



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

**Farooque**, actor  
I never fret over what my country has or hasn't given me. I'm more concerned about what I can do for my country. I want to give it my best. I gambled with my life in the battlefields during the Liberation War. Bangabandhu's rousing speech on March 7, 1971 inspired me to go to war. Death looming everywhere didn't dampen my intentions. Setting out to fight for one's motherland is a big test of patriotism and a sacred responsibility.

I believe we should concentrate more on what we can do for our country, rather than what it can offer us. That approach is powerful enough to change the whole country. My decision to work in films was triggered by my love for the country. Cinema earned me the love of the masses.

I want to do more for my country but I feel like my time is limited. Then I console myself with the hope that our young would resolve these crises. I know one day the wheels will turn. My biggest achievements are being a freedom fighter and an artiste.

**Minu Haque**, dancer and choreographer  
During the Liberation War, the Pakistani Army wanted me to perform at the Governor House (now Bangabhaban), but

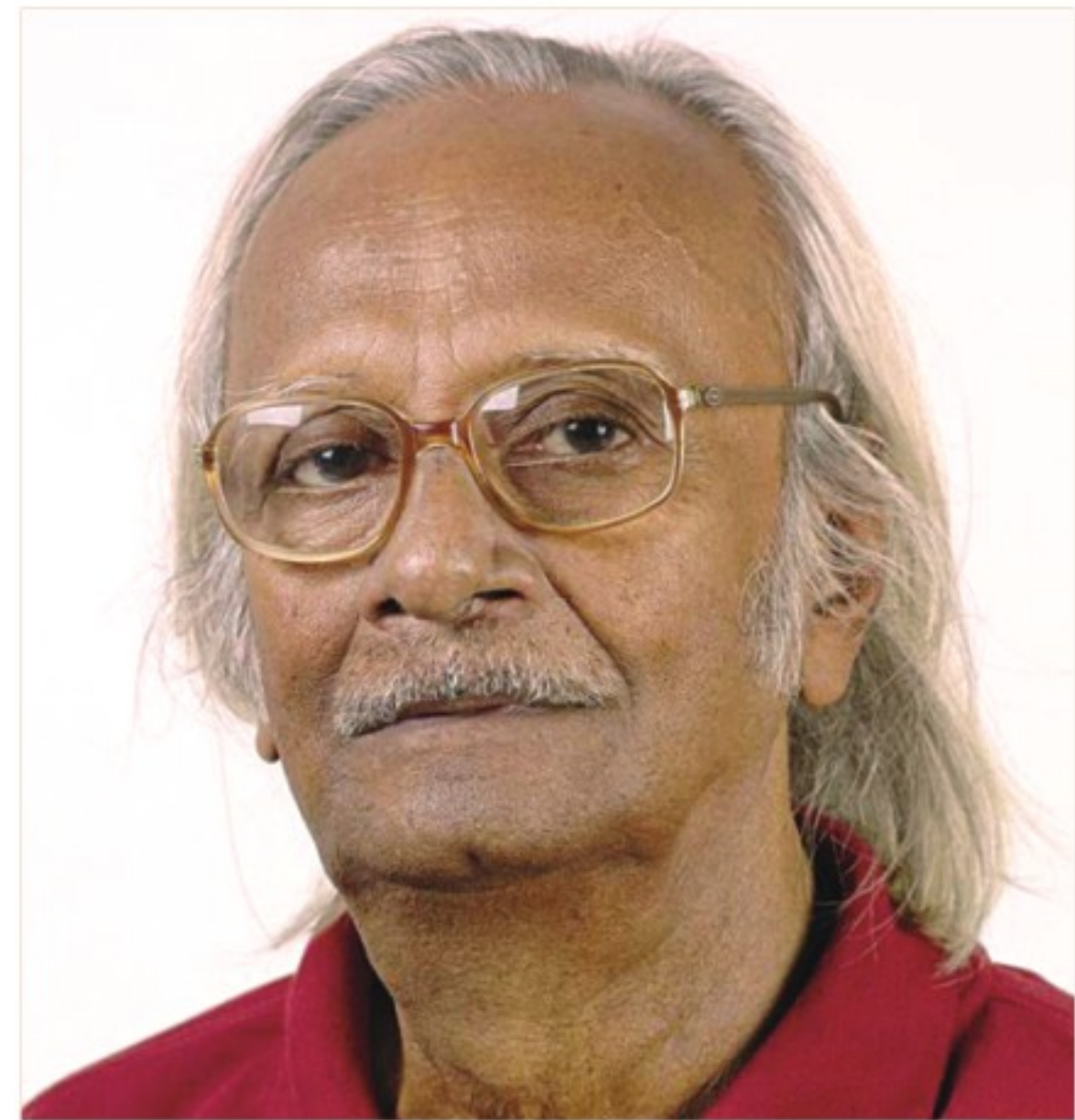
I declined and went to India with freedom fighters.

