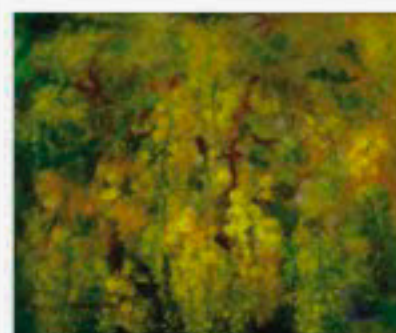


WHAT'S ON

**Shora Painting Exhibition**  
Painter: Sukumar Pal  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhamondii  
Date: April 11-16



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Symphony of Colours  
Artist: Syed Abdullah Khalid  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, S-4, Uttara  
Date: April 12-29



**Grand Group Art Exhibition**  
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2  
Date: April 1-30  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Book Fair**  
Organiser: Adorn Publication  
Venue: Public Library, Seminar Hall, Shahbagh  
Date: April 2-13  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Art Exhibition**  
Title: Time Eternal  
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhamondii  
Date: April 12-28  
Time: 5pm-8pm



**Syed Badaruddin Hossain Smriti Natio Utsab**  
Venue: National Theatre, RSA  
Date: April 6-12



**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Chanchal Khan  
Venue: ICC, H-24, R-2, Dhamondii  
Date: April 15  
Time: 6:30pm



**BALGO Contemporary Australian Art Exhibition**  
Title: BALGO  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, 69/1, New Circular Road, Malibagh  
Date: April 1-13



# A Man with a Mission

## Catching up with Mahmudur Rahman Benu

SADYA AFREEN MALICK, writes from London

With dawn approaching, the eastern horizon gradually brightened up. A dreamy eyed Mahmudur Rahman Benu sat idly atop a rundown bus, vocally articulating morning ragas Bhairavi and Raamkali.

Benu was on his way back from the routine visits to the Mukti Bahini (freedom fighters') camps near the border with his music troupe, when the bus tyres burst. While the driver replaced the tyres, a sleepless Benu practiced sargam along with his team-mate Bipul Bhattacharya. Deep down, Benu tried to divert his mind from the war waged against his country, just across the border. When the army started the crackdown Benu didn't hesitate to join the Bangladesh guerrilla forces to fight the Pakistani army.

Mahmudur Rahman, popularly known as "Benu bhai" to many, had just crossed the Benapole border and joined the Mukti Bahini, under Capt Hafiz aka Major Hafiz, at Petrapole, Jessore sector.

A dedicated cultural activist and graduate from Chhayanaut, the spirit of patriotism was ingrained in Benu at an early age. His mentors at Chhayanaut -- Waheedul Haque, Sheikh Luthfar Rahman and Zahedur Rahim -- strengthened his passion even more. When the war intensified, Benu replaced his ammo with harmonium to inspire the countless freedom fighters who were camped at the war front. Unarmed and fearless, he led his team, the Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha, to the edges of the battlefield.

On my recent visit to London we talked about his experiences during the war and his involvement with the cultural scenario in London now.



Mahmudur Rahman Benu in a still from "Muktir Gaan".

"During the Liberation War," Benu went on, "everyday we would visit from five to seven camps in a minibus. We would sing Gano Sangeet to lift the spirit of the soldiers. We were given meagre pocket money and lunch boxes to sustain throughout the day. We would sing around 70 songs everyday. By the time we reached home late in the night, our voices were cracked and bodies sore. But we would prepare ourselves for the next day. Our only mission was to boost the morale of the Mukti Bahini. Our patriotic songs were our weapons to fight the invaders," Benu's eyes sparkled as he spoke.

Benu had settled in Leeds in 1973. After 10 years he moved to Sheffield and later to London in 1993.

Despite your role in the war, why did you decide to settle abroad? I asked. "Well I'm often confronted with this question. Even if I stayed in Bangladesh my mission would have been no different."

And what is that? I asked. "When I came over as a student, what struck me most was the distressing state of the Bangladeshi community settled here. Other than a

handful, most of them had difficulty in communicating, writing or reading letters. My instincts were to immediately help them. I tried to make them aware of their history and take pride in their roots as well.

