

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
Troupe: Nagorik Natyangan
Ensemble
Play: Raja Rani (Premier Show)
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: February 4, Time: 6:30pm

Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Yasmin Mughtari
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 21-Feb 3

Annual Art Exhibition 2010
Organiser: Department of Print Making, FFA, DU
Venue: Zainal Gallery
Date: Jan 31-Feb 4

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Mohammad Eusuf
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, 8-7A, H-40, Dharmondi
Date: January 28-February 6
Time: 5pm-8pm

Solo Sitar Recital
Artist: Rezaul Fausat
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
Date: Feb 5; Time: 5:30pm

Ikebana Contest and Demonstration
Organiser: JIAB and the Embassy in Japan
Venue: Lake Shore Hotel, H-46, R-41, Gulshan-2

Theatre
Troupe: Samay
Play: Sheehi Shranglap
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: February 3

The Daily Star-BGTF Theatre Festival Wraps Up



Clockwise (from top) Scenes from "Meraj Fakirer Ma", "Badnam" and "Majh Rater Manushera".

JAMIL MAHMUD
The weeklong theatre festival arranged by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) ended on January 31. On the last day, Loko Natyadal (Siddheshwari), Theatre and Sanglaap Group Theatre staged "Majh Rater Manushera", "Meraj Fakirer Ma" and "Badnam" respectively at the National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall.

The weeklong festival, which was arranged to mark the 40th anniversary of Independence, 30th anniversary of BGTF and 20th anniversary of The Daily Star, featured 21 plays by many troupes. "Meraj Fakirer Ma" addresses religious bigotry and how the misinterpretation of values affects the society. The play was written by Abdullah Al Mamun. The protagonist is Meraj Fakir (played by Tofa Hossain). He is one of the main clerics in



Polashpur village. Meraj dreams of a Muslim state and holds a deep resentment towards the non-Muslims. His world comes crashing down when one day it is revealed that his parents eloped 39 years ago and his mother Alo Bibi (played by Ferdousi Majumder) happened to come from a Hindu family. The cast also includes Ramendu Majumder, Tropa Majumder, Khurshid Alam and Tamanna Islam.



Sanglaap Theatre's "Badnam" is an adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's story with the same title. Mostafa Heera has dramatised and directed the play. The play zooms in on dialectical behaviour and significantly highlights different aspects of womanhood. The cast includes Monalisa, Lucky, Babu, Monir, Jewel, Habib and Khokon. "Loko Natyadal's "Majh Rater Manushera" is an adaptation of the Chinese play "Nocturnal



Wanderer" by Gao Xingjian. In the original play, a character named Sleepwalker battles his nightmare. In the Bangladesh version, the play narrates the contemporary social milieu through the character's view. Liaquat Ali Lucky directed the play. Swadesh Ranjan Das, Zebunnesa Sobhan, Ziauddin Shipon and Azizur Rahman enacted lead characters in the play. Arif Sharif is the set designer of the play.

A Woman of Substance

Noorjahan Bose receives Anannya Sahitya Puroshkar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Anannya Sahitya Puroshkar (literary award) was conferred on eminent social activist and writer Noorjahan Bose on January 31 at Suffa Kamal Auditorium, National Museum. Bose received a crest and a cheque worth Taka 50,000 as part of the award. She has won the award for her autobiographical book "Agun Mukhar Meyer". The award was formally handed over to the writer by noted educationist Professor Anisuzzaman.

The Anannya Sahitya Purashkar is an annual award for talented women litterateurs. The award was introduced by Anannya, a Bengali weekly for women, in 1401 (Bengali Year).

Professor Sonia Nishat Amin of the Department of History, Dhaka University attended as the main discussant at the ceremony. Noted author Selima Hossain was present as special guest. Tasmina Hossain, editor of Anannya presided over the programme.

"Bose's writings articulate her personal observations, experiences, understanding and deep observations on the anomalies in our society. Personal and social conflict as well as the Liberation War are also important subjects in her writings. She is bold and outspoken by nature," said Sonia Nishat Amin.



