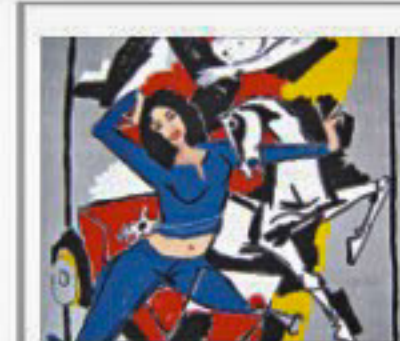


WHAT'S ON



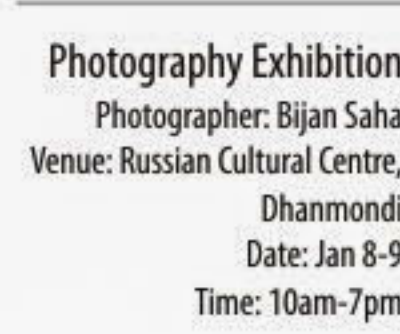
Solo Print Exhibition
Artist: MF Husain
Venue: Gallery Basilio, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Jan 7-22



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Shobdaboli, Barisal
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Jan 8-12
Time: 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Abdus Shakoor Shah
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, R-6, H-4, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 27-Jan 10
Time: 10am-9pm



Photography Exhibition
Photographer: Bijan Saha
Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 8-9
Time: 10am-7pm



Wall Magazine Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Wall Magazine Parishad
Venue: Bangla Academy
Date: Jan 13-15
Time: 10am-6pm



Album Launch
Album: Oshompa Shudam Pat
Artist: Ramkanal Das
Venue: Bengal Shilpakala, R-16, H-42, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 10
Time: 06:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Silent Spaces
Artist: Md Tokon
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi
Date: January 6-14
Time: 12pm-9pm



JAMIL MAHMUD

Theatre activities should reach the masses, thinks Ramiz Razu, young actor-director of Prangane Mor. He feels that failing to communicate with the masses remains one of the biggest problems faced by theatre in Bangladesh. According to him, the theatre audience mainly consists of cultural activists, organisers and people from the media.

"The size and class of the audience are major factors. I think we have to communicate with a wider section of the masses. If you come to Shilpakala Academy, you will find many cultural and theatre activists and a significant number of reporters from different TV channels and newspapers. They form the majority of the theatre audience. We have to involve common people in our journey," he says.

"Among the youngsters, popular pastimes are going to the mall or watching a film at Cineplex. We have to generate interest in theatre among these young people, so that they talk about recent plays and eagerly attend the shows at Shilpakala Academy," he adds.

Razu's initiation to theatre happened in 1999 through the dance troupe Nataraj. Later in 2004, he joined Prangane Mor as one of the founding members. He has been involved in all six productions of the troupe.

THEATRE TODAY

"We should try to reach a wider section of the masses"
-- Ramiz Razu, actor-director, Prangane Mor



PHOTO COURTESY: PRANGANE MOR

A scene from Razu's directorial work "Droho Prem Nari".

Moreover, he directed an adaptation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's "Droho Prem Nari" for his troupe, and directed music for "Shesher Kobita" and "Lal Jamini" (by Shunnon). He performed in all Prangane Mor plays.

Razu finds last year was successful for theatre, as several quality productions had been produced. But as a medium it has not developed significantly, especially when professionalism is concerned, he thinks.

"I'm not sure what the reason behind such failure is. I have to spend a significant period of time each month on theatre. In return, what I achieve always remains as a concern," he says.

He feels that financial support from the government and media's supportive role can help them reach the goal.

Razu informs that professionalism has been introduced in his troupe since its last production "Shesher Kobita". The cast and crew have

received modest remuneration for each show.

Although he praises the repertory theatre concept as a praiseworthy initiative to introduce professionalism, he thinks it is not the ultimate solution. "Mainstream troupes have to embrace professionalism. There are several troupes that could introduce a wage system for its members," he says.

Among his contemporary theatre activists, he says, "If you see plays directed by young talents such as Sudip Chakraborty or Shuvashis Sinha, you will likely admire them. Appreciation comes after watching their works. I think there are several such talents in troupes; they just need opportunities to showcase their abilities," says Razu.

