

**WHAT'S ON**

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Express Yourself  
Participants: American and Bangladeshi Artists  
Venue: Dhaka Arts Centre, H-60, Rd-7A, Sharmoni  
Date: Dec 8-17, Time: 6-9pm

**GongMyong Concert**  
Organiser: Embassy of the Republic of Korea  
Venue: Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh  
Date: Dec 11

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Venue: Gallery of Fine Arts, Asiatic Society, Nilmoli  
Date: Nov 27-Dec 9  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Concert**  
Band: Bohemian  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan 1  
Date: December 9  
Time: 6:30pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Celebrating 40 years of Independence  
Venue: La Galerie and Galerie Zoom  
Date: Dec 9-22  
Time: 3-9pm

**Exhibition**  
Title: Tagore and Kantha  
Venue: Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Dec 2-10  
Time: 11am-7pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Masters of Bangladesh Art '11  
Venue: Radius Centre, Gulshan-1  
Date: Nov 25-Dec 17

**16th Berger Young Painters' Art Exhibition**  
Venue: Zamil Gallery, FFA, DU  
Date: Dec 11-15  
Time: 10am-6pm

# Travels through Liberty

## In conversation with Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed

Bengalis have always been avid readers. The phrase, 'Bangali Babu' originated from that trait. We had our own cultural/literary renaissance in Bengal.

During the Pakistan era, reading for the sake of personal enrichment was gradually on the wane. After independence the situation was worse. The standard of formal education has gone down as well. Do you think those who don't really pay any attention to textbooks, would read other books?

Our libraries don't let readers borrow books and take them home. Outside Dhaka, libraries are few and far between.

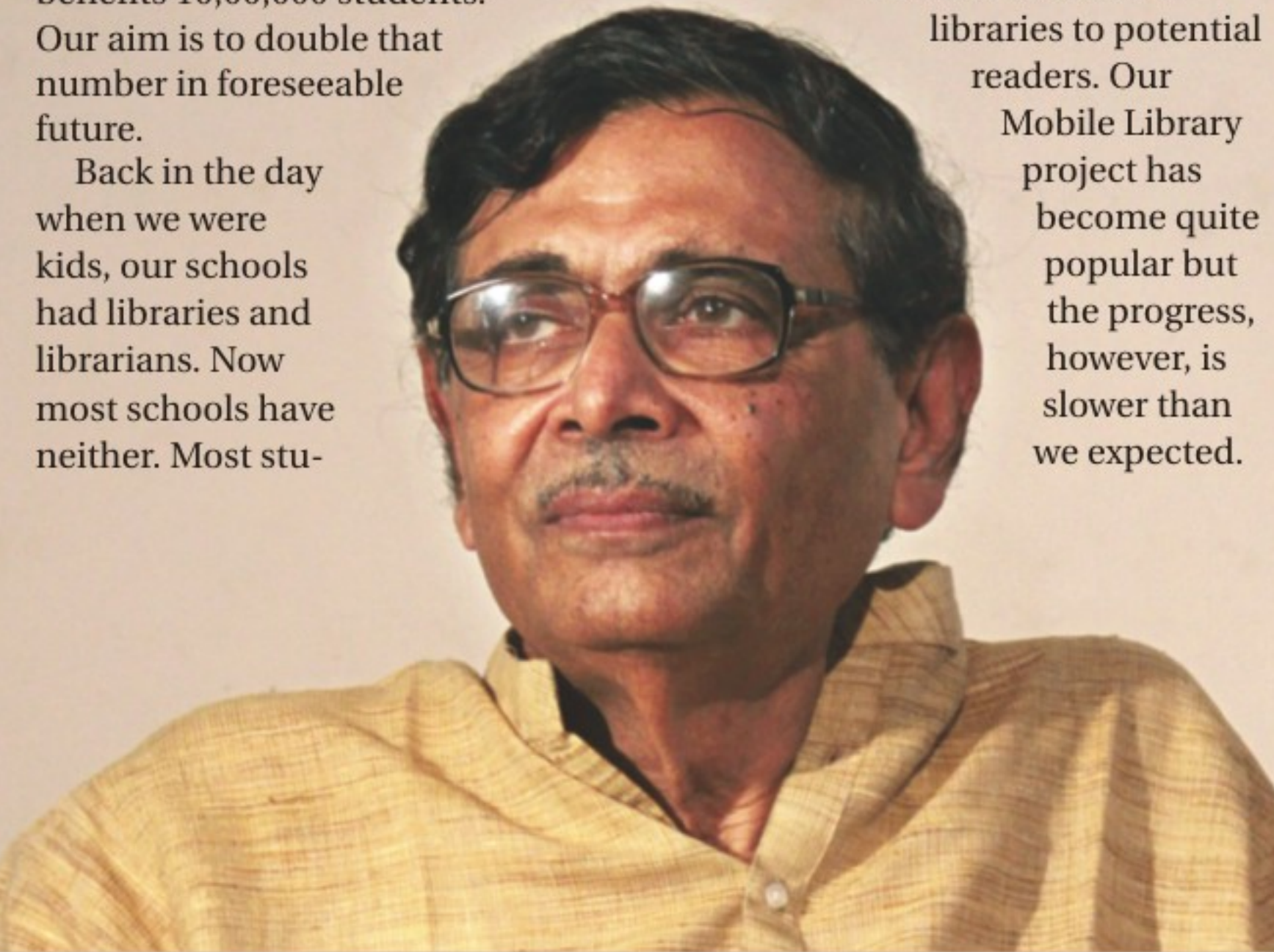
Considering this dearth in national reading habit, Bishwo Shahitto Kendro has involved 10,000 schools in our programme that encourages reading as an extracurricular activity. The programme benefits 10,00,000 students. Our aim is to double that number in foreseeable future.

