

WHAT'S ON

Bijoy-er Natya Utsab '11
Organiser: The Daily Star and BGTf
Venue: BSA
Date: February 25-31
Time: 6:30pm and 6:45pm

Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Yasmin Mushtari
Venue: IGC, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: February 4
Time: 6:30pm

Chobi Mela VI
At seven different venues
Theme: Dreams
Organiser: Dhik
Date: Jan 27-Feb 3

Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Tapan Sarkar
Venue: Nat Mondol, Dhaka University
Date: February 1
Time: 6pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Mohammad Emrus
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7A, H-60, Dhanmondi
Date: January 28-February 6
Time: 5pm-8pm

Solo Star Recital
Artist: Reshat Fausta
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
Date: February 5

Ikebana Contest and Demonstration
Organiser: JIAB and the Embassy in Japan
Venue: Lake Shore Hotel, H-46, R-47, Gulshan-2

Film Screening
Venue: RCSC Auditorium, H 510, Rd 27, Dhanmondi
Date: January 30-31
Time: 3pm onwards

The Daily Star-BGTf Theatre Festival

"Socrates-er Jobanbondi", "Prakrito Purangana" and "Bhager Manush" staged



From left: Scenes from "Socrates-er Jobanbondi", "Bhager Manush" and "Prakrito Purangana" (below).

JAMIL MAHMUD

"Socrates-er Jobanbondi", "Prakrito Purangana" and "Bhager Manush" were staged on the fifth day (January 29) at the ongoing theatre fest arranged by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTf). The plays were staged respectively at the Studio Theatre Hall, National Theatre Hall and Experimental Theatre Hall.

Based on the trial of Socrates, Drishyapat's "Socrates-er Jobanbondi" features how a corrupt state and its personnel suspected the great Greek philosopher as a public enemy and executed him. Drishyapat has brought some new elements to the play in a departure from its earlier version. Written by Shishir Kumar Das, the play was directed by Ali Mahmud. Mahmud also played the role of Socrates -- a stunning performance. His portrayal of a humour-lover and soft-spoken philosopher was lauded by the packed Studio Theatre Hall audience. The cast also included Piku Bakshi, Nehal Ahmed and Ahsan Habib. The production would have been more enjoyable if it included a good set design along with live background scores (instead of recorded music).

"Prakrito Purangana" is Desh Natak's 18th production. Written by Khandakar Hafiz Redu, the play has been directed by Shamsul Alam Bakul. The play features discrimination of women in our society. Rupai,

the protagonist of the play, is unmarried though social mores dictate that she should have married years ago. One day a Baul comes to her neighbourhood. From the Baul, Rupai learns about the spiritual theory of creation and Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. That story makes her long for a companion. She begins to believe that one day she will meet him. Throughout the play the director tries to establish the point that though society is changing continuously, the typical mindset on women remains unchanged. The cast of the play included Lopa Momtaz, Tahmina Mostafa, Jolly Chowdhury, Firoz Alam and Mamun Chowdhury. Ali Ahmed Mukul is the set designer, while Ishrat Nishat is the light designer of the play.

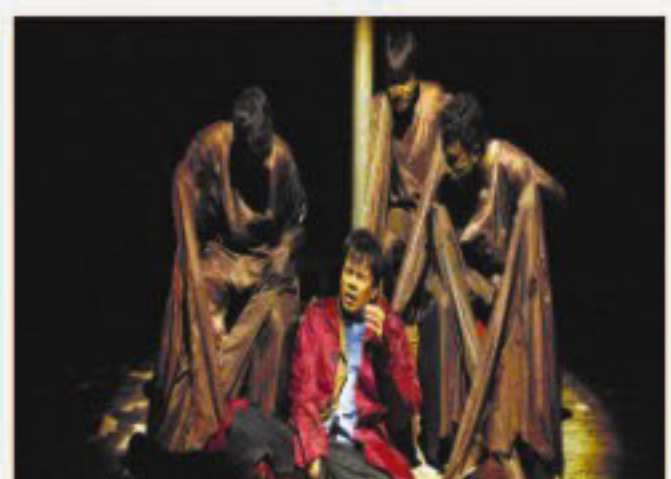
Shomoy Sangskritik Goshthi's "Bhager Manush" has been written by Mannan Heera (of Aranyak Natyadal) and directed by Aly Zaker (Nagarik). The play is based on an Urdu short story about the "exchange agreement of the lunatics" between the governments of India and Pakistan two/three years after the Partition (1947). Beneath the obvious surface, the play conveys a strong message regarding the Partition. Among actors in the play, Akter played Shrutradhar. Sani, Biplab, Lavli, Tofa, Moushumi and Fakhrul played other roles. Aly Zaker also did the music and set designing.

