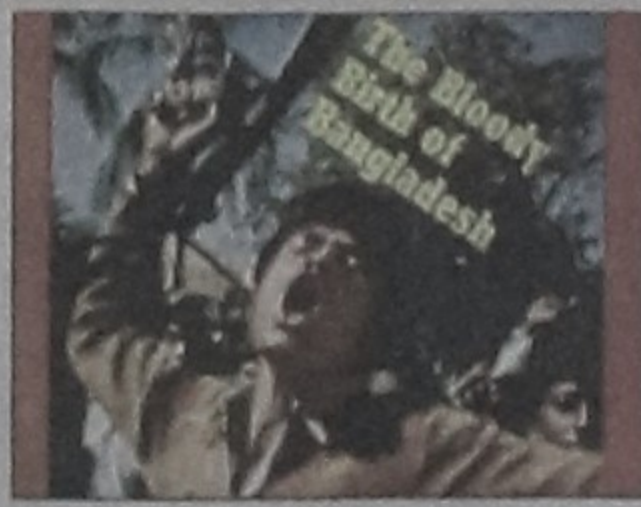


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

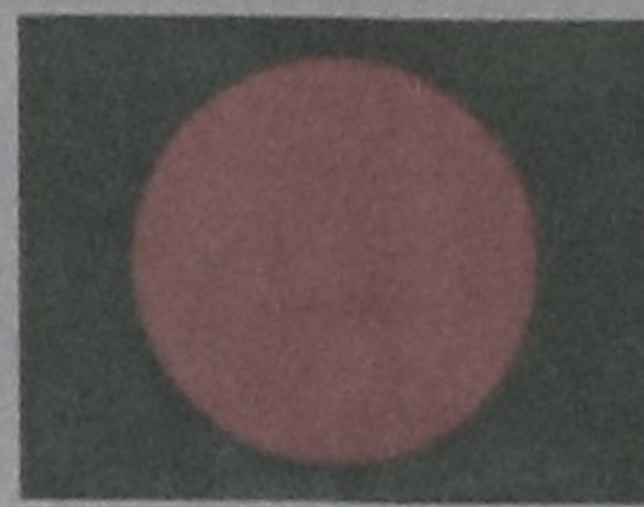
Victory Day Celebration

Organiser: Nazrul Institute
Venue: Nazrul Institute, Dhanmondi
Date: December 16
Time: 7am onwards



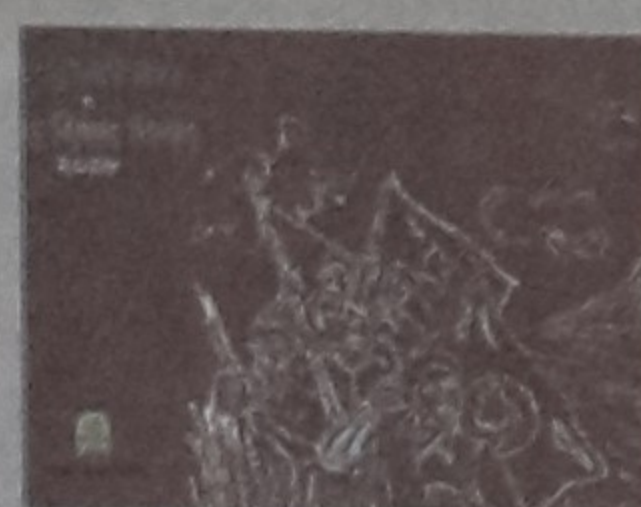
Victory Day Celebration

Organiser: Sharmilita Sangkritik Jote
Date: December 13-16
Time: 4pm onwards (at Rabindra Sarobar and Central Shaheed Minar premises)



Victory Day Celebration

Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: December 14-16
Time: 4pm onwards



Theatre

Play: Ekatorer Khudiram
Troupe: Shomyo Natyadal
Venue: Mahila Shamiti Auditorium, Natak Sarani
Date: December 19
Time: 6:30pm



Russian crowned Miss World '08

AP, Johannesburg

Russia's Kseniya Sukhina won the Miss World 2008 crown on Saturday in a glittering African-themed pageant where she outshone 108 other international beauties and pledged to "help people."

"And Miss World 2008 is Russia," announced Julia Morley, head of the Miss World committee that organises the event.

The second runner up was Gabrielle Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago and the first runner up Parvathy Omanakuttan of India.

The 21-year-old blue-eyed blonde, who declared shortly before her win was announced that being nervous made her "feel stronger," takes over from Zhang Zi Lin of China to become the 58th Miss World.

"I think I can help people and I want to help people and today if I walk away with this crown I will do that," Sukhina told judges through a translator after being asked why she should be crowned the winner.

Hailing from Nzhnevartsk in the north west of Siberia, Sukhina was dressed in a purple gown, with a decorative neckline and flowing skirt.