He feels that senior activists should play more progressive role, and the ambience of Shilpakala Academy should be more theatre-friendly.



Shabdabali, Barisal holds theatre festival on 40th anniversary of Independence

JAMIL MAHMUD

Popular theatre troupe from Barisal, Shabdabali, has arranged a five-day festival at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), starting from January 8. The festival marks the 40th anniversary of Independence as well as the 20th anniversary of the troupe's journey into 'studio theatre movement'. Shabdabali initiated a studio theatre in Barisal two decades ago.

So far the troupe has staged 812 shows of 22 productions all around the country.

The five-day festival was inaugurated by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Dipu Moni. The opening programme was held at the National Theatre Hall of BSA. The minister, an avid follower of Shabdabali's plays, praised the troupe's efforts spanning two decades and wished it success. Dr. Dipu Moni was also honoured by the troupe at the programme.

ITI Worldwide President Ramendu Majumdar was the chief guest. Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA, and Jhuma Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, were special guests. Shahanara Begum, chairperson to advisory committee of Shabdabali, presided over the ceremony, while chief of the troupe, Syed Dulal, gave the welcome speech. Syed Dulal briefly informed all on the troupe's activities and talked about its struggles. "When initiating studio theatre, we were inspired by Group Theatre Federation's activities at the time. We feel fortunate that we have a space to showcase our activities but it wasn't without struggles," Dulal said.

On the inaugural day, three plays were staged at the three BSA venues. All the plays staged on the inaugural day were based on the theme of Liberation War.

After the inaugural ceremony, Loko Natyadal (Siddheswari) staged "Mujib Maney Mukti" at the Main Hall, while Mahakal and Palakar respectively staged "Ghum Nei" and "Rifle" at the Experimental and Studio Theatre Hall. The troupe will hold another five-day festival at its Studio Theatre in Barisal, from January 20 to 24.



A scene from "Ghum Nei" (top). Shabdabali will stage "Phona" tomorrow.

"Mujib Maney Mukti" zooms in on the life and achievements of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Liaquat Ali Lucky planned, compiled and directed the play.

Mahakal's "Ghum Nei" has been written by Nasiruddin Yusuf and directed by John Martin. "Rifle" has been adapted into Bangla from a writing by Bertolt Brecht. The play has been adapted by Amit Chanda. Ashiqur Rahman is the director of the play.

No play will be staged today. Tomorrow, Shabdabali will stage "Phona" and Prachyanat will stage "Mayer Mukh" respectively at the Experimental and Studio Theatre Hall. Theatre (Bailey Road) will stage "Payer Awaj Pawa Jae" on January 12 at the Experimental Theatre Hall.

Veteran Oriya poet Sitakant Mahapatra inaugurated the festival on January 6. Bangladeshi poet Syed Shamsul Haq was present as chief guest. Mustafizur Rahman, Bangladeshi Deputy High Commissioner in

Folk Festival in port city

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Featuring various folk, indigenous songs and dances, a two-day long Folk Festival ended -- amid much enthusiasm -- in the port city on Saturday.

Samaj Samiksha Sangha, a research based socio-cultural organisation of the port city, arranged the festival at Mukta Manchha, DC Hill premises.

Noted writer Selina Hossain inaugurated the festival as chief guest.

The festival kicked off with the beating of dhol by Babul Jaladas and his troupe. A lively procession parading important thoroughfares of the city was next.

A discussion and drawing competition for children were also held on the occasion.

Premier University Vice-Chancellor, Dr Anupam Sen; Prothom Alo Resident Editor Abul Momen; Dr Mahbubul Haque of Chittagong University and festival committee chairman, Delwar Majumder, spoke as special guests at the programme. Kazi Mahmud Imam Bilu presided over the programme.

At the inaugural session, Selina Hossain said that festivals boost a nation's morale. "We should hold festivals to encourage rural traditions that are on the verge of

extinction," she said.

Dr Anupam Sen said, "We believe in learning from other cultures and the young of the country should incorporate all that is good from all corners of the world in their lives, but they must be familiar with their roots first and foremost. They should not assist aggression of foreign cultures on our traditions."

In his speech Abul Momen said, our opulent heritage and traditions can be experienced all over rural Bangladesh.