TODAY AT THE FESTIVAL

On the seventh and final day (January 31) of The Daily Star-BGTf Theatre Festival, the following plays will be staged at 6:30pm

"Majh Rater Manushera"

Venue: National Theatre Hall
Troupe: Loko Natyadal (Siddheshwar)
Playwright: Abdus Selim
Director: Lakat Ali Lucky



Synopsis: The play is an adaptation of "Nocturnal Wanderer" by Chinese playwright Gao Xingjian.

"Meraj Fakirer Ma"

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall
Troupe: Theatre (Bailey Road)
Playwright and Director: Abdullah Al Mamun



Synopsis: The play highlights the age-old conflict between religion and humanity.

"Badnam"

Venue: Studio Theatre Hall
Troupe: Sanglaap Group Theatre
Playwright and Director: Mostafa Heera



Synopsis: The play is based on Rabindranath Tagore's story with the same title.

Ustad Momtaj Ali Khan Sangeet Academy Marks its 8th Anniversary



Celebrating -- in rhythm and song.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

A CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 8th anniversary of its inception, Ustad Momtaj Ali Sangeet Academy conferred honorary awards to the celebrated singer Ajit Roy and the late Language Movement veteran and poet Mahbulul Alam Chowdhury on January 29 at Shawkar Osman Memorial Auditorium, Public Library in Dhaka.

Eminent cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar presided over the ceremony. Mridul Kanti Chakraborti, Professor, Department of Music, Dhaka

University and cultural personality Golam Kuddus were present as special guests.

In the second phase of the ceremony, a cultural programme was held. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the performances of young students of the academy. The programme began with a rendition of "Alo Amar Alo". Students sang in chorus led by Jasim Uddin Sajal. The students' renditions of familiar Rabindra and Nazrul Sangeet, folk numbers and songs of Ustad Momtaj Ali

Khan were received with rounds of applause. Seasoned artistes like Asgar Alim, Samia Naj, Khagendranath Sarkar, Alaal Haque and others also performed at the event.

The Executive Director of the Academy, Rupu Khan said "The young of our country are becoming increasingly fascinated with the culture of the West. Through initiatives like this, we hope to give them an idea of the richness of Bengali culture."

Timeout for Youngsters Fair and cultural function for children

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A two-day fair and cultural function for children concluded last Friday at the tourist destination of Kuakata, in Patuakhali District. Patuakhali District Information Office organised the programme on January 27 and 28 at the Rakhaib market field.

schools took part in an art competition and poetry recitation event. This was followed up by a cultural programme where singers from the Information Department gave performances. Local singers Akhi Islam and Rina Parvin, and Abdul Halim from Faridpur, performed songs.

The songs sought to generate awareness on social problems such as eve

teasing, child marriage, polygamy, acid violence, abuse of women, malnutrition, dowry system and HIV/AIDS.

Later a film show was held which saw a turnout of several thousand local people.

On the last day, a cultural function was held at Hajipur villager under Kalapara upazila, where over 1,000 locals appreciated the programme.

Oscar Nominations: Snubs and Surprises

Look quickly and you may think that most predictions for the films "The King's Speech", "Black Swan", and "The Social Network" have come true -- they have been nominated for the top Oscars. And yet there were quite a few surprises. Many had expected "The Social Network" to lead the pack followed by "The King's Speech". But the British film took massive 12 nominations while "The Social Network" did not even come second.

It followed "True Grit", the smash hit Western. And "The Social Network" had the same number of nominations as "Inception": 8.

The Coen brothers' film, "True Grit" which is yet to open worldwide, received 10 nominations including one for newcomer Heilee Steinfeld who is 14. She plays an orphan who persuades a reluctant sheriff (Oscar winner Jeff Bridges who is also nominated) to hunt her father's killer and even accompanies him on the perilous journey. It has already become the most successful film in the career of Coen brothers -- Joe and Ethan -- whose hits include "No Country for Old Men" and "Fargo".

The best picture nominations ranged from the animated film "Toy Story 3" to "Winter's Bone". The movie narrates the story of a young woman searching for her career criminal father who has suddenly disappeared and has caused great tension in the family. "The Kids Are All Right", the drama of two lesbian mothers which also packed in quite a bit of comedy, was another low budget film nominated in the best picture category.

