

WHAT'S ON

Victory Day Celebration
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Shilpakala Academy premises

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Of Rupture and Continuity
Artist: Monimul Islam
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue
Date: Dec 10-23

Victory Festival 2011
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
Date: Dec 10-16
Time: 5pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Let there be Light
Artist: Ashok Karmakar
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-42, Rd-16, Dhammadi
Date: Dec 12-17

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

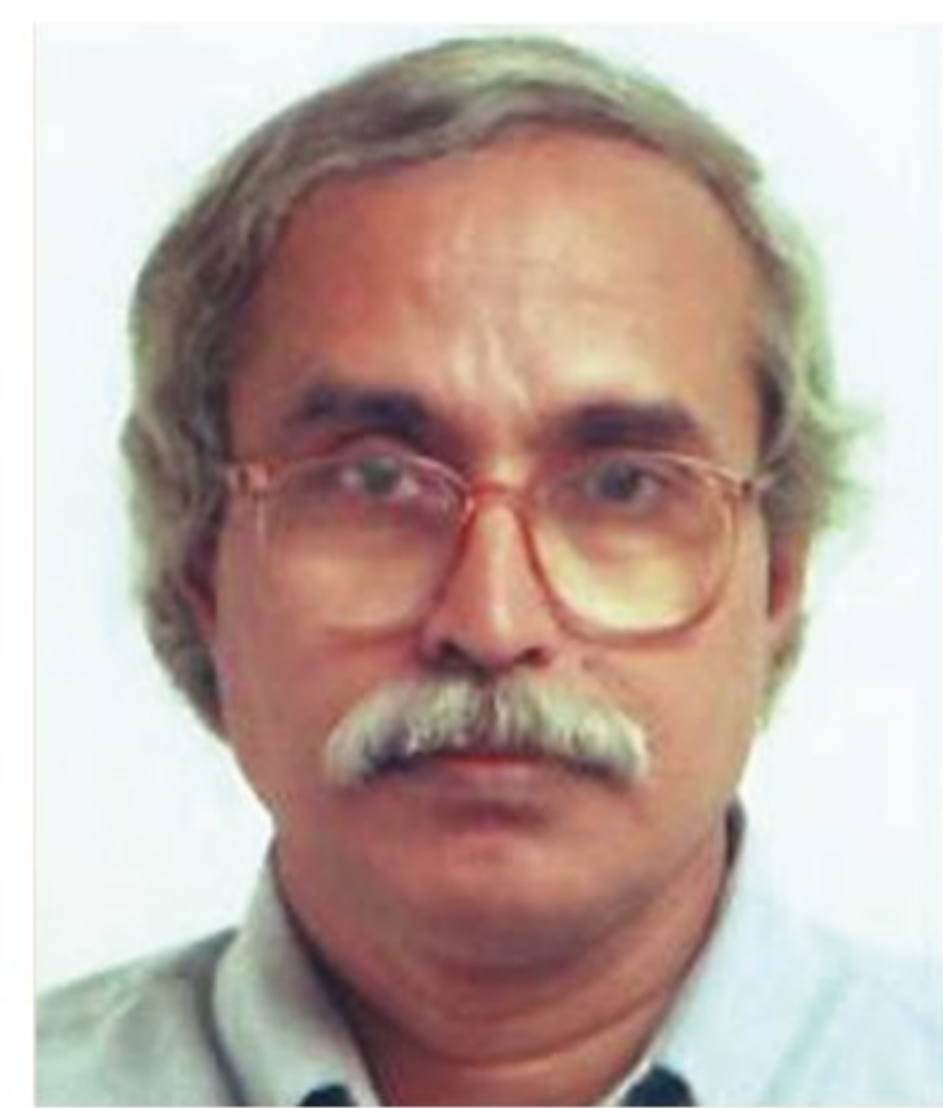
Documentary Screening on Liberation War
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhammadi
Date: Dec 13-17

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: Zaimul Gallery, FFA, DU
Date: Dec 11-15
Time: 10am-6pm

Travels through Liberty

In conversation with **Abul Barq Alvi**



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prior to independence, painters in East Pakistan hardly got state support. Painters from the then West Pakistan used to get scholarships and other facilities, while we had very few painters who went abroad for higher education at that time.