"While teaching English, Mathematics and Bangla at Waltheos Secondary School, I would often explain to them about Bangladesh, its culture and the bloody war through which we gained our independence. Gradually a noticeable change came about in the attitude of the young boys and girls of the school. It is with pride that I felt that parents became more and more eager to admit their children to the school where I taught."

In a speech, the head teacher of the school specially highlighted Benu's undeniable role in drawing people closer. In his long career, the head teacher had never witnessed such strength of influence of one man to dramatically change the mindset of a community like Benu had accomplished.

In London, Benu introduced various cultural programmes, including Pahela Boishakh (Bangla New



PHOTO COURTESY: TAREQUE AND CATHERINE MASUD

Year celebration) and other festivities that are observed in Bangladesh. This not only instilled passion amongst his students to learn more about their origins but the community as a whole grew a sense of pride in their cultural roots and developed a positive attitude towards their heritage.

Benu's uncompromising attitude towards music and the teachings of Chhayanaut inspired him to open several branches all over London. "I teach songs related to our culture -- Indian classical, ghazals, Nazrul Sangeet and more," he said.

The artiste who had long back sown the seeds of belonging amongst a community now watches with a certain sense of pride as those seeds have flourished and brought two places closer. The passion with which he had fought for the country's independence still runs deep to spread that country's cultural influence ever further. As far as he is concerned, he still patrols the boundaries of his country -- if not geographical, certainly the cultural one.

# Tracing the Footsteps of Tagore

## Documentary "Poth Chawatei Anondo" launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The packed National Museum auditorium eagerly watched the 75-minute documentary "Bangladeshe Rabindranath: Poth Chawatei Anondo" that highlights Rabindranath's stay in East Bengal between 1890 and 1937. He came to administer the family estates but found himself turned into "Baul Rabi" and undertook huge reforms in the agriculture and small credit sector, much to the relief of the destitute farmers.

Chanchal Khan, an accomplished Tagore singer is the planner, director and music director of the documentary. Khan was assisted by Hasina Ahmed Shoma as the creative director.