Back in the day when we were kids, our schools had libraries and librarians. Now most schools have neither. Most stu-

dents are not even aware that there are books other than the ones they have to read at school. This is appalling! Successive governments don't seem to care that there are no libraries at schools and international donors don't seem to consider libraries a necessity.

Greek philosophers believed that only when one had attained a beautiful mind and health, one can make the most of wealth. In other words, refinement of the soul is necessary to become an evolved human being. In our country, wealth has arrived but enlightenment hasn't. And this is disconcerting because humanity is led by the enlightened. When they are on the right track, the world is in safe hands.

When we, at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, realised that libraries are not becoming popular we decided to take the libraries to potential readers. Our Mobile Library project has become quite popular but the progress, however, is slower than we expected.



# World premiere of "1971" on Baishakhi Television



(From left) Ahsan Kabir, Tanvir Mokammel and Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul at the press conference.

A CORRESPONDENT

The world premiere of Tanvir Mokammel's upcoming documentary "1971" will be aired on Baishakhi Television. The nearly four-hour documentary on the Liberation War will be aired on December 16 at 2:45pm. A re-tecast will take place on the following day at the same time. The documentary is divided into two episodes.

The announcement was made at a press conference held at the Reporters' Unity on December 5. Among others, Baishakhi's Deputy Chief of programme Ahsan Kabir, Chief Editor and Executive Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul and the filmmaker Tanvir Mokammel were present at the press conference.

The research and shooting of the documentary took a time period of nearly seven years. A total of 250 hours stock footage was collected for it. In

# Old masters at Bengal Gallery

## Jessica Morgan and Francis Morris in Dhaka



Francis Morris (left) Abul Khair (c) and Jessica Morgan at Bengal Gallery.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In honour of Jessica Morgan, Daskalopoulos Curator, Tate Modern Museum, London and Francis Morris, head of collections, Tate Modern Museum, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts organised an art exhibition featuring works of three generations of Bangladeshi artists. The artworks are from Bengal Foundation and Abul Khair collections. The exhibition was held on December 7 at Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. On display were the artworks of Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hassan, Rashid Chowdhury, Mohammad Kibria, Saifuddin Ahmed, Aminul Islam, Abdul Basot, Murtaja Baseer, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Monsurul Karim, Farida Zaman, Mohammad Eunus, Kanak Chandra Chakma and others. Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation, and Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of Bengal Foundation, handed over several

publications to the guests at the programme.

Jessica Morgan and Francis Morris spoke with a multimedia presentation, going over Tate's collections and activities.

The Tate is an institution that houses the United Kingdom's national collection of art, and international modern and contemporary art. It is a network of four art museums: Tate Britain, London (previously known as the Tate Gallery, founded 1897), Tate Liverpool (founded in 1988), Tate St Ives, Cornwall (founded in 1993) and Tate Modern, London (founded in 2000). It is an executive non-departmental public body of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The Tate collection of modern and contemporary art represents all the major movements from Fauvism on. It includes important masterpieces by both Picasso and Matisse and one of the world's finest collections of Surrealism, including works by Dalí, Ernst, Magritte and Miró.

# A glorious era

## UPL's book fest on Liberation War

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 40th anniversary of Independence, the University Press Limited (UPL) will hold a book festival featuring writings on the War of Liberation. The festival will begin on December 9 at UPL Bookstore at Shahjapur near Badda.

The highlight of the festival will be 71 books UPL has produced on the Liberation War. Some re-prints as well as new books and co-publications will also be displayed during the festival. Apart from them, books on other issues will be available.