During that period, printmaking was a neglected medium. People considered it a minor form of art. For that reason, we also did paintings besides making prints. At present, people in the country are gradually becoming interested in the arts. The number of art exhibitions by both senior and promising artists has increased over the years, and so

has the number of art galleries. The practice of arts is no longer confined to the city. I feel that younger artists are doing better. They are bolder and are not reluctant to delve into experimental works.

I think that the Asian Art Biennale is a significant event in our country. The exposition has opened doors to the international art scene for Bangladeshi art enthusiasts. All these have become possible today because we are a sovereign nation. We fought for this country with dreams and hopes.

Memories of the Liberation War induce both bliss and pain. During the war, I took shelter in my friends' homes. Sometimes I stayed

at journalist Shahadat Chowdhury's house and at times Fateh Ali's house. On August 29, I stayed at composer Altaf Mahmud's residence at Shahidbagh (opposite Rajarbagh Police Line). That night, we planned to go to Agartala in India. Unfortunately, the Pakistani Army arrived in the morning. They hauled us to an interrogation cell and tried to extract information about our mission and the whereabouts of our friends. But we did not reveal anything. After two days, we were freed but severely wounded. Some of my fingers were broken and I could not hold anything.

Weeklong Bijoy Utshab at Liberation War Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong 'Bijoy Utshab' (Victory celebration), titled 'Manobadhikar Dibosh Thekay Bijoy Dibosh' (From Human Rights Day to Victory Day) is on at the Liberation War Museum (LWM) premises in Dhaka. The festival opened on December 10 and will continue till Victory Day (December 16). One of the trustees of LWM, Mafidul Haque, delivered a welcome speech on the opening day.

On the second day (December 11) of the festival, Ziauddin Tarik Ali, a trustee of LWM, spoke at the programme. Sally Willoughby, who expressed her solidarity with the people of this land through organising movements in support of Bangladesh during the Liberation War, shared her experiences at the programme. Sally Willoughby is one of



A group performance at the programme.

PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

those who played a significant role in generating public awareness against arms shipment from USA to Pakistan while genocide was on in Bangladesh.

Sally and her group blocked Pakistani cargo freighter SS PADMA from docking at Baltimore port. Sally and the others were arrested and had to spend a night

in jail. She also joined others, camping out in Washington DC (across White House) for weeks.

A spirited cultural event followed the programme. Artists of Dhaka Swarkalpan presented their recitation production "Megh Jomechhey Akash Jurey". Students of Hurdco International School and Central Women's College also participated in the cultural function. Artists of Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi performed choral songs, written and directed by Liza Asma. Members of Nayadhara staged their street theatre production "Abaro Bangladesh".

Today's (December 13) cultural programme at the festival will include group recitation presentation by the artistes of Muktohdhara Abriti Chorchha Kendra, a performance by students of Bir Sreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf School and College, Baul songs by Jalal Dewan and his troupe etc.

Manipuri Literary and Cultural Conference in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The 2nd International Manipuri Literary and Cultural Conference ended in Sylhet last Saturday. Representatives and cultural activists from Bangladesh and the Indian states -- Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya -- were part of this vibrant event.

The concluding day's programme began with a discussion on "Manipuri literature in the international arena". Professor Nahakpam Aruna from Manipur University read out the keynote paper, while Professor N. Kunjamoham Sinha chaired the event. Manipuri Sahitya Parishad's President Professor Dr. N Tombi, Dr. Lobabom Gojendra, K Subodoyoni Devi, Manipur Sahitya Parishad Meghalaya's President Yenkhom K.B. Sathoulup and M. Uttam Kumar also spoke

among others.

