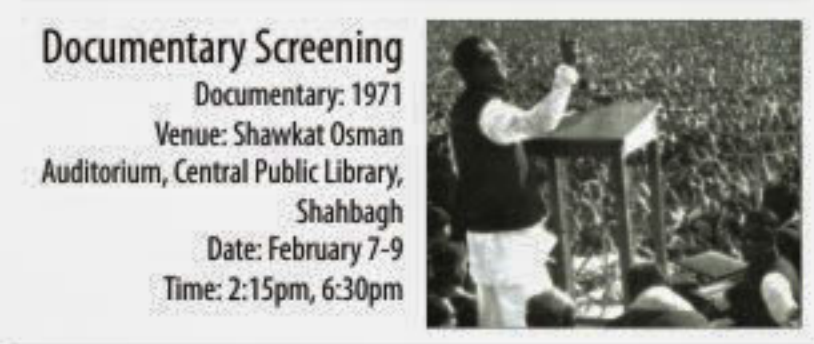


WHAT'S ON



Amar Ekushey Book Fair '12
Venue: Bangla Academy
Premises
Date: February 1-29
Time: 9am onwards



Documentary Screening
Documentary: 1971
Venue: Shaikhul Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh
Date: February 7-9
Time: 2:15pm, 6:30pm



Reconstruction Fashion Exhibition
Organizer: National Museum & British Council
Venue: National Museum Auditorium, Shaabag
Date: Jan 28 - Feb 11
Time: 9:30am-7:30pm



Solo Exhibition
Title: Dreams-Sowing
Artist: Kanak Chandra Chakma
Venue: Gallery Chitra, R-6, W-4, Dhanomdi
Date: Jan 28-Feb 12
Time: 10am-6pm



Solo Exhibition
Artist: Anukul Chandra Majumdar
Venue: Nordic Club, Gulshan-2
Date: Jan 22-Feb 7
Time: 10am-6pm



Solo Exhibition
Title: Dreams of the Land
Artist: Noriko Yanagisawa
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan
Date: Feb 3-12
Time: 12pm-5pm



Solo Exhibition
Title: Dreams of the Land
Artist: Noriko Yanagisawa
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan
Date: Jan 27-Feb 7
Time: 11am-7:30pm



Anisul Hoque (3-R) with Karan Singh (3-L) at the book launch.

The price of freedom

Anisul Hoque's book launched in Indian capital

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood could take the distinction of making India's first feature film on the theme of the Bangladesh's Liberation War if efforts in this regard by a book publisher and Bollywood producers fructify.

Discussions are on with three or four Bollywood producers to reproduce the story - a novel, based on true accounts of a woman who sacrifices her only son Azad for the cause of the freedom of a country from Pakistani occupation, by well-known Bangladeshi journalist-writer Anisul Hoque -- on the celluloid.

The publicists of Palimpsest Publishers are in touch with the producers for making a movie out of the book "Freedom's Mother", the English translation of Hoque's Bangla novel "Ma", which was published in Bangladesh in 2003.

The English translation by Falguni Ray was launched at a function here on February 4, at a time when Bangladesh is celebrating 40 years of independence.

"The book has enormous cinematic possibilities encompassing the entire subconti-

nent," Bhaskar Roy, CEO of Palimpsest Publishers, told The Daily Star, adding, "Our publicists are in discussions with Bollywood producers but nothing has been finalised as yet."

The story of Azad, believes Roy, would have an appeal across the subcontinent as he was born in Kanpur, had his education in Karachi University and disappeared forever during the Liberation War in Bangladesh.

While taking part in the Liberation War along with his friends, Azad is captured by Pakistani troops who tell his mother that he could get a reprieve if he turns a witness against his friends.

However, Azad's mother, during a meeting with her son in the prison, resolutely tells him not to disclose anything about his friends, knowing fully well that this could endanger her son's life.

Azad tells his mother to bring home-cooked rice but the next day when the mother returns, she does not find Azad.

The mother stopped eating rice, the staple food of every Bengali, since that day and for the next 14 years till she died in 1985.

Hoque, who was here to attend the launch of his novel's English translation, told The Daily Star that he undertook a great deal of efforts to track down Azad's friends to get details about him and his life before writing the novel.

While India has made an invaluable contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh, no feature film has so far been made in this country based on the subject.

Launching "Freedom's Mother", eminent Indian scholar Dr. Karan Singh said, "It's a very moving story. It shows the price one has to pay for freedom. Many people say we got our freedom nonviolently. Well, we did in a way, but look at the violence that took place during Partition. That was also part of the freedom. Lakhs (hundreds of thousands) of people lost their lives, millions were uprooted, so, there is always a price that has to be paid and Bangladeshis paid that price in full measure."