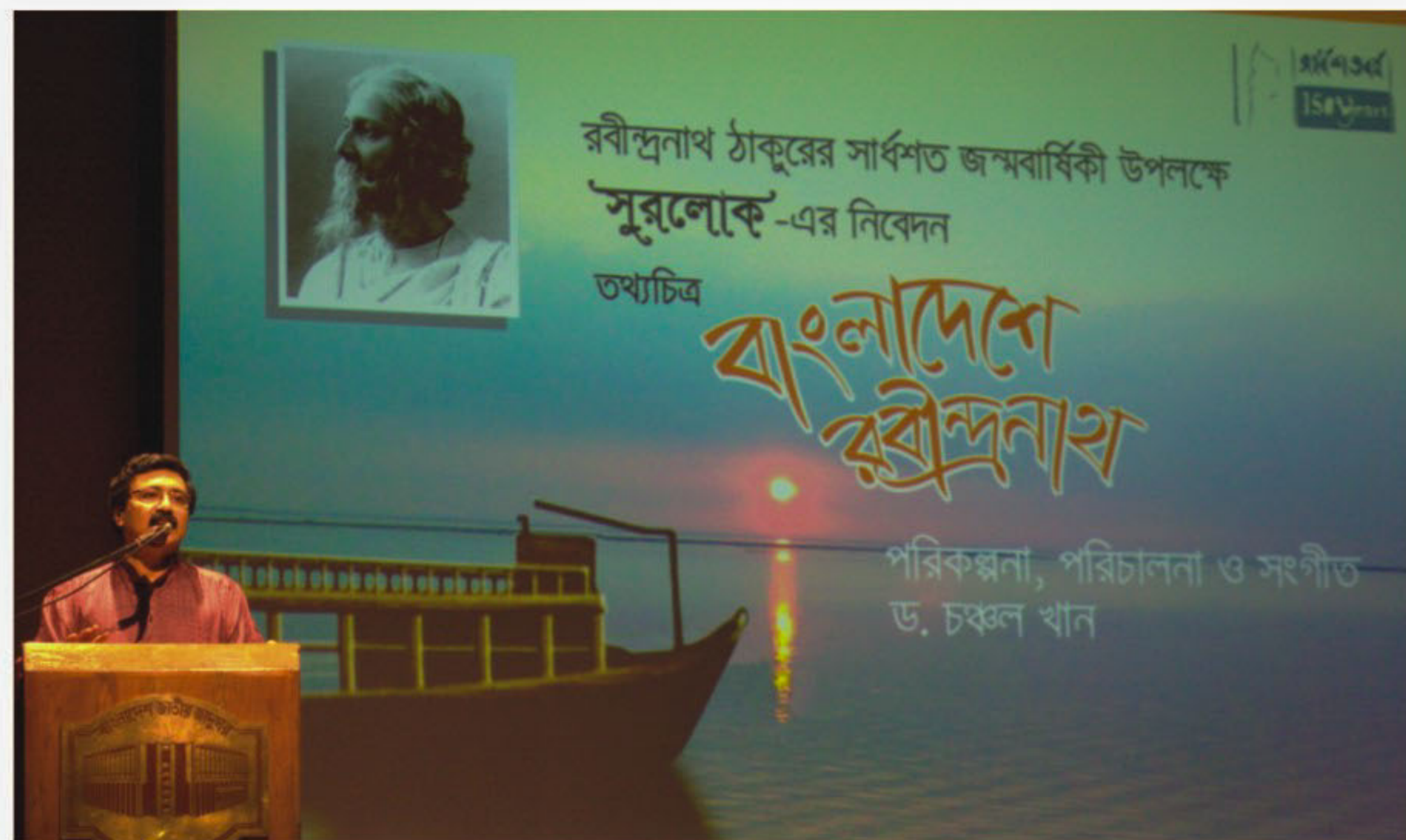
Abul Kalam Azad, minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, spoke on the occasion as the chief guest. He assured the audience that the government is doing its best to preserve the sites in Shilaidaha,

Shahjadpur and Potishar that bear memories of Tagore. He sought advice from the artistes, educationists and litterateurs regarding restoration of the heritage sites in Bangladesh.

The documentary was launched to mark Tagore's 150th birth anniversary. Nazmul Hassan MP, CEO of Beximco Pharma, spoke on behalf of the sponsoring organisation. Chanchal Khan spoke on behalf of Shurolok Music Group that produced the film.

Narrated by Rokeya Prachi, the documentary derives its strength from the comprehensive research by Ahmed Rafique. "The documentary has historical, archival and educational value, especially for those who have little or no knowledge on the bard's enormous contribution to music, literature and rural development of Bengal. Exposure to East Bengal made the documentary a complete poet,

philosopher and a human being, rather than an urbane poet of Kolkata," Chanchal Khan said. Elements of the documentary include nine songs rendered by accomplished and promising singers -- Mita Haque, Sadi Muhammad, Chanchal Khan, Lily Islam, Fahim Hossain, Aniruddha Sengupta and Nandita Yasmin. The songs were written by Tagore in Shiladaha, Shahjadpur and Potishar. The film also provides glimpses from a play based on one of the bard's short stories; interviews of eminent personalities, such as Dr. Atiur Rahman, Selina Hossain, Ahmed Rafique, Lalim Haque, Ashok Saha and others on various aspects of Tagore's contribution. Khaled Khan, Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay and Dahlia Ahmed's narration, as well as Asaduzzaman Noor's recitation of "Sonar Tari" make the documentary a complete experience.



Chanchal Khan speaks at the premiere.

# Homage to an Icon

## Divisional Nazrul Convention in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad was chief guest at the inaugural function of the two-day divisional 'Nazrul Sammelon' (Nazrul Convention) at the Sylhet auditorium in the city on April 9. Addressing the gathering, he said that the government has launched special programme to present an authentic picture of the National Poet to the youngsters. Towards this end, he added, district level events will be organised so that school and college going young ones and others can get to know the icon who made an immense contribution to our culture and literature.