A conference was held in the afternoon with poet Dilwar in the chair, while a number of Bengali and Manipuri poets presented their writings. In the evening, Manipuri Sahitya Sangsad President A.K. Sheram chaired the concluding function while Sylhet Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran attended as the chief guest. Deputy Commissioner Khan Mohammad Bilal and Sylhet Chamber President Faruque Ahmed Misbah also attended the programme. A vibrant cultural function featuring Manipuri dance, folk songs, Pena and Mridnaga Nritya by Indian and Bangladeshi artistes followed. Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman formally inaugurated the two-day event last Friday afternoon at the Sylhet Zila Shilpakala Academy.



Artistes dance at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Lathi Khela to celebrate Tangail Free Day

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Lathi Khela (A traditional Bangladeshi martial art form) was held in Tangail town last Sunday to celebrate Tangail Free Day (December 11). Tangail district was freed from the Pakistani Armed Forces on this day during the Liberation War.

Lathial Mohammad Azhar and his group from Aloo Bhabani village, Tangail staged a performance at Shaheed Memorial Municipal Park in the town. The group performed various acts like Baul Jhak (group fight), Nori Bari (mock fight with sticks), Fala Khela and Dao Khela (mock fight with sharp weapons) and Chhuri dance to music, in the presence of hundreds. Veteran lathial Abdus Sattar, 70, of the group presented a spectacular performance, which entertained the audience.

Among others, freedom fighter



Lathial Mohammad Azhar and his group put up a spectacular show of Lathi Khela.

PHOTO: STAR

Abdul Kader Siddique Bir Uttam attended the function. Although the tradition of Lathi Khela and groups of lathial were common in the rural areas a few decades ago, only several lathial groups from Ballukkandi,

Kabilapara, Enayetpur, Dainya, Charpara and Aloo Bhabani villages in the district have survived. The lathial groups are still hired to perform at different festivals, especially at wedding celebrations.

Yesterday once more Cultural evening at Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A cultural evening blending the songs of the 1990s and yesteryears charmed a large audience at Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam College in the town on Friday evening.

The songs were-- "Kato Raginir Bhul Bhangate", "Asru Diye Lekha E Gan", "Aksher Shob Tara", "Sonar Kathi Ruper Kathi", "Banka Chikhe Bolo Na", "Ogo Brishti Amar ChukherPata Chhuyo Na", "Ei Banglar Matite Mago", "Amay Ekjon Sada Manush Dao" and more.

Sandipon, a leading cultural institution of the district, had organised the programme. Mahbub Hossain Sharif, director of the cultural group, delivered the welcome speech. In his speech, Sharif said that Sandipon organises such cultural programmes to showcase both popular songs of the present and yesteryears.

"The overwhelming response from the audience is a constant source of encouragement," added Sharif.



JAMIL MAHMUD

THEATRE TODAY

"Satellite TV channels are not a stumbling block to the growth of theatre"

-- Akteruzzaman, Chief of Shomoy

Many believe that the satellite TV channels have become a stumbling block to the growth of theatre. Akteruzzaman, chief of Shomoy, does not agree with this view. He, however, finds a lack of enthusiasm in theatre among the young. "I think European countries are more affected by the satellite channel phenomenon than us. If they can ensure a space for theatre, why are we blaming satellite channels? If anyone is to blame, it's our lack of initiatives," he said.

"We should understand the current trend of world theatre. Theatre demands time and dedication. We have to understand this and work accordingly," he added.

Akter stepped into the world of theatre in 1985 with a mission to become an actor. Historic background of the performing arts, their impact on the society, and a performer's responsibility to generate awareness among people were not on his mind in the beginning. He was keen on his personal goals. Things gradually changed when he realised that theatre is not just about a stage where one can perform. Now he believes that theatre can play a vital role in shaping up the society.

Since the beginning, Akter has been with Shomoy. He has performed in over 20 productions including "Bhager Manush", "Shada Ghora" and "71'er Khudiram". He is the director of the troupe's latest production "Shesh Sanglap".

Akter has also been serving as the Assistant Secretary General of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTFF).

According to him, theatre has gone through a lot of changes over the years. So, demands are not the same as they were in the past. The most important demand at present is to initiate professionalism in theatre. His organisation is working for it, he said.