The festival authority also takes the initiative in such fields as discussions and essay writings to encourage awareness among the younger generation of the glorious achievement of liberation.

Six different discussion sessions on as many books [selected from the featured 71



books] will be held throughout the fest. The featured books include "Sheishob Pakistani" (author: Muntasir Mamun); "Pakistani-der Drihsite Ektartur" (edited by Muntasir Mamun and Mohiuddin Ahmed); "Mooldhara "71" (author: Moidul Hassan) and "Historicising Genocide: Genocide 1971" (author: Professor Intiaz Ahmed); and "Fault Lines: Stories from 1971" (edited by Professor Niaz Zaman and Asif Farrukhi).

The essay writing competition will feature students from universities and colleges. There will be two topics: "How to encourage the dot-com generation to read more books" and "An analytical review of any UPL book on Liberation War".

During the festival, UPL will also inaugurate its Book Club. People will be able to purchase books with up to 50% discount. The festival will continue till December 23, and will remain open from 10am to 7pm.

# Social slant

## Three films screened in Mymensingh



A scene from the short film "The Rejected".

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Three short films were screened on December 1 at the district Shilpakala Academy Auditorium: "Khino Alor Artonad" (The Cry of Soft Light), "Nishiddho Adhar" (Darkness in Confinement) and "The Rejected".

"Khino Alor Artonad" was written by Atiqur Rahman Sagar while "Nishiddho Adhar" and "Rejected" were scripted by Razib Khan Pathan. The short films were produced under the banner of Dhupchaya Sangskritik Sangathan, a cultural organisation consisting of young artists.

Rajib Khan Pathan, (chairman of Dhupchaya) and Atiqur Rahman Sagar has directed the short films.

The cast of the short films included Shihab, Rony Nizam, Sunny, Jasim, Mosharrif, M.A Mostafiz, Sumon, Abdur Rashid, Sagar, Bobby, Bappi, Sabbir, Annab, Habib, Nupur, Rima and Naushin.

"Khino Alor Artonad" depicted the threatening presence of vested quarters even as a group of socially conscious young people struggle to eliminate the disparity that has persisted in society for centuries.

In "Nishiddho Adhar", the lifestyle of the socially deprived children was depicted. They are used by the influential for their selfish purposes.

In "The Rejected", the conflict of youths belonging to middle-class families was addressed.

In his welcome speech, Rajib Khan Pathan said, "Due to lack of producers and financial and technical constraints, our initiatives are being hampered. As students, we need greater help to go in for more films in the future."

Last year the group produced two short films -- "Bastobota" (Reality) and "Wait and See".

# Banglalink launches 3rd compilation of "Jagoroner Gaan"

## of "Jagoroner Gaan"

A CORRESPONDENT

Banglalink, in collaboration with Jagoron Chorch a Songskriti Kendro, Prothom Alo, Channel i, Radio ABC and Step Media Ltd, launched the 3rd "Jagoroner Gaan" compilation recently. On the heels of the success of the previous collections, the new album hits music stores all across the nation on December 10. A press conference was held on December 5 to announce the launch of the latest compilation at Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka.

Those present at the launching ceremony were, Sharfuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, head of PR and Communications Banglalink; Matiur Rahman, editor Prothom Alo; Faridur Reza Sagar, Managing Director of Channel i; Mostafa Towhid Khan, managing director, Step Media; M. Saleh Badal, executive member Jagoron Chorch O Songskriti Kendro; Salauddin Lavlu, managing director, Radio ABC and Kamal Lohani, a prominent arranger of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.



Banglalink officials and dignitaries at the conference.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of our independence, the 3rd "Jagoroner Gaan" compilation consists of 40 songs along with previously released 31 songs. A daylong concert along with cultural shows will be organised at Shikha Chironton, Dhaka on December 10 to mark the spirit of nationalism through a festive

and fun-filled presentation of the songs that have revolutionised the thinking of the people of Bangladesh. The event will be open to people from all walks of life.

The CD package comprises 71 songs and an accompanying book featuring the lyrics and information on all the songs.

# Priyanka Gope's latest album launched at Bengal Shilpalaya



(From left) Feroza Begum, Priyanka Gope, Mohammad Asafuddowla and Luva Nahid Chowdhury at the album launch.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accomplished classical singer Priyanka Gope's latest album, "Sur-e Sur-e Dekha Hobey", was launched at Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi in the capital on December 5. Music exponent Mohammad Asafuddowla has written and composed the songs for the album. Durbadal Chattopadhyay has directed music for it. The album contains 11 tracks.