Bangladesh High Commissioner Tariq A Karim said, "This is a story which needed to be told. We are celebrating our 40th anniversary of independence. This is a time when we need to remember what we went through to achieve what we got."



SHAH ALAM SHAHZAD

Lutfur Rahman Riton -- the popular rhymester - has won several accolades, including the Bangla Academy Award, for his contributions to the genre of 'Chhora'. His first publication "Dhutturi" also earned him the Agrani Bank Children's Literature Award. Along with rhymes, the author has published over a hundred children's books, while more are to come at this year's Ekushey book fair.

Although Riton has been living in Canada for a while, every year the Boi Mela lures him back to the country. When in Dhaka, he visits the fair every day. The writer says the joys of a book launch and meeting new people at the fair are incomparable. Terming the fair as a meeting place for the authors and book

Master strokes

Dhaka Art Summit in April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samdani Art Foundation (SAF), in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and Bangladesh National Museum (BNM), will organise the first Dhaka Art Summit. The summit will be held from April 12 to 15 in the city. Sponsored by City Bank and American Express, the main venues of the summit will be the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh National Museum. Several other venues will host exhibitions, curatorial shows, seminars, presentations etc.

On the occasion of the summit, a press conference was held yesterday at the Seminar Room of BSA. Rajeeb Samdani, founder-trustee of SAF; Liaquat Ali Lucky, director

general of BSA; Prokash Chandra Das, director general of BNM; artist Mohammad Muniruzzaman, convener of Summit Steering Committee; Mashrur Arefin, deputy managing director of City Bank; Nadia Samdani, director of SAF, among others spoke at the press conference.

The speakers asserted that the Dhaka Art Summit's intention is to create an international platform to showcase contemporary art of Bangladesh. Through this event, the foundation aims to create awareness on the vibrant Bangladeshi art scene and at the same time attract art collectors.

SAF will also present two awards -- Samdani Artist Development Award (worth Taka 10 lakh) and Samdani Young Talent Award (Taka 5 lakh).



Organisers at the press conference.

Artists within the 20-35 age group are eligible to apply.

At the invitation of SAF, an international jury will come to Dhaka. The jury panel will include Kyla McDonald, curator of Tate Modern Museum (England); Dr. Deepak Ananth, art historian and expert (France); Elaine W. Ng, editor and publisher of Art Asia Pacific; Indian artist Ravinder Reddy and Bangladeshi expatri-

ate painter Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Neha Kirpal, director of India Art Summit; Dr. Amin Jaffer, International Director of Asian Art at Christie's; Dr. Deepanjana Klein, chief of Modern and Contemporary South Asian Art Department; Yamini Mehta, specialist and head of Modern and Contemporary Indian Art of Christie's, among others, will speak at a number of seminars in Dhaka.

"One wishes to see only books at the fair, not CDs or DVDs"

-- Lutfur Rahman Riton

enthusiasts, Riton informs that he will host Channel i's live programme from the fair.

Riton adds that he waits the entire year for the fair -- as it is a festival for writers. All the writers make their plans around the Ekushey Book Fair. The writer's expectation from this year's fair is to generate interest in Bangla language and literature among the young. The fair always plays a pivotal role in shaping the youths and will continue to do so, Riton adds.

Riton called for expanding the size of the fair, considering the increasing influx of more publishers and readers each year. If stalls were allowed only to publishers -- instead of organisations, the existing space would be adequate, he says, adding that as a writer one wishes to see only books at the fair, not CDs or DVDs.

On a special children's corner at the fair,

Riton said that the original proposal came from him when he was an elected councilor at Bangla Academy, from 1999 to 2001. Asked on his feelings about the large number of books containing distortion of Bangla language, Riton says that not everyone can be a writer, but it requires a lot of studying and research. The author called for a policy on this regard, which will sift out poor productions. Commenting on the issuance of stalls at the fair, Riton says that although Bangla Academy enjoys autonomy, it still belongs to a ministry. So pressure from ministers, lawmakers and bureaucrats continue to interfere, resulting in the issuance of stalls to those who do not deserve it. However, if a strong regulation is formed by the leading writers, intellectuals and government high ups -- a resolution to the problem could be found, Riton adds.

Eternal love for poetry

Poets Germain Droogenbroodt and Aminur Rahman recite at Gallery Chitrak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A poetry recitation programme was held at the premises of Gallery Chitrak, in the capital on February 3. Noted Dutch poet Germain Droogenbroodt who resides in Spain, and a renowned Bangladeshi poet of the '80s Aminur Rahman recited their poems at the event.