We stopped at Bishramganj, Agartala, Tripura of India where Bangladesh Field Hospital (the first field hospital during the war) was providing medical treatments to the wounded freedom fighters and refugees. It was a 480-bed hospital with both surgical and medical units. It was run by Bangladeshi doctors, medical students and volunteers. I worked there as a nurse and assisted doctors. One of the trustees of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Bangladesh, Dr. Zafarullah Chowdhury, who joined the Liberation War leaving his FRCS examination to be held that year in England, along with Dr. Mobin Chowdhury and Dr. Capt. Akhtar, founded the hospital.

We got inspired when Commander in Chief of The Liberation Forces and of the Bangladesh Forces General M.A.G. Osmani and the first Indian Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw came to visit us. Wounded Freedom Fighters from Sector 2 came to the hospital for treatment.

The hospital was operational from July to December, 1971. The Bangladesh Government in exile, the Indian Government and several other nations helped the hospital with medicines, surgical equipments and more.

Later in December, when the war tightened its grip, we



Qayyum Chowdhury

were shifted to Kolkata.

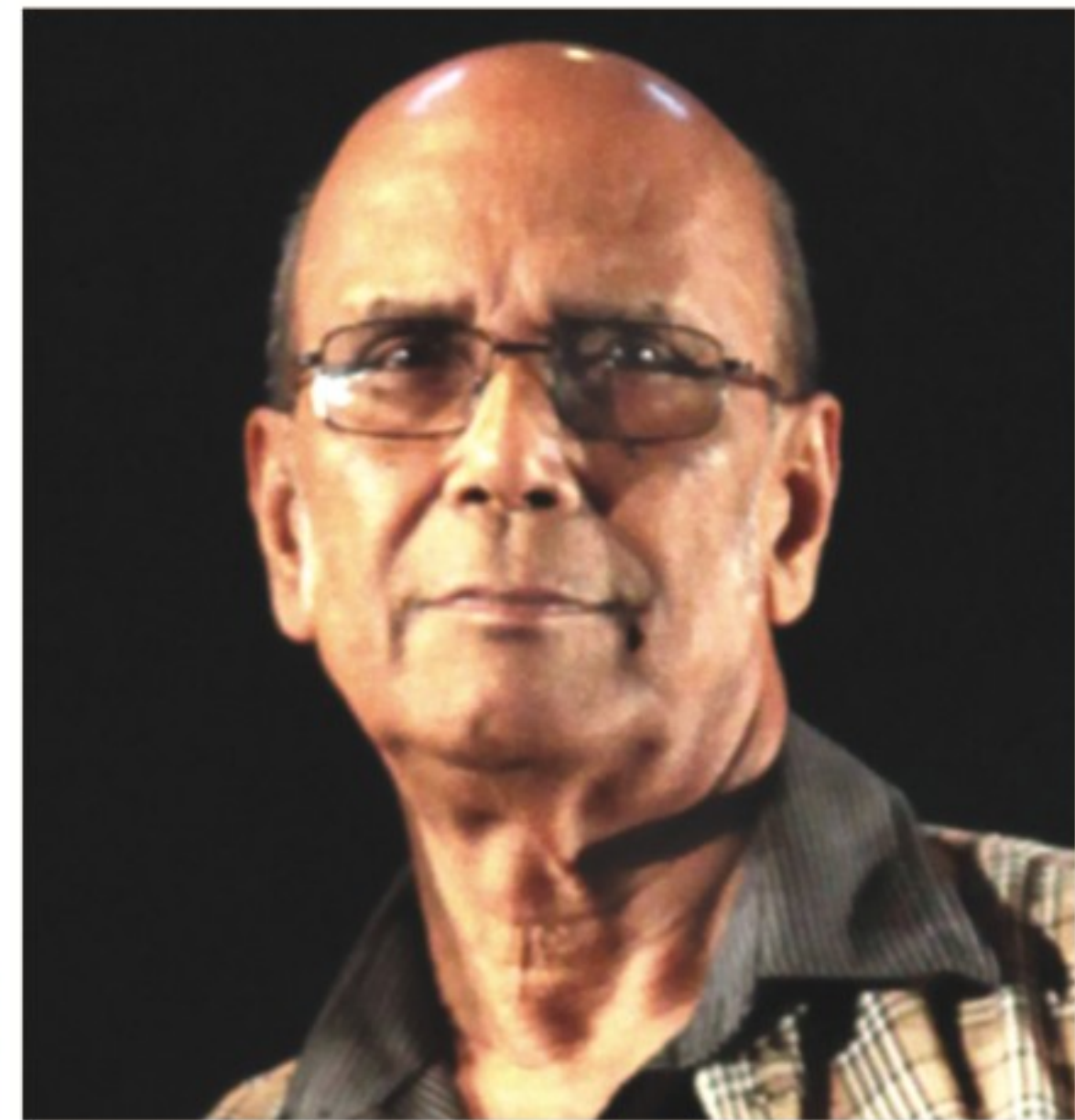
Liberation War was a demand of the time. I consider my participation in it as the greatest achievement of my life. After 40 years, when I look back, I regret that this is not what we fought for.