She is a student pursuing an engineering degree from the Tyumen Oil and Gas University.

Sukhina becomes the second Miss Russia to win the global event after Julia Kurochkina took the crown in 1992.

India's Omanakuttan wooed the crowd by greeting them in the Afrikaans language,

spoken by many in South Africa. She also referred to heroes such as Mahatma Gandhi and South Africa's first black president Nelson Mandela, who was quoted by Trinidad and Tobago's Walcott as well.

Contestants, aged 17 to 25, were dressed by South African and Jamaican designers for the final show after a month of galas, rehearsals and even a safari on the tip of the African continent.

Johannesburg sought to use the event to boost its image as a world-class city, despite being known for its high crime rates, while the country also hopes to benefit from the publicity ahead of staging the football World Cup in 2010.

Beauties from 109 countries were whittled down to 15 semi-finalists with India, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, Angola and South Africa among the five finalists.

The winner of the event, broadcast live to millions of viewers in 187 countries, has to espouse "beauty with a purpose" with charity being one of the main focuses of the pageant.

"Over the years the crown that is worn by the winner is a symbol for fundraising. The former Miss World raised over 30 million dollars in her year in office," Morley said.

"So perhaps from anything else it does a lot of good things for needy children and old people, which I think is important too."

The 51-year-old competition was originally scheduled for October 4 in Kiev, but was delayed in September over security concerns due to the conflict between neighbours Russia and Georgia.



(From left) First runner up Parvathy Omanakuttan (India), Miss World 2008 Kseniya Sukhina (Russia) and second runner up Gabrielle Walcott (Trinidad and Tobago).

Wonders that might become inaccessible



The Taj Mahal

Consider visiting these rare cultural and historic sites before they are irrevocably altered or gone forever

Taj Mahal

If the plan to close the Taj Mahal goes into effect, it would reduce this over-the-top mausoleum -- built by Shah Jahan (fifth emperor of the Mughal dynasty) to mourn his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal -- to a mere postcard silhouette instead of the spiritual experience it can be.

Even a recent rise in admission prices does not deter floods of tourists from shuffling through the Taj Mahal -- three to four million tourists every year. Between the crowds and the air pollution that's eating away its white stone facade, tourism officials are considering closing this 17th-century landmark to the public, leaving its fabulous domed symmetry -- that graceful centre onion dome, the four smaller surrounding domes, the slender punctuating minarets, the serene reflecting pool -- visible only from afar.

Shah Jahan placed this memorial beside the Jamuna River, despite the constant risk of flooding, because it was next to the bustling market of the Tajganj, where it is said he first saw Mumtaz selling jewels in a market stall. Work started in 1641, and it took 20,000 labourers (not to mention oxen and elephants) 22 years to complete; its marble came from Rajasthan, the precious stones from all over Asia. In the late 19th century, the badly deteriorated Taj Mahal was extensively restored by British viceroy Lord Curzon; what will today's Indian government do to preserve this treasure?

Pyramids of Giza

Of all the original Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, only one is still standing: the Great Pyramid of Cheops. Granted, its pinnacle was lopped off, and the polished white limestone that once faced its sloping sides was scavenged ages ago. But there it is in the Egyptian desert, the largest in a trio of stupendous royal tombs, with a quirky monument called the Sphinx alongside. It's quite a sight to see -- if only one could see it.



Pyramids of Giza

Today, aggressive throngs of souvenir vendors, tour touts, and taxi drivers crowd the entrance to the Pyramids of Giza. Though camel rides and horseback tours are now banned from the monument area, visitors still clamber unchecked over the ancient landmarks. The haphazard sprawl and pollution of Cairo comes right to the edge of the archaeological zone, yet Egyptian officials seem unconcerned about protecting the site.

It's difficult now to get that iconic long-distance view of the three pyramids looming in the desert; you cannot really see them until you are too close. Oriented precisely to the points of the compass, they were built for three Pharaohs of the 4th Dynasty (about 27th B.C.) -- the Great Pyramid of Cheops, the slightly smaller Second Pyramid of Chephren, and the much smaller red-granite Third Pyramid of Mycerinus -- and designed to imitate the rays of the sun shining down from its zenith. Most tourists expect a visit to the famed pyramids to be a once-in-a-lifetime thrill, not a tawdry letdown. It's the only Ancient Wonder we have left -- what a pity it's come to this.

Gu Gong (Forbidden City)

This vast complex is half a millennium old -- the emperors lived in the Forbidden City from 1420 to 1923, and the heavy traffic is taking its toll.

It may have been forbidden once, but nowadays nearly seven million visitors a year cross the threshold of this imperial palace, home to an unbroken line of 24 Chinese emperors. Limiting access would be a ticklish proposition for the Chinese government since most of the visitors are Chinese citizens getting in touch with their heritage. Many sections may be closed now, due to a massive renovation lasting through 2020.