Professor Sonia Nishat Amin speaks at the programme. (From Left) Selima Hossain, Noorjahan Bose, Professor Anisuzzaman and Tasmina Hossain, also seen in the picture.

Silver Jubilee of Nat'l Poetry Council Three-day event at DU Library opens



Presided over by eminent poets and personalities, four phases of recitation programmes were held at yesterday's session.

ZAHANGIR ALAM

With the theme "Kabita Utshab Muktir Utshab", Jatiya Kabita Parishad (National Poetry Council) is celebrating its silver jubilee (1987-2011) this year. A three-day programme, starting from yesterday, is on at Central Library premises of Dhaka University. The organisers placed wreaths at the graves of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin and Patua Kamrul Hasan and at the altar of Central Shaheed Minar on the occasion.

Eminent Poet Asad Chowdhury delivered the welcome speech while poet-litterateur Syed Shamsul Haque and president of the council Habibullah Siraji hoisted the national and the organisation's flag respectively.

A number of artistes from various troupes rendered the national anthem. A rendition of "Amar Bhai-er Rakt-e Rangano" followed. This year's festival theme song, "Kabita Utshab Muktir Utshab, Shringkhul Bondhon Bhangar Utshab" was rendered next. Convener of the festival, poet Muhammad Samad, has written the song while Gano Sangnet artist Fakir Alamgir has composed and directed the music. Noted poet Rabindra Gope delivered the commemorative speech on the occasion. He deeply mourned the death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Language Movement martyrs, martyred freedom fighters, cultural personality Kalim Sharafi, litterateur Abdul Mannan Syed and other national and international personalities.

Mentioning Patua Kamrul Hasan's famous cartoon "Desh Aaj Bishwa Behayar Khapporey", renowned poet Belal Chowdhury delivered the declaration for the year. Festival inaugurator Syed Shamsul Haque; convener Muhammad Samad; joint convener Amirul Islam; general secretary and president of the council Aslam Sunny and Habibullah Siraji also spoke on the occasion.

Indian poets such as Sunil Gangopadhyay; Samarendra Sengupta; Arabinda Guho; Amrityo

Maiti; Shyamol Kanti Das; Bithi Chattopadhyay; Chaitali Chattopadhyay; Tanushree Bhattacharya; Anil Sarkar; Chandrakanto Murasigh; Sukumar Bagchi; Kinfam Singh Nongkoinori and Tulasi Deutsa from Nepal were present at the inaugural session. Eminent artist Samarjit Roy Chowdhury developed this year's festival logo. A number of photographs featuring last 25 years' festival were exhibited at the ceremony. Presided over by eminent poets and personalities, four phases of recitation programmes were held at yesterday's second session (3-9pm). Presided over by poet Asad Chowdhury, writer-publisher and one of the trustees of Liberation War Museum Mafidul Haque will present an essay, titled "Muktijuddher Kabita: Kabitar Muktijuddher" today at a seminar. Sunil Gangopadhyay, Abdul Momen and others will discuss on the topic. Another seminar, titled "Bangla Kabitar Aantarjatikata" by Professor Bishwajit Ghosh, will follow. Pabitra Sarkar, Arabinda Guho and others will discuss on the subject. Poetry recitation on other languages, three phases of recitation programmes, giving away of prizes and formation of new committee for next two years and Kabitar Gaan (songs based on poems) will also mark today's second session (3-9pm). Presided over by litterateur Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, two seminars titled "Rabindranath-er Kabita" and "Rabindranath-er Utshab Bhabna" will be presented at tomorrow's morning session by poet Mahadev Saha and Professor Anisuzzaman respectively. Tagore exponents will discuss on the topics. Highlights of tomorrow's evening session (4-8:30pm) are poems dedicated to others, recitation, music, Nrityalekha (by Nataraj), adaptations of songs and poems into dances (by Nrityam) and a dance-drama by Dhruпад Kalakendra. Agrani, Sonali, Janata and Rupali Bank Limited have sponsored the festival.

