
 08:30 Breakout from Normandy
 09:30 Waterloo
 10:30 Ancient Discoveries
 11:30 Modern Marvels