"According to the history of theatre of this region, in its formative years, theatre was considered a source of pure entertainment for the educated, upper class. When we started Neo Theatre Movement in 1972, we didn't have 'professionalism' in consideration. At present, people feel that a professional attitude is needed. I agree with that view. But it is a long process and it may take time," said Akter.

Though BGTFF has elaborate plans for developing theatre at grassroots level, it fails to execute them -- often because of lack of funds. The budget allocated by the Government is not sufficient, according to him. Sometimes local authorities' hostile attitude to theatre



A scene from "Shesh Sanglap".

troupe becomes a problem. Positive input from them is important. "Often a local trope has to face the District Commissioner's office to explain why it is going to stage a play. This is an unnecessary and rather pointless process," said Akter.

Like many others, Akter also feels more performance venues are required in Dhaka. But more importantly, he wants to see the National Theatre Hall as an autonomous body of the government, rather than being a part of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. "Most countries have autonomous bodies that oversee theatre activities. We should also initiate this practice," he said. Misuse of National Theatre Hall by other organisations should be prevented, he feels. It should only be used for theatre.

Despite still not being able to introduce professional theatre, Bangladesh has been guiding the world theatre through holding key positions at ITI, and that's a major achievement, he said.



BEATS FROM SOUTH KOREA

GongMyoung showcases "Walkabout"

JAMIL MAHMUD

When one sees over 30 instruments placed on a stage, one expects a grand orchestra. But when a quartet takes the stage, the audience is surely in for a surprise. To utter disbelief of the Dhaka audience, the quartet from Republic of Korea, GongMyoung, made the nearly hour and a half-long show on December 11 a resounding success.

The show, titled "GongMyoung Concert Walkabout" was held at the main auditorium of the National Museum. The show was organised by the Embassy of Republic of Korea in Dhaka. The ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh, Taiyoung Cho, delivered the welcome speech. Abul Kalam Azad, Information and Cultural Affairs Minister, inaugurated the programme.

As the theme was "walkabout", the pieces beautifully depicted the mood and feel of a journey. By "walkabout" the troupe meant "a boy's journey to an unknown destination. No one can stop him. He'd only stops if he realises that he has become an adult." With the beats of drums and

other percussions as well as the dominating melody of flute, the quartet performed a piece, titled "Walkabout". The quartet performed a total of 11 pieces.

The recital started off with "Paper Lady". The quartet started the piece while walking towards the stage. Once on the stage, they performed "Speed Movement".

Great examples of notes defying words were "War and Peace" and "Treasure Island".

Starting with a soft prelude featuring classical guitar, "War and Peace" ended with a subtle mood but the mid-part featured heavy and high beats of drums that could be labelled as 'psychedelic'. "There are wars on peoples' minds. If people find peace within, the world would be peaceful," the troupe described the number.

On the other hand, "Treasure Island" was easy listening with its wave-like sound and tranquil notes of flute.

"Sunflower" was a romantic piece that depicted "a boy staring at a girl, just as a sunflower stares at the sun".

Before wrapping up the show with "Joy!", the quartet continued the journey with "Play with Us", "Seoljangu" (featuring four

traditional Korean drums) and "GongMyoungYooHee" (a joyful performance featuring different instruments).

"Joy!" was another surprise for the audience. During this last performance, the troupe used unconventional instruments such as a water bottle and instantly made flute (from a plastic pipe), and created rhythm and melody that forced some children to dance with them.

The quartet -- Kyung Keun Song, Seung Won Park, Sunil Kang and Yong Ju Lim -- used 36 instruments during the show that ranged from buk (traditional Korean drum) to classical guitar. They played several well and lesser known percussions, wind and brass instruments such as dae gum (made of bamboo and played just like a flute), so gum (smaller than dae gum), cymbal, harmonica, gong, taepyeongso, jing, janggu, cajon and tambourine.