Passing Away of an Icon

Remembering Pandit Bhimshen Joshi

NASHID KAMAL

It was the summer of 1991, I was in London with my daughters, both under five years of age. Some of my friends and I went to Parveen Sultana's concert in the Purcell Room of the Royal Festival Hall in London. There I met up with other classical music lovers and heard they were going to Stuttgart, Germany to attend an all-night concert featuring several maestros of India. I longed to go with them, but who would babysit my daughters? Time was short; if I wanted to go I had to make up my mind right away. I hesitated as I spoke, "Can I take my daughters with me?" Expecting no for an answer, I was pleasantly surprised when one friend said, "Sure, we will take turns to look after them, don't worry."

The music festival in Stuttgart commenced with Pandit Ravi Shankar and was followed by Pandit Bhimshen Joshi, of whom I was an avid fan. I heard that he had left home at the age of 11 to learn music! After three years of searching for a guru, which became an epic story in Hindustani classical music, his father brought him back to Gadag (in Dharwad, Karnataka), their home town. From a very early age Bhimshen used to leave home with bhajan mandal, much to the chagrin of his father. He got his first musical lessons from the man who used to wash clothes at their home, but that stock was soon exhausted. Bhimshen's mother sang the bhajan of Purandara Dasa and that too had a lasting impact on the young music enthusiast's repertoire. When he was barely 11, he heard Abdul Karim Khan on a 78-rpm disc, and that proved to be a decisive moment when he left home in pursuit of a trainer. On his way to Gwalior, Lucknow and Rampur, the penniless child would sing on trains for meals and money. His journey took him as far as Kharagpur, Calcutta and Punjab thereafter, before he returned home. The Guru recommended to him by Vinayak Rao was Sawai Gandharva who lived in Kumbhol, not too far from his home in Gadag. Critics maintain that Bhimshen was a master of a few rather than a wide range of ragas and Lalit was one of them. When his name was announced in Stuttgart, the morning sun had just started peeping from behind its sleepy covers. As the Raga Lalit unfolded, styled in the Kirana gharana, it felt as if he was coaxing and cajoling the sun to come out in its full glory. Through the window, we could see the darkness of the night fade away into a slight dim of the early morning and when the drut laya set in, it was synonymous with the glory of the



full sun. Bhimshen loved to drive fast, although in his early life he would arrive at shows riding his bicycle. When he could afford a car, he would drive it himself. After performances, he was known to take great pleasure in staying up all night and watching football or cricket. He was a great fan of both Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev. He would humbly introduce himself to Sunil Gavaskar saying, "I am Bhimshen Joshi, your fan!" His stepmother Gururaj Joshi recalls that he maintained this humility with all their relatives. Bhimshen Joshi was known to be a prolific performer; he excelled in slow repertoire and contemplative passages that sometimes built up to a lightning speed crescendo that electrified the audience. That was the effect he had on me. In Stuttgart he ended the performance with his famous bhajan, "Yeh Tanu Mundhawa Mundna, Akher Mitti Mei Mil Jانا". From dust to dust. On January 24, 2011, when Bhimshen Joshi passed away at the age of 89, the world lost one of its greatest music exponents. The "Bharat Ratna" died with the satisfaction that the Hindustani classical music had broken out of its former elitist domain and that he could perform for large audiences.

The Writer is a Noted Singer and Academic.