Of the many surprises and snubs was one for director Christopher Nolan whose sci-fi psychological drama "Inception" has grossed a mammoth \$830 million worldwide. The film received 7 nominations including best picture and original script. How can a film be nominated in the best film category and its director left out? It happened in the case of "127 Hours" which also received nominations for best film, acting (James Franco), music (2 nominations for AR Rahman, including best

song), screenplay (Danny Boyle and Simon Beaufoy). But no directing nomination for Boyle, the Oscar winner for "Slumdog Millionaire".

People may wonder, can a film direct itself?

In reality, each category is voted by Academy members belonging to a particular section. For example, producers vote for best picture, directors nominate their peers, and film editors select their co-workers. The producers section has no idea if the director of the film they are nominating in the best film category has been nominated because the entire procedure is super secret.

One of the big surprises was Javier Bardem, the much respected Spanish actor, getting a nomination in the best actor category for the Spanish language film "Biutiful".

He plays a small time crook whose actions lead to big human problems. "Biutiful", set in Spain, is not an easy film to watch and yet its humanity is compelling. The film, directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu ("Amores Perros", "21 Grams", "Babel") was also nominated in the best foreign film category. Relatively little known but a dynamic actress Michelle Williams, the star of micro mini budget domestic drama "Blue Valentine" is another performer who is getting new attention. The film itself is running out of steam in North America but is expected to get extra life because of the nomination.

For the next four weeks, the pundits will be discussing at length in the media about potential winners. Many believe the race for the best picture is really between "The King's Speech" and "The Social Network". There is also a general consensus that Natalie Portman would take the Oscar for her performance as a tortured ballet artiste whose passions become dangerous in the surprise hit, "Black Swan".

Oscars will be presented in Hollywood on February 27.

Compiled by Correspondent

Notes of Raga

Classical music at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre

A CORRESPONDENT

Arnab Chatterjee is currently teaching Hindustani classical music at the Dhanmondi and Gulshan sections of the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre. He was originally trained by his father and Ustad Mashkur Ali Khan, and is currently learning from Ulhas Kasalkar of Sangeet Research Academy.

On January 28, Arnab Chatterjee and Sri Gopal Misra performed at a classical music soiree at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Gulshan. Sri Gopal Misra, a renowned Indian instrumentalist, is currently teaching tabla at the cultural centre. Sri Arnab Chatterjee started

his performance with a khayal in Raga Puriya in vilambit ektal leading to tritaal. During the advent of tritaal, the beautiful accompaniment by Sri Gopal Misra and the final crescendo by the musicians drew enthusiastic applause from the audience. Arnab Chatterjee's sargam at the madhyalaya and his fast taan demonstrated his years of practice and devotion. He presented the next number in tritaal, a fusion of basant and bahar, marking the imminent spring. The artiste and the tabla player added colours of spring to the performance. The last piece was a composition in koushik dhvani after which Dr. Nashid Kamal gave a short speech and handed bouquets to the two performers.



Arnab Chatterjee performs at the musical soiree.