GongMyoung's music aptly demonstrates the musicians' passion and ideas. Conceptually the group is so strong that in Korea it's known for creating "exceptional and unconventional" music. All members of GongMyoung studied Korean Music at the University. But they do not consider

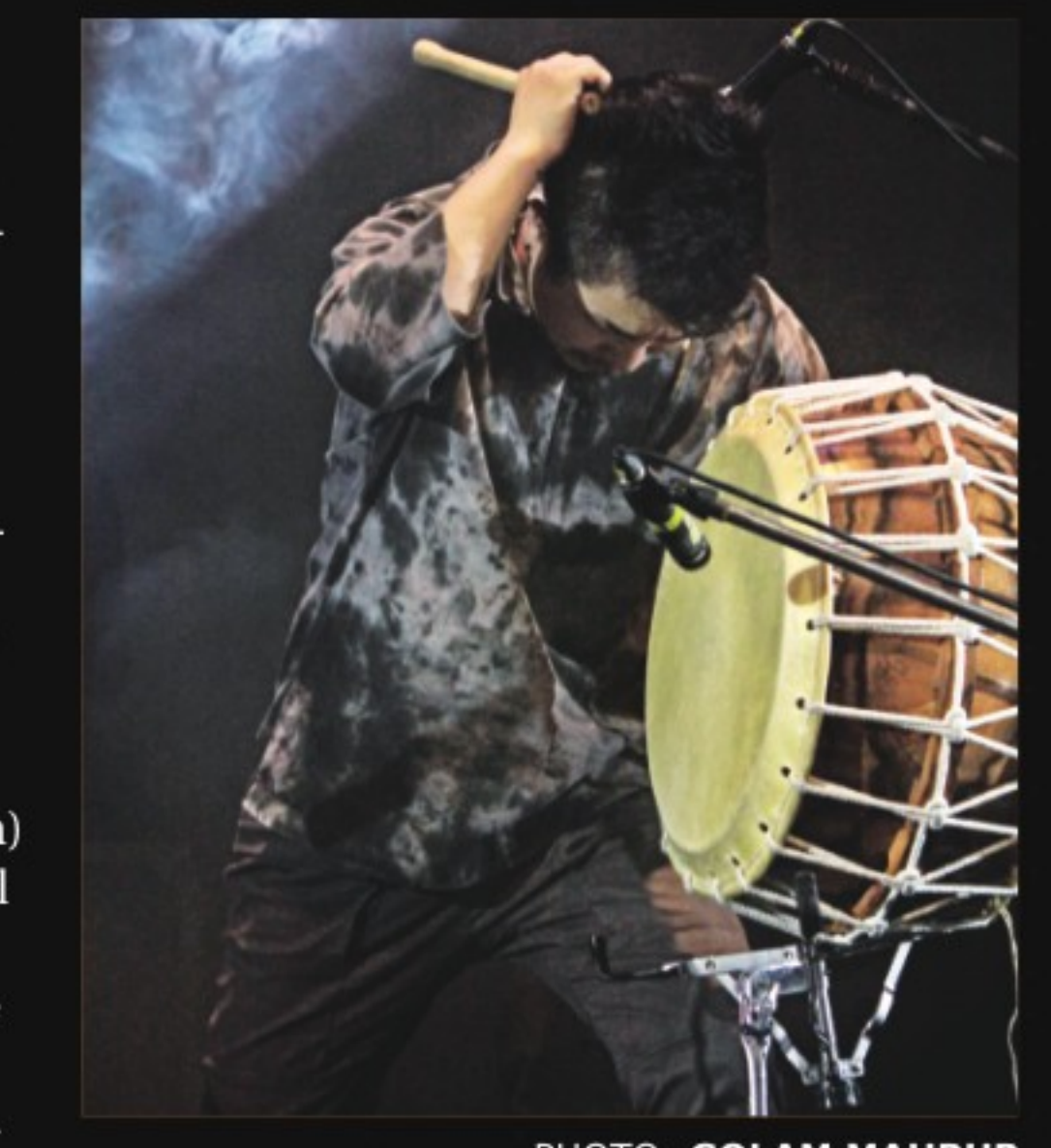


PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

The quartet used 36 instruments during the show that ranged from buk (traditional Korean drum) to classical guitar.