The cultural programme started with a Pakhawaj performance by Dr Tapan Sarkar from Dhaka. Tanzina Toma and Dr Tapan Sarkar presented Tagore's Baul-styled songs. Sohel Rana and Nipa Das from Sylhet rendered songs of Hasan Raja. Directed by Biswajit Sinha, Manipuri dances were performed by Bangladesh Manipuri Pung Chalom Institute from Sunamganj.

Giri Nriya, Odissi and Tagore Dance Movement Centre also performed dances at the programme.

The second day started with Maizbandari songs performed by Abdul Mannan Qawwal. Sachin Dev Burman songs, bhawaiya, bhatiali were also performed.

The festival ended with the performance of folk songs by noted artiste Kiran Chandra Roy.

World Poetry Festival in Kolkata begins

A CORRESPONDENT

The International Bangla Poetry Festival Committee and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) have jointly organised a three-day poetry festival at Shishir Moncho, Kolkata, India.

Veteran Oriya poet Sitakant Mahapatra inaugurated the festival on January 6.

Bangladeshi poet Syed Shamsul Haq was present as chief guest. Mustafizur Rahman, Bangladeshi Deputy High Commissioner in

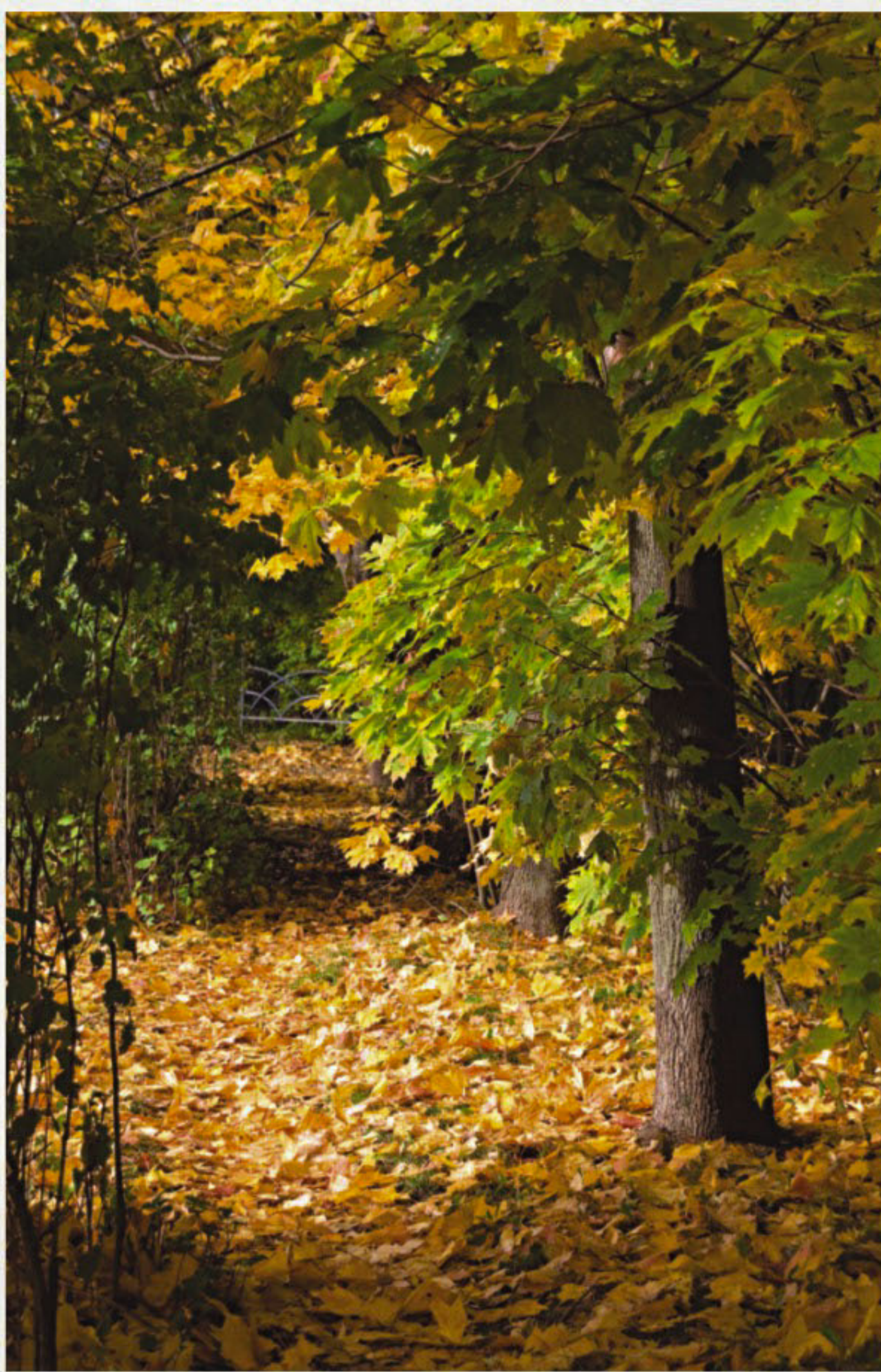
Kolkata, was present as special guest at the festival. Indian poet and president of the festival committee, Ashish Sharnal, delivered the welcome speech in the programme.