Yasmin Mushtari's Solo Performance at National Museum

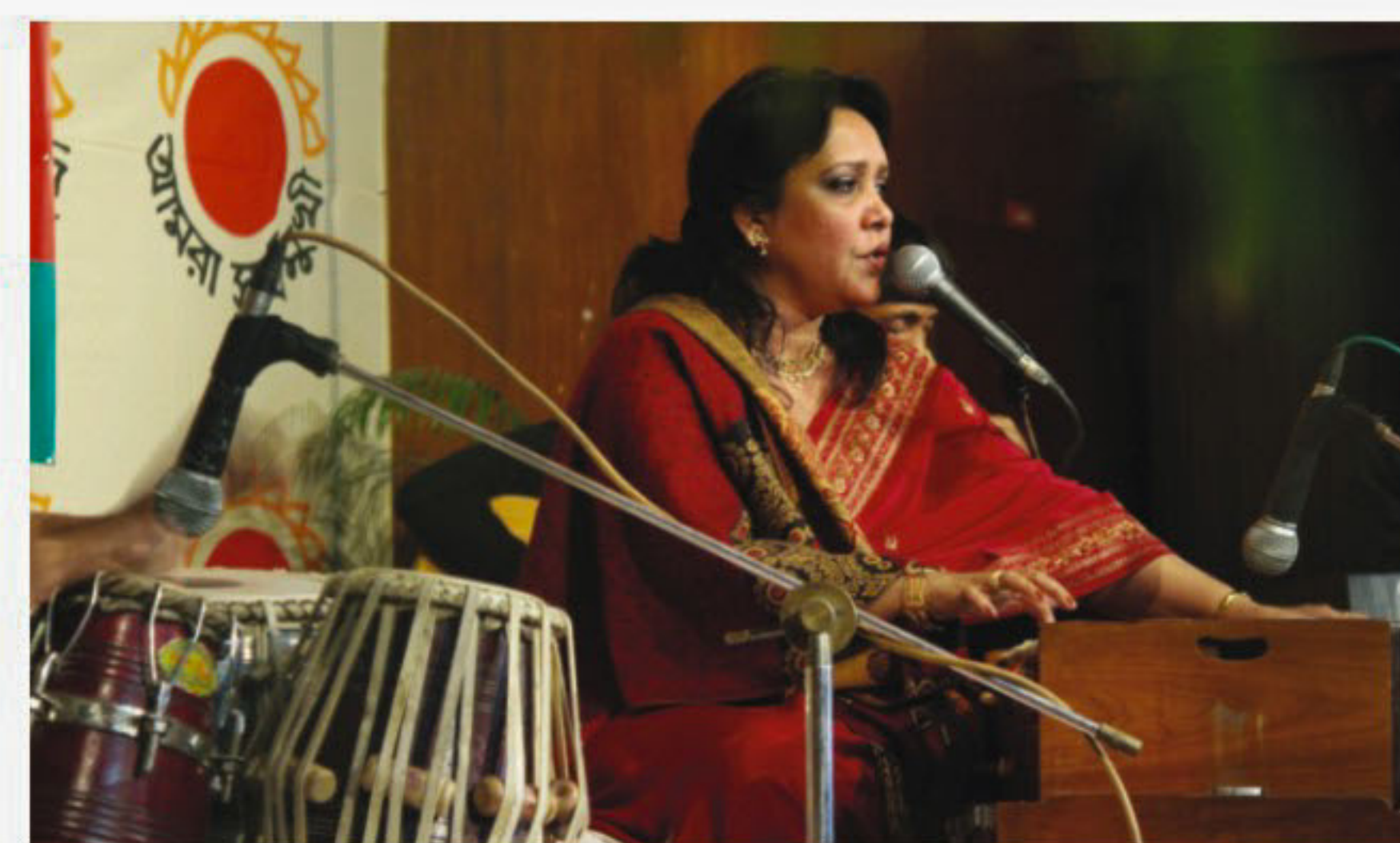


PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Yasmin Mushtari sings at the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of country's independence, socio-cultural organisation 'Amra Shurjomukhi' arranged a musical soiree at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on January 29. The featured artiste of the soiree was noted Nazrul singer Yasmin Mushtari.

Chief guest of the programme AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, said, "Forty years have passed since we had achieved independence. But we are yet to ensure the 'Golden Bengal' envisioned by Bangabandhu. Though new trends in cultural practice are seemingly moving away from tradition, singers like Yasmin Mushtari are always delving into

our musical roots." "Yasmin Mushtari is a favourite among Nazrul enthusiasts. Her sincere efforts and ceaseless practice made her what she is today," said noted Nazrul singer Sadya Arefeen Mallick.

Renowned music composer Shujee Shyam; singers Shabnam Mushtari, Shakila Zafar; cultural personality Abu Taher and coordination secretary Shafiqul Islam Selim also spoke on the occasion.

Yasmin Mushtari started her performance with a patriotic song "O Bhai Khati Shonar Cheye Khati" of National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. The singer's repertoire included performances of patriotic numbers, Nazrul and Rabindra Sangeet, light classical numbers, ghazal and several golden oldies.



The visiting faculty members of Visva Bharati were accorded reception by Cosmos-Atelier71.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cosmos-Atelier 71 organised a one day art festival in honour of the visiting faculty members of Kala Bhavan, Visva Bharati, in Shanti Niketan. The festival was held recently at Cosmos Centre in Malibagh.

Professor Matlub Ali, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), University of Dhaka; artist Mustafa Monwar, chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Academy; Enayetullah Khan, editor in chief of UNB and Chairman of Cosmos-Atelier 71; noted painters Professor Abdus Shakoor Shah, Professor Abul Barq Alvi, Professor Mahmudul Haque, Rafiqun Nabi, Biren Shome, Alakesh Ghosh, Kalidas Karmakar, Rokeya Sultana, Nisar Hossain, Shishir Bhattacharjee, Swapan Chowdhury, Farida Zaman, Anisuzzaman, Mohammad Iqbal; Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts and faculty members of Kala Bhavan, among others, were present at the programme.