If we all unite to do something great for the country, positive changes are bound to happen. I run a dance school, Pallabi. I would like to enrich the practice of dance in the country. I believe dance should be included into the education system. I believe that the next generation of artistes will bring about that change.

**Syed Shamsul Haq**, writer and poet

I have received several awards from the country, which are more than what I deserve. I am humbled by the respect and admiration demonstrated by the people of my country where literacy rate is minimal. A few months ago, I, and a friend who was visiting from England, went to Barisal. My friend was bowled over by the hospitality accorded to us. Even the restaurants refused to take money from us. My friend wrote about this experience in The Guardian.

My country has given me countless things. My poems, novels, essays and plays -- all of my literary works are based on the country and its people. Bangladesh has, and will



Syed Shamsul Haq

always be my muse. In my writings, I have tried to articulate my ties to my motherland.

**Qayyum Chowdhury**, artist

Light, air, water, earth, shade and more -- I'm indebted for all these elements to the country. I cannot stay abroad for too long. Whatever achievements I've had, have happened because I'm a citizen of a free country.

Painters should uphold the country's culture and traditions through art. Art is communicative and can effortlessly engage people from all corners of the world.

I usually try to highlight the nature and people of my country in my works. Now I'm working on the Nakshi Kantha motif.

**Shameem Akhtar**, independent filmmaker

One of the biggest achievements over the last four decades, to me, is the significant progress in women's empowerment. A great number of women are involved in the workforce now -- from corporate houses to labour market. Women in our country first stepped out of their homes through the "Kajer Binimoye Khaddo Karmoshuchi" (food for work project) in the 1970s. When I started working as a journalist, very few women were involved in this media.



Shameem Akhtar

Now you will find a significant number of women working in the print and electronic media. If this trend continues, then the authorities would be forced to make more female-friendly policies.

I feel women should get involved more in the cultural sector, particularly in literature. However, despite achievements, discrimination against women continues in the society. I hope someday we will overcome such discrimination.

**Rokeya Rafique Baby**, theatre activist

In 40 years, Bangladesh has made achievements that are multi-faceted. One of the greatest achievements is that we have been able to ensure cultural practice and movement as significant parts of our daily life. Despite being a Muslim-majority nation, we have a more secular outlook than our neighbouring Islamic states.

This awareness and positive attitude are developing by the day. The current trend of using technology and internet for the greater good is



Rokeya Rafique Baby

admirable. Organisations working for different classes of people are generating awareness and they are creating opportunities for others. Achievements in theatre over the last four decades have also been remarkable. We have attained a solid position in Asian theatre. I want to see it go further. We have talented filmmakers and theatre directors who have been working wonders. The achievements in contemporary music are also noteworthy. Music is also being used as a tool for social change.

**Shamin Ara Nipa**, dancer

I have an innate love for my country. My country defines my existence. There is no word/phrase that can appropriately define patriotism. It is an inevitable feeling that hangs on to you since birth.

As artistes, we often travel abroad and represent our country and culture. That is when I realise how special our



Shamin Ara Nipa

country is. The one attribute of Bangladeshis, which is praiseworthy, is that we have a whole lot of heart. We let our hearts rule over our minds.