The participating Bangladeshi poets are Nirmelendu Goon, Nurul Huda, Habibullah Siraji, Rabiul Hussain, Mohammad Samad, Sujauddin Kaiser, Syed Al Farooque and Aslam Sani, among others.

Besides Bangladesh, other participating countries include Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Australia, Thailand, Sweden and Vietnam.



Photographs by Bijan Saha.



RAPID FIRE: FARAH RUMA

A CORRESPONDENT

How do you plan your weekends?
Ruma: I don't. To tell you the truth, I barely get free weekends.

If I do get a free day, I spend it with my family.
Where were you this week?
Ruma: I went to Barisal to shoot for a one-hour television play.

Did you go out or just busy with shooting?
Ruma: It was freezing cold, so I didn't go out.

What do you prefer for breakfast?
Ruma: Fresh juice.

Favourite holiday destination?
Ruma: Bangkok.

How do you unwind?
Ruma: Simple. I finish off my responsibilities first.

What is your definition of an ideal holiday?
Ruma: A day with no work.

What kind of food do you always keep in your fridge?
Ruma: I'm a fruit person. I keep plenty of seasonal fruits.

Which book are you reading at the moment?
Ruma: I'm currently reading "Satkahon" by Samaresh Majumdar. This is the second time I'm reading this book.

What was the last gift you really loved?
Ruma: A bright deshi cotton saree.

Do mistakes amuse you?
Ruma: No it makes me mad!

What do you shop for very often?
Ruma: Groceries.



PHOTO: MUJIB T M.

David Cameron: Thatcher film "made too soon"

David Cameron has said he wishes the film "The Iron Lady" -- about Baroness Thatcher -- had been made "another day".

The British prime minister said the portrayal of his predecessor by Meryl Streep was "a fantastic piece of acting", but questioned the timing of the film.

He told the BBC it was "more about ageing and elements of dementia rather than about an amazing prime minister".

Former Conservative minister Lord Hurd has called the film "ghoulish", but its director has defended her work.

The film is set in the present -- when the former prime minister is portrayed as mentally and physically frail -- but contains flashbacks to her days in office.

Asked about it on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Cameron said: "It's a fantastic piece of acting by Meryl Streep, but you can't help wondering, why do we have to have this film right now."

"It is a film much more about ageing and elements of dementia rather than about an amazing prime minister."

"My sense was a great piece of acting, a staggering piece of acting, but a film I wish they could have made another day."

The PM is one of a number of senior Conservatives and former colleagues of Baroness Thatcher who have criticised the film.

Former party chairman Lord Tebbit said the prime minister he had known was never the "half-hysterical, over-emotional" woman portrayed by Streep.

But director Phyllida Lloyd told the Evening Standard: "We all felt that a portrait of somebody who is experiencing a failure of strength and health and forgetfulness is not a shameful thing to put on the screen."



A scene from "The Iron Lady".

Cameron was also asked who could play him in a Hollywood film.

At the suggestion of actor Michael Sheen -- who has portrayed Tony Blair on several occasions -- Cameron said: "He can play everybody."