There is no one must-see section -- it's the scale and harmony of the whole that's so impressive, an irrefutable statement of Chinese imperial might. It was originally built by an army of workers in only 14 years, although after various ransackings and fires, most of what is seen today was built in the 17th century.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

On Air

News Bulletin

ETV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 8:00 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 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

CHANNEL 1

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

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.

News (English) at 6:00pm

Rtv

News (Bangla) 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am

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

ETV

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

12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

CHANNEL i

09:30 Shanbadpotrey Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Grameenphone Tritio Matra

11:05 Selected Programme

12:30 Talk Show: Citycell Taroka Kathan

01:05 Musical Programme: Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Sa Re Ga Ma

02:30 Hndoyer Gaan

03:05 Baniyo O Orthonti

04:05 Educational Programme: Study @ UK

05:30 Mukhti Judhyo Protidin

06:00 Selected Programme

ETV

08:30 Ekush-er Shokal

09:35 Drama Serial: Ghatak Ebong Amra

10:30 Ekushay Business

01:30 Eid Special

02:30 Bangla Feature Film

03:20 Golpo Sholpo Gaan

04:05 Eid Special: Bhuboghurey Dot Com

05:30 Sports Plus

07:45 Cookery Show: Tomi Mian Recipe

08:30 Drama Serial: Tuntuni Bhila

09:30 Drama Serial: Ghatak Ebong Amra

11:50 Financial Bulletin

CHANNEL 1

07:00 Nongor

08:15 Drama Serial: Moyur Bahun

09:00 Vote Bitarko

11:30 Selected Programme

BANGLAVISION

08:00 Shubho Shokaal

08:30 Amader Bijoyer Katha

09:00 Drama: Kothay Pabo Tarey

10:10 Obhibashir Gham-er Taka

11:03 Drama Serial: Megher Shathey Aari

12:30 Shei Shur Shei Gaan

02:00 Daily Soap: Mohanagar

02:30 Ei Path Jodi Na Shesh Hoy

03:05 Vote-er Lorai

04:20 Shapludur gaan

05:15 Amader Bijoyer Katha

09:45 Drama Serial: Swapno Chura

11:25 Voter Lorai

HBO

09:45 A Perfect World

12:30 Year Of The Dog

02:30 She Creature

04:00 Big Daddy

06:00 The Year Without A Santa Claus

07:45 Beneath

09:30 Superman Returns

STAR MOVIES

09:50 Hollywoodland

11:55 X

01:55 Oscar

03:45 The Keeper: The Legend Of Omar K

05:20 Wild Hogs

07:00 Titan A.E.

10:30 La Femma Nikita

11:30 Whistler

12:30 90210

01:30 Boston Legal

02:30 The Ellen Degeneres

03:30 Fashion House

04:30 Cold Case

05:30 La Femma Nikita

06:30 Whistler

08:00 Friends

08:30 Seinfeld

09:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway?

09:30 30 Rock

10:00 Scrubs

10:30 Monk

11:30 Jimmy Kimmel Live

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

10:00 Body Armour (BA61108)- 15 Mins

10:15 Creative Vision

Egypt

04:30 Engineering Egypt

05:30 Yash Chopra

06:00 Karan Johar

06:30 Biography

07:30 Indian Journeys

08:30 Marco Polo

09:30 Biography

10:30 Around The World In 80 Treasur

11:30 Bhanwar

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

10:00 Monkey Thieves

11:15 Creative Vision-NGC

11:30 Show/Real Asia

12:30 World's Deadliest Animals

Mayur Bahon
On Channel 1 at 8:15 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Azad Abul Kalam, Sumaiya Shimu

Radio Forthi 88.0 FM

08:00am Saturday Morning Show

12:00pm Boiyer Poka

02:00pm Foorti Unlimited

07:00pm Celebrity on The HotSeat

10:00pm Back to Back music

Radio Today 89.6 FM

07:15am Good Morning Dhaka

11:00am Masti Unlimited

01:00pm Today's Adda

04:00pm U-tum

08:00pm Tobe Tai Hok

11:00pm Raat Vor Gan

02:00 am Back to Back

The Last Samurai
On Zee Studio at 7:45 pm
Genre: Action
Cast: Tom Cruise, Ken Watanabe

01:30 A Life With Bears

02:30 Living With Big Cats

03:30 World's Deadliest Animals

04:30 Strange Days

06:00 Big Bang

06:30 Strongman

07:30 Dangerous Encounters

08:30 Built for the Kill

09:30 Air Crash Investigation

10:30 Taiwan To The World

11:30 Air Crash Investigation

ZEE STUDIO

10:00 Charlie Chaplin

10:30 The World's Fastest Indian

01:00 Hollywood on Set

01:30 Outrageous Fortune

03:30 Out Cold

05:45 George of the Jungle

07:45 The Last Samurai

11:00 Princess Dianas 2: Royal Engagement