Pioneering Nazrul Sangeet artiste and exponent Feroza Begum unveiled the album. Mohammad Asafuddowla, Priyanka Gope and director general of Bengal Foundation, Luva Nahid Chowdhury, were present at the event.

On the occasion, Priyanka performed songs from the album. Her repertoire

included "Tomar Ashae Poth Chawa Mon", "Etodin Porey Tomae Ekhono", "Ekhon Tokhon Hoy Je E Mon", "Chinte Paroni Tumi Amake", "Ki Holo Hawar Aaj", "E Kemon Ratri Eri", "Ekhon Shomey Holo Ki Mon", "E Byatha Lukatey Hobey Je Amake", "Sur-e Sur-e Hoyto Dekha Hobey" and more.

Apart from studying at Rabindra Bharati University of Kolkata, India, Priyanka took khayal lessons exclusively from Pt. Arun Bhaduri at ITC Sangeet Research Academy. She also learnt thumri from Pt. Urmi Das Gupta and Pt. Prinnima Chowdhury, and dhruwad from Falguni Mitra. Priyanka Gope is now a lecturer at the Department of Music, Dhaka University and a part-time classical music teacher at Chhayanat Sangeet Bidayatan.

The pulse of the evening started to race further when the diva opened her treasure

# Runa Laila recreates '70s magic

## recreates '70s magic

The magic of the melodious 1970s was back with a bang on Friday night as the Bangladeshi queen of music, Runa Laila, took centre stage at the Qutub Shahi Tombs to make Day 7 of the Times Hyderabad Festival a mehfil the city will not forget too soon.

Dazzling in a bright pink sari and a million-watt smile the versatile singer, who rocked three film industries (in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan) for well over three decades (between 1960s and 1980s), mesmerised the Hyderabadis not just with her charismatic voice but also her humble persona.

Despite a hysteric crowd that made one too many demands of the artist -- sometimes for a popular track and sometimes for "adjustments" in the accompanying orchestra -- the diva looked the least perturbed. In fact, she rather willingly obliged the gathering and even hummed a few verses, which were not on her list for the night, to appease her fans.

Her grace and calm composure coupled with her soothing notes -- whether in Hindi, Bangla or even Punjabi -- made the audience relish every bit of the evening. "When she (Laila) sings, language is no barrier. Even if you don't understand the lyrics you want to sing along with her," said P. Hemalata who was seen clapping and cheering with full vigour when Laila started the evening with "Je Jon Prem-er Bhaab Jane Na", a Bangla folk song.

Even her rendition in Punjabi that followed next found many takers among the non-Punjabi speaking population present at the venue. So did "Shadher Lau", the hugely popular Bangla number. In fact, the audience that was seen sitting still on the seats as the musical genius dished out one breathtaking *ghazal* after another -- from "Unhi Nazron Se Mohabat Ka Jo..." (from the film "Hum Tum") or "Katey Hain Din Kaisa Re" (from the album "The Loves of Runa Laila") -- jumped to their feet to shake a leg when Laila hit the peppy notes of the pop track.

The pulse of the evening started to race further when the diva opened her treasure



trove of Bollywood chartbusters starting with "Mujhe Pyar Tumse Nahi Hai" from the 1977 release, "Gharonda". Then came the turn of, "Do Deevane", from the same movie. Taking the maddening crowd completely by surprise, Laila called for a male voice from among the audience to be her "Bhupinder" (the male singer in the duet) for the evening. A young fan rushed to grab the moment, and though completely out of tune, his gesture added to the charm of the musical event.

But the best was clearly saved for the last. As the show neared its end, Laila unleashed on the crowd "De De Pyar De" (from "Sharaabi") and followed it up with "Mera Babu Chail Chabilla" (from "Mann Ki Jeet"). Soon after she started her do on stage, all hell broke loose off stage as both the young and old broke into an absolute frenzy. The loud sound of applauses, whistles and cheers filled the chilly air at the historic venue as Hyderabadis danced to the sound of mind-boggling music. However, "Dama Dam Mast Qalandar" from her debut movie (as singer "Ek Se Badkhar Ek" stole the show like always.

Tarekuzaman Tarek, Director of

# Play to raise awareness on AIDS in Dinajpur

## awareness on AIDS in Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinapur

To generate awareness about HIV/AIDS, a programme was organised here in Dinajpur recently with a discussion and plays.

Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner and Civil Surgeon Office organised the programme at Dinajpur Shilpakala Academy Complex.

Save the Children, a global non-government organisation, supported the organisers.

A group of artistes of Amader Theatre performed several plays to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Md. Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur, was present as chief guest at the discussion. Dr. Md. Moudud Hossain, Civil Surgeon of Dinajpur, attended the discussion as special guest.