Nazrul Institute's trustee board chairman, Professor Rafiqul Islam, chaired the inaugural programme. The poet's granddaughter Khilkhil Kazi; city Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran; Sylhet Divisional Commissioner ANM Ziaul Alam; Deputy Commissioner Abu Syed Mohammad Hashem; Public Prosecutor Mesbah Uddin Siraj and Nazrul Institute's executive director Rashid Haider also spoke on the occasion.



Noted Nazrul Sangeet artistes perform at the event.

sion. Educationist Professor Suresh Ranjan Basak read out the keynote speech. Professor Rafiqul Islam dwelt on the brief history of studies on Nazrul and his works in Bangladesh. There is room for saving some of the missing creations of the poet, he noted, if those concerned are committed towards preserving them. He emphasised the need to generate interest in Nazrul's works worldwide.

The cultural function began with Khilkhil Kazi and others rendering "Mora Honjhar Moto" in chorus. Nazrul artiste Himangshu Biswas rendered a kirtan. Jharna Sarker and Nahidul Islam recited Nazrul poems prior to Kabirul Islam Ratan and his troupe from the capital presenting "Kamal Pasha" to the delight of the audience.

A brief training programme on the accurate study of Nazrul Sangeet was also held in the afternoon at the Shishu Academy conducted by veteran artistes. Besides, a cultural programme was also arranged at the Sylhet auditorium in the evening.

Sunday's programme included a brief session on learning Nazrul Sangeet, discussion and a cultural function.

# A Poet of Silence

## Documentary on Partha Pratim Majumder



The documentary was screened at Alliance Française de Dhaka.

ZAHANGIR ALAM

A biographical documentary, titled "Poet of Silence", on the internationally famed Bangladeshi mime maestro Partha Pratim Majumder was launched at the auditorium of Alliance Française de Dhaka on April 9. Alliance Française de Dhaka, together with Raktakarabi, organised the screening.

Directed by Al Masum Shobuj, the 28-minute film highlights remarkable moments from Majumder's life -- starting from his childhood days in Pabna, Bangladesh to meeting the French mime icon Marcel Marceau. The biography also features Majumder staging the mimodrama "The Nightmare" at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in 1994 and his solo show of "Padma Nadir Majhi" at UNESCO headquarters, Paris in 1986.

Noted personalities -- Asaduzzaman Noor MP, magician Jewel Aich, musicians Ila Majumder



Dr. Gauhar Rizvi speaks at the event.

others had to watch the film standing. A discussion was held after the screening. Poet, dramatist and novelist Syed Shamsul Haq was the chief guest at the programme. Patrick Branco, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of France in Bangladesh; Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr. Gauhar Rizvi and director of Alliance Française Salha Lefevre were the guests of honour on the occasion. Filmmaker Morshedul Islam also spoke at the event. Actor Joyonto Chattopadhyay, magician Jewel Aich, dancer Tamanna Rahman and others were present on the occasion.

"I am very proud of my friend Partha. What I would like to say is that he is setting up an example of an exceptional expatriate by diffusing the artistry he had learnt," said Patrick Branco.

After his vibrant speech, Dr. Gauhar Rizvi embraced Partha Pratim Majumder and assured him of assistance in setting up a mime academy.

# HANGOVER2 UPDATE

Director Todd Phillips had no trouble shooting "The Hangover II" because everyone slipped back into character so easily.

The director, who reunited original cast members Zach Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper and Ed Helms for the follow-up set in Bangkok, was surprised at how simple it was to film

"The Hangover II" because everyone slipped back into character effortlessly.

However the "Due Date" creator did have some trouble working in the Thai capital because according to him it is not so "film-friendly".

Source: Internet



The Daily Star

life

Standard Chartered

Have you sent your film, photographs & lyrics entry for the Celebrating Life Competition?