During a performance at the opening of the last ICC World Cup in Dhaka, when I rose up with our flag, holding a larger than life replica of the national flower Shapla, the incredible cheers from the audience gave me goose bumps! These are the moments when I get the feeling that, yes, no matter what all Bangladeshis are connected.

I grew up in Kishoreganj. During the war, Kishoreganj was primarily a culturally oriented area. I knew a lot of artistes who could not survive the massacre in the Hindu areas. All that trauma has made us what we are today.

The people here are patriotic and hardworking; it is just the lack of proper guidance that stops us from excelling. Nevertheless, I believe with a strong will, we can make our dreams into reality.

## BRINGING 1971 TO LIFE

Light and Sound Show at Suhrawardy Udyan

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Starting from December 14, a three-daylong light and sound show, titled "Bangladesh-er Hridoy Hotey", was held at Shadhinata Chattar, Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital. The exciting show is being held to commemorate 40 years of Bangladesh's independence.

Planned and directed by Nasirul Haque Khokon, the light and sound show traces the origin of Bangladesh.

Scripted by Sohel Anwar, the show features narration by eminent actor and elocutionist Asaduzzaman Noor MP. Two shows are presented everyday at the venue while a dazzling atoshbaji (firworks) will be one of the highlights of today's show.

Starting with a Tagore song, "Sharthok Jonom Amar" (recorded by Aditi Mohsin), a documentary portrayed Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech. Two poems -- "Amar Porichoy" by Syed Shamsul Haq and "Shadhinota Ei Shabdotti Kibhabey Amader Holo" by Nirmolendu Guun -- and a letter written by a martyred freedom fighter, from the compilation of letters jointly published by Prothom Alo and Grameenphone were part of the presentation.

The backdrop and ramifications of Liberation War was the focal point of the show. Our national flag was hoisted for the first time on March 2, 1971 at the adjacent area. Bangabandhu delivered his historic speech on March 7, 1971 at the venue. The atrocities of March 25, 1971 were depicted in the show.

Language Movement of 1952, Students' Movement of 1962,

Bangabandhu's declaration of six point charter in 1966, Agartala Conspiracy Case of 1968, Mass Uprising of 1969, AL's unprecedented victory in the 1970 election and finally Liberation War of 1971 were also evocatively presented in the show.

Artists from several theatre troupes, including Centre for Asian Theatre, Obayob (Mipur), students of the department of Drama and Dramatics of Jahangirnagar University and several theatre activists made the presentation exciting as they performed to Shamsur Rahman's poems "Barnaomala Amar Dukhini Barnomala" and "Asad-er Shirt". Actors also donned the roles of martyred intellectuals like Munier Chowdhury, Shahidullah Kaisar, Zahir Raihan, GC Dev and others. General Niazi with 93000 soldiers surrendered on December 16, 1971 at Suhrawardy Udayan (then Racecourse Maidan). Bangabandhu also delivered his homecoming speech on January 10, 1972 at this venue. The documentary did not miss any of these historic moments.

Nasirul Haque Khokon and Junaed Yusuf jointly designed the lights while Ahsan Reza Khan Tushar designed the sound. Mohammad Rafi Suman did the choreography. Ramzan Ali edited the documentary while Nur Uddin Faruk Shuvo was in charge of graphics design.

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs in collaboration with Creations Unlimited and Gaurabor Prantor arranged the show while Sonali, Janata, Agrani, Rupali, Exim and Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited sponsored the event.