Amader Theatre, chaired the discussion.

At the discussion, the speakers said that such initiatives would strengthen the knowledge base of people about HIV/AIDS, equip them to deal with risky situations and be protected against sexual abuse, drug addiction and HIV/AIDS.

After the discussion, a play on HIV/AIDS was staged by artistes of Amader Theatre. The popular street play, originally titled "Awareness programme AIDS", was penned by Tarekuzaman Tarek.

The comedy not only created awareness about the killer disease but also negated many myths about it.

Several hundred people of the district gathered at the complex of Dinajpur Shilpakala Academy to see the show.



ATN BANGLA	10:02	Bangla Feature Film
10:40	10:40	Barney
11:30	05:30	Bangladesh Priyo
04:20	08:00	Bangladesh
06:15	11:00	Tele-film
11:00	11:00	Tomay Gaan Shonabo
CHANNEL i	ETV	
01:05	11:30	Ekushey-er Business
01:30	05:40	Sports Plus
02:40	07:50	Neel Paerai Gaan
03:30	09:30	Ekushey-er Chokh
09:35	10:10	Drama
BANGLAVISION	Z Studio	
11:05	01:30	Little Man
02:20	03:45	Panic Room
05:20	09:30	Swarmed
06:05	11:30	Home of the Brave
09:05	03:30	Star Movies
Rtv	05:10	Bio-Dome
	07:00	Unstoppable
	07:00	Cheaper By The Dozen

abcr radio FM 89.2	12:00	My Time
09:00	01:00	No Tension
12:00	04:00	Dhaka Calling
03:00	09:00	Night Rider
05:00	01:00	Back to Back music
07:00	08:00	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
09:00	08:00	Good Morning
11:00	08:00	Dhaka
Radio Foorti	12:00	Today's Adda
10:00	04:00	U Turn

**Fourth Class Society**  
On Boishakhi TV at 08:10pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Kollan Koraisih, Humaira Himmu

**The Score**  
On HBO at 09:30pm  
Genre: Action/Crime  
Cast: Robert De Niro, Edward Norton

**Bipashar Othithi**  
On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm  
Celebrity Talk Show  
Guest: Nancy

01:05	Bangla Feature Film	08:45	The Sorcerer's Apprentice
05:30	Ananda Dhara	10:40	Crazy On The Outside
08:20	Cookery Show		
09:50	Glamour World		
11:30	Drama: Before the Love		
ntv			
10:05	Kichhu Kichhu Kichhu Gaan	02:30	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	05:45	Batman: Under the Red Hood
06:15	Shubho Shondhya	09:30	The Running Man
09:00	Amaro Gaithe Kichha Holo	12:05	The Score
11:30	Shourhora Nilima	03:30	Shutter Island
04:30	Durpith	11:30	Love2 Hate U
06:30	Dur Durante	03:30	Necessary Roughness
09:45	Style and Fashion	10:30	Master Chef USA
10:30	Desh E Galpo	11:30	The Big Bang Theory
11:55	Drama		
Desh TV			
07:30	Durpith	10:30	The Shield
04:15	Shorashori Doctor	11:30	The Big Bang Theory
06:10	Music at Fun Dot Com		
10:35	Drama Serial: Talbatel Tara O Jyotsnar Galpo		
12:30	Drama		
Maaranga Television			
10:30	Situation Critical		
07:30	Brutal Killers		
09:00	Killer Shots		
11:30	Caught in the Act		
Discovery Channel			
08:30	Fearless Planet		
09:30	Dinosaur Revolution		
	Man vs. Wild		

ATN BANGLA	08:15pm	Halkura
08:00pm	Not Out	
08:40pm	Chand Phul	
	Amaboshya	
09:20pm	Mosheer C/A	
09:50pm	Kuschar Phona	
08:25pm	Local	
BANGLAVISION	08:15pm	Sat Kahon

RTV	08:00pm	Lead News
09:45am	08:15pm	Our Democracy
12:30pm	09:45pm	El Shomoy
11:30pm	05:15pm	Boishakhi TV
		Shukur
BANGLAVISION	12:00am	Zero Hour
11:25pm	07:30pm	Maaranga Television
Rtv		Prime Issue

ATN BANGLA	10:40am	Taraklap
12:30am	07:40pm	Our Democracy
09:45am	12:10pm	El Shomoy
12:30pm	05:15pm	Boishakhi TV
11:30pm	05:15pm	Shukur
BANGLAVISION	12:00am	Zero Hour
11:25pm	07:30pm	Maaranga Television
Rtv		Prime Issue