They are respectful to the tradition but not bounded by it. For them traditional music is the foundation for their own creations.

SUST celebrates Pitha Utshab



SUBRATA DAS, Sylhet

Shaikhjal Technology of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet celebrated its 14th anniversary with Pitha Utshab (rice cake festival) on December 8 in its campus.

The day-long festival began with the delectable Pitha Utshab. The event drew hundreds of people including students, teachers and many others. The students attended the Utshab with their variety of traditional pitha such as Chitai, Teler Pitha, Bhapa Pitha, Pati Saptia Pitha, Koli Pitha, Nakshi Pitha and more, with the aim to preserve the tradition of rice cakes in our country. To mark the anniversary, a colourful procession had set out, ending in front of the registrar building.

SUST Vice Chancellor (VC) Dr. Saleh Uddin, cut the anniversary cake. SUST Registrar Md. Isfaqul Hossain, Dept. Head of Political Studies (PSS) Zayed Sharmin Swati, Assistant Prof. of PSS Dept. Md. Redwan, General Secretary of Group theatre federation Sylhet, Tofazzel Sohel and other members of the organisation also attended the event. Dr. Saleh Uddin appreciated the initiative of such an event that recalled our glorious tradition. The day long programme came to an end by lighting candles and hoisting Fanoosh amidst festivity.

Rtv	12:35 Bangla Feature Film 05:00 Cinema R Gaan 08:20 Drama: Joytar Jonno 09:50 Look at Me 12:05 Kichu Dekha Kichu Kotha	11:30 In The Line Of Fire Labor Pains 07:00 Saracen's Apprentices 08:55 National Security 10:30 Labor Pains	Star Movies
ETV	11:30 Ekushey-er Business 04:30 Gaaner Opare 05:30 Binodoner Bichwa 07:50 Music Station 08:20 Drama Serial: Ohongkar	10:55 Two Weeks Notice 03:10 Super Shark 05:00 Repo Men 07:20 Chill Factor 09:30 Touristas 11:15 The Final Destination	HBO
BANGLAVISION	11:05 Shokal Belar Roddur 01:05 Bangla Feature Film 05:20 Perikha Prostati 09:05 Chaaki Chai 11:25 Raat Biratey	11:30 Love2 Hate U 03:30 Breakout Kings 09:30 Master Chef USA 10:30 The Shield 11:30 The Big Bang Theory	Star World
Desh TV	04:30 Durpath 06:30 Obak Prithibi 07:45 Drama Serial: Gohinye 09:45 Pothe Jete Jete 10:30 Binodon Dunia 12:30 Total Sports	11:30 Raging Planet 03:30 Stan Lee's Superhumans 09:30 Man vs. Wild 10:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive 11:30 My Shocking Story	Discovery Channel

ATN BANGLA	08:00pm Asha Toki 09:20pm Prash Phaguner Pala	09:50pm Boyra Panbar 11:30pm Dot Com Fantasy
CHANNEL I	09:30pm Ghatat Baki Bhai	ETV
ntv	07:50pm Kuschar Phona 09:35pm Obogunthan	BANGLAVISION
rtv	09:45pm Akasher Niche Manush	08:15pm No Problem
		Desh TV
		08:15pm Sat Kahon
		Maasranga Television

BTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm 08:20 News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (to be telecast on all Bangla channels).	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30pm, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm News (English) at 8:00pm Rtv
CHANNEL-1	News (Bangla) 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 pm	ntv	News (Bangla) 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN BANGLA	NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	ETV	News (Bangla) 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm.

ATN BANGLA	12:30am Lead News	ETV	07:40pm Our Democracy
CHANNEL I	09:45am Trisita Matra 12:30pm Tarika Kothon	ntv	11:45pm Shuja Kotha
rtv	12:30am Ei Shomoy	8:00amhi TV	12:00am Zoro Hour
Rtv	10:40am Tanaklap	Maasranga Television	