This year's theme

**Celebrate the Gifts of Nature and the Rivers of Bangladesh**

Deadline for submissions

**June 30, 2011**

For more details, log onto

**www.celebratinglifebd.com**

Partners:

ATN BANGLA	Boishakhi TV
11:35 Chobir Gaan	07:30 Bhor Holo Bibhabori
12:10 Motamot	10:30 Bangla Feature Film
05:20 Aynar Shamney	04:15 Shorashori Doctor
06:20 Aladin	11:30 Boishakhi Shongkrti O Bindon Sangbad
10:45 Bihongo Kotha	12:30 Shudhon Cinemar Gaam
CHANNEL i	Diganta TV
09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh	12:30 Score Cards
01:05 Ebong Cnemar Gaan	03:30 World Round Up
05:15 Kozhi Shingbad	08:05 Din Boderor Dola
09:35 Vest Channel i Top	09:25 China Bichitra
Model 11	12:05 News of the Day
11:30 Travel On	Z Studio
12:00 Aikter Shingbadpotro	10:35 Oscar
ntv	01:30 Big Trouble
08:45 Bangla Feature Film	03:30 Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit
04:10 Achhey	07:00 The 14 Amazons
06:45 Ogorjo	09:30 Brother
07:20 Shololana Bangallana	12:00 Friday the 13th Part II

**Moqbul**  
On ATN BANGLA at 08:00pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Faruk Ahmed, Siddique

**TERMINATOR**  
On Star Movies at 08:45pm  
Genre: Action/ Sci-Fi  
Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton

**Moner Kotha**  
On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm  
Talk Show  
Host: Afiana Mimi

11:30 Drama Serial: Akash Chhoya	11:25 Prince Of Persia
ETV	01:25 Road House
11:30 Ekushey-er Business	03:20 Damage
04:30 DW Today Tomorrow	07:00 Major Movie Star
05:25 Desh Jurey	08:45 The Terminator
05:50 Sports Plus	10:35 Lost Future
07:50 Tommy Miah Recipe	12:10 Supernova
12:05 Ekushey-er Raat	HBO
Rtv	01:30 The Informant!
01:10 Bangla Feature Film	03:45 The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
05:00 Protidin-er Gaan	07:30 Shark Attack II
06:00 Are You Ready	09:30 Bloodsport
09:50 Bridal Show	11:30 G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra
12:00 Protidin-er Patrika	Star World
BANGLAVISION	02:00 Friends
09:05 Shudhui Gaan	07:30 Coffee With Karen
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	08:30 How I Met Your Mother
09:05 Moner Kotha	10:30 Dexter
11:25 Probashi Mukh	11:30 Community
Desh TV	National Geographic
04:00 Desh Janapad	Channel
05:00 Durpath	03:30 Great Migrations
06:25 Bajarey Notun	07:30 I Didn't Know That
07:45 Hathat Ekdin	09:30 Engineering Connections
08:15 Drama Serial: Phirey Phirey Achi	
12:30 Total Sports	

## DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA	Rtv
08:00pm Mokbul	08:20pm Bagh Putul
09:20pm Parapar	BANGLAVISION
CHANNEL i	08:15pm Mad Bhai
05:30pm Joto Dure Jai	09:45pm All Rounder
07:50pm Shongro Bazar	ETV
ntv	09:30pm Lolita
08:15pm Manabzamin	Boishakhi TV
09:45pm Darshok-er Galpo	08:45pm Elemelo Manushgulo

## NEWS BULLETIN

RTV	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.	News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.	News Headlines (Bangla and English) 12:00am, 4:00pm
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).	News (English) at 6:00pm Rtv
CHANNEL-i	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	ntv
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	ETV
01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm
News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.	

## TALK SHOW

ATN BANGLA	07:00pm Our Democracy
11:30pm Je Kotha Kesi Baleni	BANGLAVISION
12:30am Lead News	06:10pm Front Line
CHANNEL i	ETV
09:45am Trita Matra	10:10pm O Bondhu Amar
ntv	Desh TV
12:10pm Ei Shomoy	11:45pm Shoja Kotha
Rtv	Boishakhi TV
10:40am Tarokalp	12:00am Zero Hour