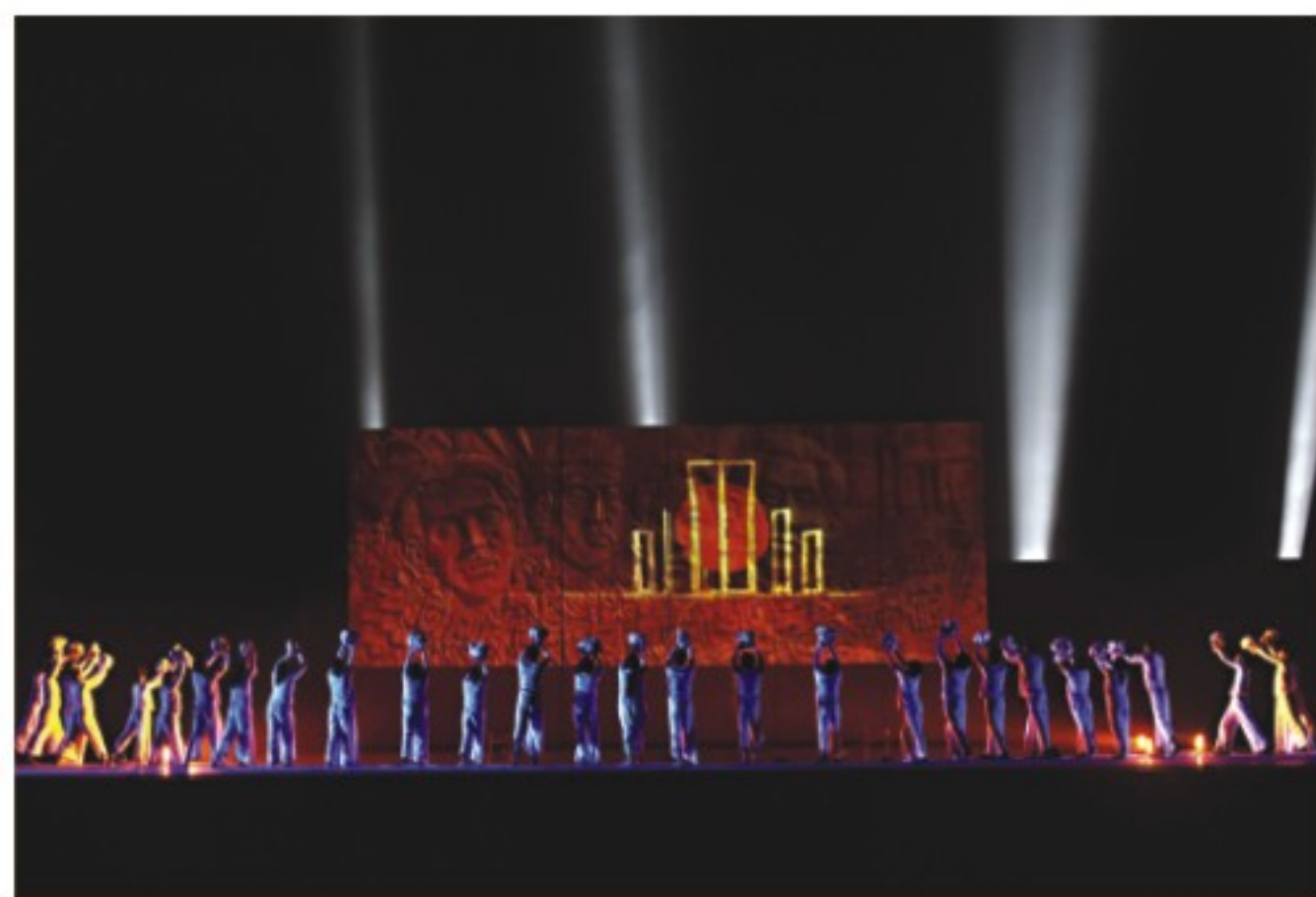


PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

### স্বাধীন বাংলার মুক্ত আকাশে বিজয়ের প্রতীক

বিজয়ের ৪০তম বার্ষিকীতে ক্ষুধা ও দারিদ্রমুক্ত স্বপ্নের  
সোনার বাংলা গড়ে তোলাই হোক আমাদের দৃঢ় অঙ্গীকার।

১৬ ডিসেম্বর  
মহান বিজয় দিবস

আমাদের  
সকল  
গ্রাহক  
পৃষ্ঠপোষক ও  
শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের  
জানাই  
শুভেচ্ছা।

**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক  
প্রধান কার্যালয়: বিটিবিএল ভবন, ৮, হাজারিক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

## মোরা একটি ফুলকে বাঁচাবো বলে যুদ্ধ করি

সুস্থ শিশু, সুস্থ মা আর অনাবিল সুখ ও শান্তিতে  
ভরা পরিবার গড়ার স্বপ্ন নিয়ে অবিরাম কাজ করে  
যাচ্ছি আমরা। সব শব্দ, উষ্মে পেছনে ফেলে  
প্রতিটি সপোরে বয়ে যাক নির্মল প্রশান্তির  
সুবাস। ভালো আর আলোয় কাটুক আপনার  
প্রতিটি দিন। গড়ে উঠুক এক স্বাস্থ্যজ্জ্বল, সমৃদ্ধ  
বাংলাদেশ। আর এ লক্ষ্য পূরণে আপনার পাশে  
আমরা আছি, থাকবো।