Chhayanaut's Homage to Waheedul Haque

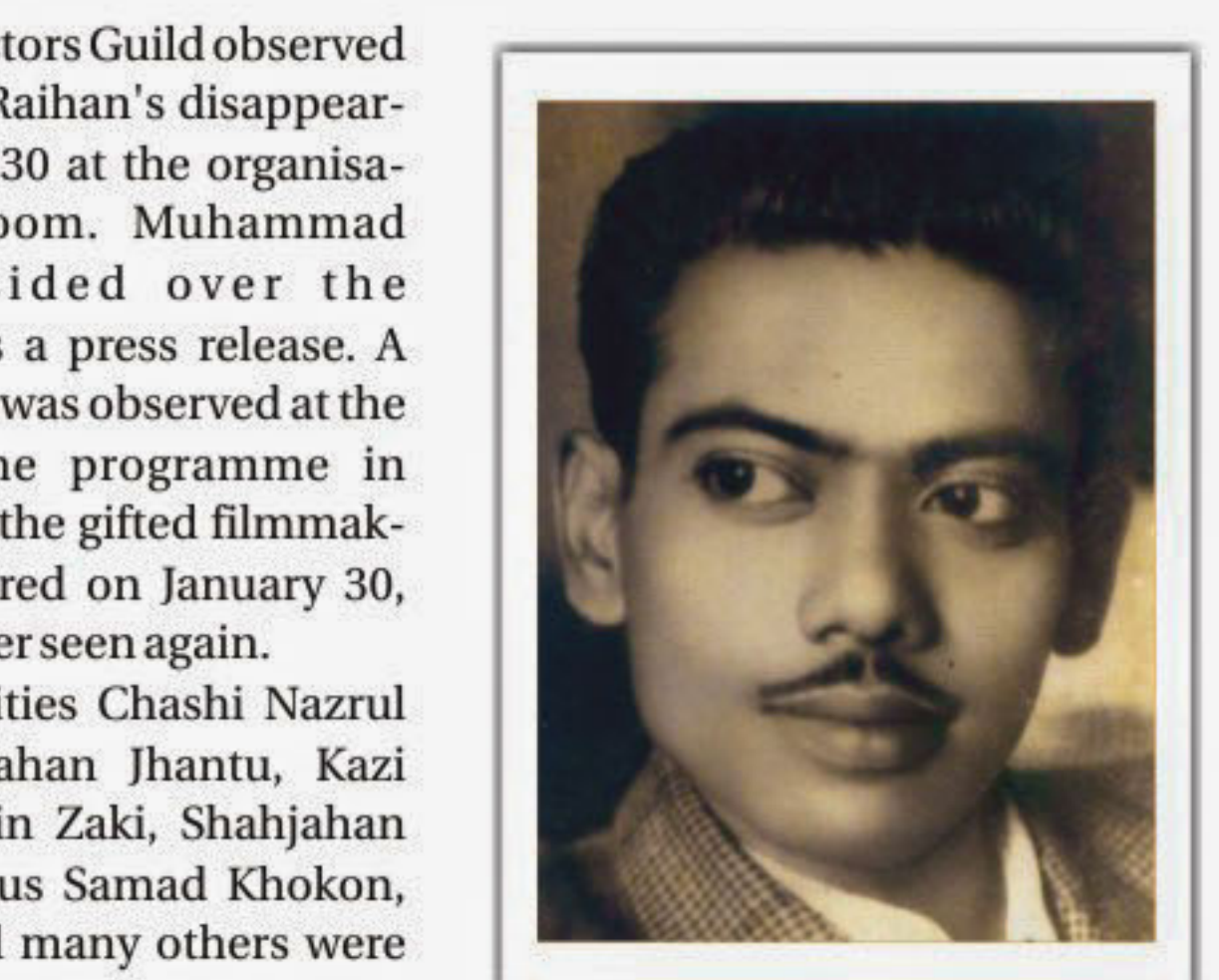
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A memorial programme marking the fourth death anniversary of eminent cultural personality and journalist Waheedul Haque was held at Chhayanaut Shangkriti Bhaban recently. Students of Chhayanaut performed choral and solo renditions and recitations on the occasion. Several of them also read out their own eulogies on him. In his welcome speech, Secretary General of Chhayanaut, Khairul Anam Shakil said that Waheedul Haque's nickname was 'Shuruj' and he lived up to that by enlightening people. A man endowed in liberalism but enriched in Bangaliana, we have many reasons to follow him, said Shakil. Eminent artist Mustafa Monwar delivered the memorial speech on the occasion.