"I thought his portrayal of Blair was fantastic." But on his own potential appearance on the big screen, the PM added: "I'm sure the movie will never be made."

SOURCE: BBC

Beetle Baily

by Mort Walker

Henry

by Don Trachte

ATN BANGLA	Business and Finance	11:20	Antenna	Game Neel Digh
12:45	Vision 2020	09:50	Look at Me	Antenna
05:15	Ashchhen Mohanayok	12:05	Kichu Dekha Kichu Kotha	04:30
08:40	Shahorye	04:30	Durpath	06:30
11:30	Drama Serial: Cafeteria	07:45	Obak Pritibibi	07:45
CHANNEL i	Elong Cinemar Gaan	09:45	Drama Serial: Gohinye	09:45
01:05	Amar Chhobi	10:30	Pothey Jetey Jetey	10:30
04:20	Drama Serial: Ai Kichu	12:30	Binodon Dunia	12:30
05:30	Hote Chhobche	Diganta TV	Business Time Live	01:30
08:25	Drama Serial: Loral	06:30	Jibon Onmesha	06:30
11:30	Banglar Pothey	08:00	Drama Serial: Shaha	08:00
ntv	Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	08:40	Chitra Bichitra	10:00
04:10	Shubho Shondhya	10:00	Prime Time	10:00
06:10	Drama Serial: Poth	Maasranga Television	Bangla Feature Film	10:02
08:15	Gechhey Bekey	05:30	Amazing Animals	05:30
09:00	Glamour World			
11:30	Drama Serial: Terminal			

Priyo
On ntv at 09:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Anisur Rahman Milon, Jenny

Holes
On Z Studio at 06:45pm
Genre: Drama/Comedy
Cast: Shia LaBeouf, Sigourney Weaver

ETV	Ekushey-er Business	09:02	Drama Serial: Santaran
11:30	Ganar Opore	09:30	Oshadharan
04:30	Deshjurey Senglap	11:00	Ganpokla
06:30	Music Station	Z Studio	No Tension
07:50	Music Station	11:00	Bad Santa
08:20	Drama Serial: Ohongkar	01:30	Remember the Titans
06:45	Holes	04:00	Ed Wood
Boishakhi TV	Bangla Feature Film	09:30	Starksy & Hutch
10:30	Shorashori Doctor	11:40	The 13th Warrior
04:15	Drama Serial: Ecaruser	HBO	The American
08:10	Dana	01:20	Drive
08:45	Drama Serial: Pathorer Kanna	03:25	Kill Speed
07:35	Snow Beast	07:35	Snow Beast
09:20	Drama Serial: Batpar	09:30	Crank: High Voltage
10:50	Reporters Dairy	11:20	The Amityville Horror
BANGLAVISION	Shokal Belar Roddur	StarWorld	Supernatural
11:05	Bangla Feature Film	03:30	Combat Hospital
01:05	Ponikha Prostuti	10:30	The Shield
05:20	Chaler Chai	12:00	Two And A Half Men
09:05	Raat Biratey	Discovery Channel	Man vs. Wild
Rtv	Bangla Feature Film	02:30	Colour of War
12:35	Cinema R Gaan	08:30	Swords
05:00	Drama Serial: Shobuj	11:30	The Science of Sex

DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA	08:00pm	Asha Toki	09:30pm	Ghatat Baki Bhai
09:20pm	Poesh Phaguner Pala	08:15pm	No Problem	
CHANNEL i	07:50pm	Kushtar Phona	09:05pm	Boiya Paribar
09:35pm	Obogunthan	11:30pm	Bheli	
ntv	07:50pm	Prayo	Desh TV	08:15pm
ETV	09:45pm		Sat Kahon	08:15pm
			Maasranga Television	

NEWS BULLETIN

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

TALK SHOW

ATN BANGLA	12:30am	Lead News	Boishakhi TV	12:00am	Zero Hour
CHANNEL i	09:45am	Tristio Matra	Rtv	10:40am	Tarakalap
12:30pm	Taraka Kothon	ntv	07:40pm	Our Democracy	
12:10pm	Ei Shomoy	Desh TV	11:45pm	Shoja Kotha	
ETV	10:10pm	Golpo Shalpo	Maasranga Television		