বিজয়ের দিনে এ আমাদের অঙ্গীকার।

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

ATN BANGLA	Programme: Amra Tomader Bhulbona
10:30	Muktijoddha O
03:05	Sammilito Samonik
05:00	Bahinir Kuchkawas
08:00	Bangla Feature Film: Joyjatta
11:00	Gram Gonyer Khabor
11:05	Mukti Katta
11:30	Bijoyer Gaan
11:30	Musical Programme
11:05	Robi-Channel i
11:30	Bijoyela '11 (live)
02:40	Bangla Feature Film: Amar Bondhu Rashed
11:30	Special Programme
Desh TV	
03:00	Bangla Feature Film: Alor Michhil
04:00	Desh Janopod
06:30	Instrumental Music: Bijoyer Shur

# RADIO

abc radio FM 89.2	12:00	Boier Poka	
06:00	Bhorer Janalay	02:00	Footi Unlimited
09:00	Mukhorito Jiboney	06:00	Bumper to Bumper
12:00	Darun Dupurey	10:00	Club Footi
03:00	Duranto Bkeley	01:00	Back to Back music
05:00	Shondhatar	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6	
07:00	Shajer Maya	06:00	Green FM
09:00	Rast-er Akashay	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
11:00	Golper Shresh Nei	11:00	Flash Back
RADIO FOOTI	12:30	Islamic Program	
08:00	Addabazi	02:15	Rupali Gaan

**1971 (World Premiere)**  
On Boishakhi TV at 02:35pm  
Documentary Film  
Director: Tanvir Mokammel

**Clash of the Titans**  
On HBO at 09:30pm  
Genre: Action/Adventure/Fantasy  
Cast: Sam Worthington,

**Flashback**  
On ntv at 09:00pm  
Single Episode TV Play  
Cast: Tisha, Kalyan

11:45	Call-er Gaan: Band Renaissance	11:05	Bangla Feature Film: Alor Michhil
ntv		01:05	Drama: Eki Gram Bangladesh
08:30	Dance Programme: Obongkar Chir Jagroto	06:30	Bhalobashi Bangladesh
09:30	Documentary: Krishnagahobor	11:05	Concert: Bijoyer Gurobey
11:00	Gaan-e Gaan-e Juddha		
02:30	Tele-film: Mukti		
06:50	Musical Programme: Shadhin Swadesh Priyo Bangladesh	05:02	Documentary: Promila Juddha
		06:30	Bangladesh Priyo Bangladesh
Rtv		09:02	Houseful
10:10	Doctor's Prescription	11:00	Top of the Pops: Desh-er Gaan
02:15	Tele-film: Eka Cholo Rey		
03:45	Musical Programme: Natunor Jyogasan		
05:30	Chare Bairey	01:30	The Rock
12:05	Studio Concert: Haider Hussain & Shayan	04:30	Surrogates
		09:30	Wrecked
		11:35	The Manchurian Candidate
BANGLAVISION			
10:10	Bhalo Thakun	02:55	Six Days, Seven Nights
11:05	Amader Rannaghar	04:45	In The Line of Fire
06:25	Ajonomo Amrityu	07:00	Stone
08:15	Drama Serial: Harkiptey	08:45	Daybreakers
11:25	Live Musical	10:25	Predators

ATN BANGLA	Rtv
08:50pm	Jonmo Amar
Channel i	11:30pm
07:50	Muktijoddhar Stree
Desh TV	08:00pm
09:45pm	Shondesh-e Bish
ntv	09:00pm
09:00pm	Flashback

ETV	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm
News (English) at 6:00pm Rtv	News (English) at 6:00pm Rtv
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 pm	ntv
News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:30pm, 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	ETV

ATN Bangla	Rtv
12:30am	Lead News
09:45am	Tritio Matra
Desh TV	09:30pm
07:45pm	Kohinoor 71
ntv	11:30pm
	Bijoyer Char Doshok
	Prapti, Oparati (live)
	Amader Bijoy
	ETV
	Ami Bijoy Dekhechhi
	BANGLAVISION
	Birangonar Katha
	Boishakhi TV
	12:30pm
	Lal Subjor Desh
	Maasranga Television