"The most beautiful thing in this world is the innocence of a child. Waheed Bhai sought beauty in many things like melody, rhythm, art, Bengalness and above all in everyday lives of the masses. He taught us how to savour beauty," said Mustafa Monwar. "Alo Amar Alo", "Apon Hotey Bahir Hoyer", "Amader Bhoj Kaharey", "Phirey Chol Phirey Chol" were choral performances while Tagore's "Juta Abshkar" has a choral recitation at the programme. Written by Fariha Mrinmoyi Wrijuji, "Darkaak" was recited by Anika Ahmed Nabila. Anindya Nahar Habib recited his own write-up "Boka Bihango" on the occasion. Fardin, Aniruddha, Mayisha, Anila, Tazmira, Anindita, Shayeri, Nishu, Joye and Sanjida rendered solos and a duet. Enamul Haque Omar on tabla, Subir Ghosh on khol, Asit Biswas on esraj and Pradip Kumar Roy on mondria instrumentally assisted the singers. The event wrapped up with a rendition of the National Anthem.

Waheedul Haque was born on March 16, 1933 at Bhawal Mohonbariya village in Keraniganj. He was a major organiser of the Tagore birth centennial celebration in 1961. The same year he founded Chhayanaut, now one of the leading cultural organisations in Bangladesh. He was also a founder member of other renowned cultural organisations including Rabindra Sanget Sammelan Parishad, Kanhoshehla, Anandadhoni and more. Waheedul Haque passed away on January 27, 2007.

Bangladesh Directors Guild Honours Zahir Raihan



Bangladesh Directors Guild observed the day of Zahir Raihan's disappearance on January 30 at the organisation's Study Room. Muhammad Hannan presided over the programme, says a press release. A minute of silence was observed at the beginning of the programme in remembrance of the gifted filmmaker who disappeared on January 30, 1972 and was never seen again. Film personalities Chashi Nazrul Islam, Delwar Jahan Jhantu, Kazi Hayat, Salauddin Zaki, Shahjahan Chowdhury, Abdus Samad Khokon, Anjan Sarkar and many others were present at the event. "Zahir Raihan is

the pride of our film industry. As a freedom fighter, he deserves a post-humous Ekushey or Swadhinata Award," said Chashi Nazrul Islam, regretting the fact that no such initiative has been taken so far. Speakers expressed their appreciation for organising the event. Delwar Jahan Jhantu said: "Jibon Theke Ney" is an inspiring film." The president (Muhammad Hannan) of the association expressed his intention to organise an event like this every year. He also hoped that the government would form a committee to probe the disappearance of Zahir Raihan.

Meherjaan Taken Out of Theatres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
"Meherjaan", directed by Rubaiyat Hossain, which has generated a major debate recently, has been pulled from theatres. The distributor of the film, Ashirbad Cholochitro, took the decision after the film received strong objections from several groups. "Until the debate is settled, we won't be screening the movie. We will resume screening the movie once this issue is resolved," said a representative of the distributor. A visibly frustrated Rubaiyat Hossain said, "The misconception and doubts that have surfaced were not expected," she said, adding that the controversy has been generated by a group of people, but not by the movie itself. She lamented that pulling out the movie is an



A scene from the film.

instance of putting curbs on freedom of speech. "I hope this is sorted out soon and people can once again see for themselves what 'Meherjaan' is all about," she said.

DS CAFÉ

DS Café has received a tremendous response from you, our readers. And now we offer you another treat the chance to vote in the celebrity of the month. January's shortlist is: (A) Ayub Bachchu; (B) Azizul Hakim(C) Munmun Ahmed. So just send in your vote and you'll get on the line with your favourite star, who'll take on all your questions on February 5.