An education exchange programme between Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) and Visva Bharati University's Arts Faculty was held recently at the FFA for the first time at institutional level.

The first phase of this exchange programme was held earlier in December 2010 at Visva Bharati where students and faculty members of Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka took part. The second phase of this programme was held at FFA. Students of five departments of both the institutions including Drawing and Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics, Printmaking and Craft participated.

The visiting faculty members of Visva Bharati are -- Pankaj Panwar, Rishi Barua, Sumitabha Pal, Nandadulal Mukharjee, Dilip Mitra, Prabir Biswas, Prasun Bhattacharjya, Salil Sahani, Arpan Mukherjee, Soumik Nandy Majumdar, Sanjoy Malik and Sanchanay Ghosh. "The festival's main aim is to assemble artists belonging to different age groups in two countries, working on



Indian artist Prabir Biswas paints on the canvas.

diverse themes and different mediums. I consider the festival to be a cultural bridge between artists of India and Bangladesh. The programme facilitates artists to know more about the contemporary arts and artists of India", Enayetullah Khan. He believes that this programme will enhance the relations among artists of India and Bangladesh.

Farida Zaman, coordinator of the exchange programme for Bangladesh, said, "This is praiseworthy step for the painters of both countries. The event has also become a platform, encouraging the exchange of ideas between the painters of the countries."

visit to Bangladesh. The artists of Bangladesh are very congenial and they are doing very well."

"I think, idea is very important when creating something novel and refreshing. I like to focus on human relationships," said Dilip Mitra, an Indian painter.

Abdus Shakoor Shah said "Over the last few years, Bangladeshi painters have got the chance to exhibit their works in major galleries all over the world. These exhibitions assist our painters gain recognition abroad. It should also be noted that some Bangladeshi painters' works have been selected by several well-recognised auction houses in Europe and America."

06:00	Magazine Programme: Rujantor	Candidate	07:05	Breaking and Entering
11:30	RC Travel On	09:30	Scary Movie 4	
12:00	Gramophone Ajer Shaangbadpoto	11:30	The Last Lear	
11TV		Star Movies		
01:00	Shaakha Protidin	01:00	Stealth	
03:15	Amader Aandabari	03:10	Fame	
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	05:05	My One And Only	
05:30	Agnar Jiggasha	07:00	Bats: Human Harvest	
06:45	Ogropro	08:40	Damage	
07:20	Sholana Bangallana	10:20	Stealth	
11:30	Music Jam	12:30	Mothman	
		HBO		
		10:30	Rock Monster	
ETV		12:30	Hachiko: A Dog's Story	
12:30	Eksushy Business	02:30	Star Trek	
04:00	Drama	05:15	Moon	
05:30	Street Magic	07:15	You Got Served	
06:30	Deshi Jury	09:30	Young Guns II	
11:45	Baala Ottor	11:30	Snakes on a Plane	
12:00	Bangalink Ekusher Raat	Star World		
RTV		11:00	Two And A Half Men	
10:45	Tanskap	03:30	How I Met Your Mother	
12:06	Protidin-er Gaan	07:30	Coffee With Karen	
02:30	Bangla Feature Film	09:00	Friends	
05:30	Are You Ready	10:30	Burn Notice	
11:45	Diplomatic Zone	BBC World		
BANGLAVISION		11:00	BBC World News	
09:05	Shushui Gaan	02:30	World Business Report	

ATN BANGLA	08:40pm	Poth Jana Nai	09:20pm	Air Com
10:55pm	Nandini	10:00pm	Shal Pandit	
CIANNINI	08:30pm	Joto Dure Jai	08:30pm	Eblishe
09:30pm	09:30pm	09:30pm	09:30pm	09:30pm
05:15pm	Manashzan	08:15pm	Mad Bhai	
08:15pm	08:15pm	08:45pm	Fifty: Fifty	
07:45pm	Neel Jonayaj Kalo Saap	07:45pm	Desht TV	

RTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm (English) at 6:00pm
CHANNEL-I	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 10:30am, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00pm
NEWS	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am, 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm.	NEWS BULLETIN	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

ATN BANGLA	11:00am	Asian City Vision 2020	12:10am	El Shomoy
CIANNINI	09:45am	Gramophone	08:30pm	Meet Democracy
12:30pm	Cyberlanka	10:10am	Amar Line	
06:10pm	06:10pm	06:10pm	06:10pm	06:10pm
06:00pm	06:00pm	06:00pm	06:00pm	06:00pm
06:00pm	06:00pm	06:00pm	06:00pm	06:00pm