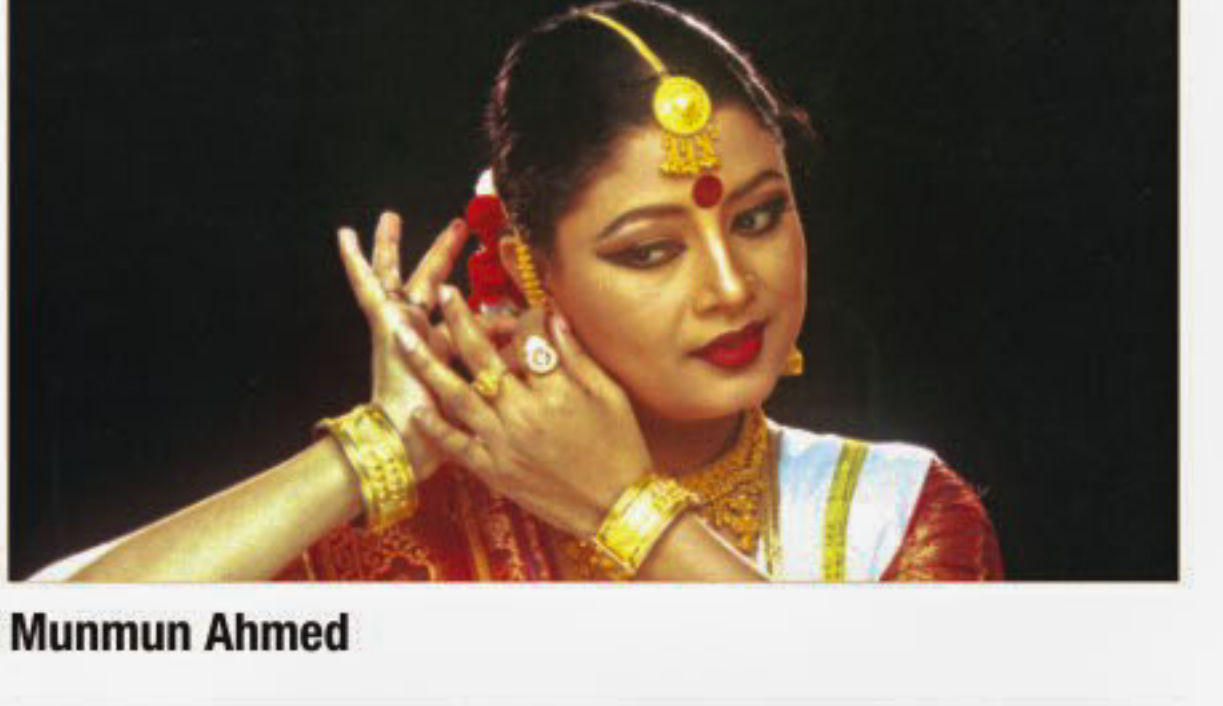
Mail to: culture_dailystar@yahoo.com. Subject of the email should read: "DS Café: Vote".

The last date of entry is February 3, 2011.

We're all ears...



Azizul Hakim



Munmun Ahmed



Ayub Bachchu

ATN BANGLA	12:15 IT Zone	06:20	Biswa Manush Manusher
01:25	Band View	11:30	Janna
06:15	Take Care	08:05	Boishakhi Shangkritik
08:00	Destination Unlimited		Sangbaad
10:45	Bihongo Kotha		Diganta TV
CHANNEL I		12:30	Score Cards
01:05	Ebong Cinemar Gaan	05:30	Lime Light
01:30	Hridoyer Gaan	06:05	Shorol Poth
05:30	Drama Serial	08:05	I-Tech
09:35	Drama	11:05	Dig Diganta
12:00	Gramophone Aajker	11:30	Shur Shurbhi
	Shongbadpoto		Z Studio
ntv		10:30	The Sea Inside
02:30	Drama Serial: Romizer	01:30	10 Things I Hate About You
	Ayana	04:10	The Terminal
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	07:00	Mission to Mars
	Achhey	09:30	The Princess Diaries
05:30	Agnar Jiggasha	12:00	Memoirs of a Geisha
06:10	Shubhoshoddhya		
09:00	Kichhu Kotha Kichhu		

RADIO	
abc.radio FM 89.2	07:30 Hello Dhaka
06:00	Bhorer Jostoy
09:00	Wakhoron Library
12:00	Duran Dupurey
03:00	Duranto Bikoley
05:00	Shonhita Tara
07:00	Shayer Moya
09:00	Rakt-er Akashy
11:00	Gulper Sheeh Mei
Radio Footi	04:00 U-turn
	06:00 Manna Express
	12:00 No Temdon
	04:00 Dhaka Calling
	09:00 Knight Riders
	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
	07:15 Good Morning Dhaka
	11:00 Masti Unlimited
	01:00 Today's Adda
	04:00 U-turn

Shobuj Nokkhotro
On ntv at 09:45pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Doodul, Tisha

Memoirs of a Geisha
On 2 studio at 12:00am
Genre: Drama/Romance
Cast: Ziyi Zhang, Ken Watanabe

Hridoyer Kacher Bishoy
On Channel I at 7:55pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Jitu Ahsan, Romana

ETV	04:02 DW Today Tomorrow	01:35	Watching The Detectives
05:30	Ei Shaptah-er Bishwa	03:15	The Ladykillers
06:30	Desh Jurey Oporadh	05:05	Father Of The Bride Part II
10:10	Trinomal Sanglaap	07:00	Charlie's Angels
12:02	Ekusher Raat	08:45	Robocop
Rtv		10:30	George Of The Jungle
10:45	Bashuhla Tarakalap	12:10	Miss March
02:30	Bangla Feature Film		HBO
05:40	Boi Mela Protidin	10:30	Looser
06:00	Angkhi Shada Kalo	12:30	An American Werewolf in London
12:15	Zero Hour	02:30	Two Weeks Notice
04:30	Dur-er Janala	04:45	Life Without Dick
05:30	Durpath	07:00	Harucles
07:45	Ekoi Brintey	10:30	Julie & Julia
09:45	Cookery Show	12:00	Bloodsport
12:30	Total Sports		Star World
09:05	Shudhul Gaan	11:50	Two And A Half Men
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	04:00	Friends
04:05	Protidin-er Boi Mela	07:30	Coffee With Karen
09:05	Shoundarpo Kotha	08:30	How I Met Your Mother
		09:30	The Bachelor
		10:30	Burn Notice
Boishakhi TV			National Geographic Channel
07:30	Bhor Holo Bibhabori		
05:15	Boishakhi-CNN Shara	10:30	Creative Vision

ATN BANGLA	Rtv
08:40pm	Ghar Jama
09:20pm	Pouch Phaguney Pala
CHANNEL I	
06:00pm	Koto Shudhul Amar
07:50pm	Hridoy-er Kacher Bishoy
ntv	
09:45pm	Shubuj Nokkhotro
	07:45pm Dhaka to London
	09:10pm Baghi Patal
	04:00pm Shudhul Ray Kalo Das
	BANGLAVISION
	08:15pm Dinetcar
	09:45pm Gulshan Avenue
	Boishakhi TV
	08:45pm Roshmia

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:30 pm.
NEWS	News Headlines (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).
CHANNEL-I	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:30 pm, 6:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN BANGLA	NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am
NEWS	(Bangla): 3:00pm, 04:00pm News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm
BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
NEWS	News Headlines (Bangla and English) 11:30 am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
Rtv	News (English) at 6:00pm
CHANNEL-I	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
Rtv	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 11:30 am, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
ETV	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

TALK SHOW	
ATN BANGLA	12:30pm Citynet Tanika
10:30am	Gramophone
	Lead News
11:10am	Asian City Vision
	2020
CHANNEL I	Rtv
09:45am	Gramophone
	Titoyo Matra
	08:30pm Meet Democracy
	Desh TV