The emcee, Sayma Rahman, welcomed all at the event where young violinist Abrar Ahmed Tarique kicked off the programme by performing dhun set on Raga Brindabani Sarang and Bhupali. Zakir on tabla accompanied him.

Executive director of Gallery Chitrak, Md. Muniruzzaman, delivered the welcome address. A common friend of the poets, Dr. Dorothea Muller, a Professor at Vienna University, Austria also spoke at the event.

The event also brought to the public eye two poetry books by the featured poets: one a bilingual book (Dutch and Bangla) of poet Germain Droogenbroodt, translated and edited by poet Aminur Rahman, titled "Germain Droogenbroodt-er Kobita"; the second one "Koshter Slate-e Prem-er Fossil", authored by poet Aminur Rahman. Adorn Publication published the books.

While giving a brief account of Germain Droogenbroodt, poet Aminur Rahman said, "I am proud to be able to translate the poems of a noted Dutch poet whom I have known for the last 10 years. Germain Droogenbroodt traverses countries from Nicaragua to Mongolia, from the lofty Himalayas to the deep sea, to find inspiration for his poetry."

Later, the poet duo presented an array of poems from their respective books. Germain Droogenbroodt read out one of his poems in Dutch while Aminur Rahman presented its Bengali translation and vice versa.

"Germain Droogenbroodt-er Kobita" (Poems of Germain Droogenbroodt) features a total of 33 poems on diverse themes like love, nature, life, mysticism and devotion.

"Koshter Slate-e Prem-er Fossil" features over 50 poems on a variety of topics; though multifaceted forms of love and dimensional sketches of life are predominant in the poetry.

Born in 1944, in Rollegem (Flemish part of Belgium), Germain Droogenbroodt is a poet, translator, publisher and promoter of modern international poetry. So far he has written eight poetry books and translated more than 30 collections of German, Italian, Spanish, English and French poetry, including anthologies of



Aminur Rahman (2-L) and Germain Droogenbroodt at the programme.

Bertolt Brecht, Reiner Kunze, Peter Huchel, Miguel Hernández, José Ángel Valente, Francisco Brines and Juan Gil-Albert and rendered Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Persian and Korean poetry into Dutch. He frequently gives poetry recitals and organises international poetry festivals. He is also considered as a "Mediterranean" poet.



The set of "Aladdin" at Alliance Francaise, designed by Khandakar.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Though local theatre functions as an industry, fund constraints are a hindrance, says Ashish Khandakar, actor and director of Space and Acting Research Centre. Khandakar also expresses the view that achievements in theatre over the last four decades have been major.

"May be, over the past four decades we have followed a certain trend of theatre practice, but it has not been frustrating. Perhaps, we need another two or three generations to fulfil our goals, and reach our desired destination," he says.

"Bangladeshi theatre needs to become commercially profitable, such as TV plays and films. But we have to be careful not to distort the high artistic and aesthetic values of the medium," he adds.

Khandakar started his journey in theatre during the 1980s. He went to India for higher studies and subsequently enrolled at the National School of Drama (NSD) in 1986. After graduation, he returned to Bangladesh in 1991 and started practicing "environmental theatre", then a new concept in Dhaka theatre scenario.

Along with environmental theatre, he also emphasised the need to practice space theatre.

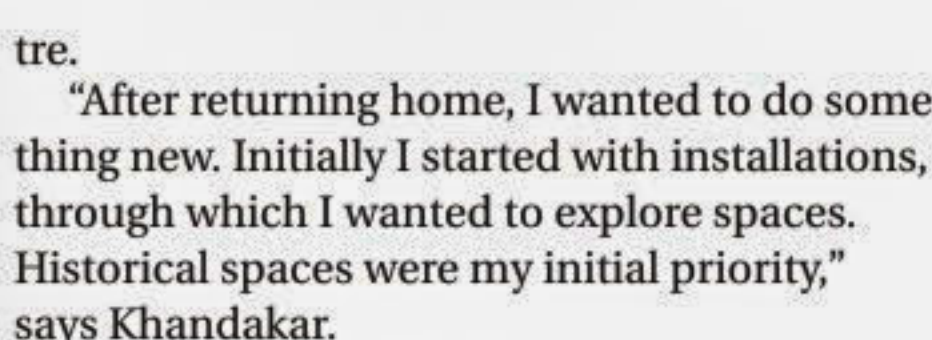


PHOTO: SAKIB

tre. "After returning home, I wanted to do something new. Initially I started with installations, through which I wanted to explore spaces. Historical spaces were my initial priority," says Khandakar.

"It is something like dramatising the history-based story of a certain place, for instance the Bardhaman House of Bangla Academy, using that particular place as the stage. In recent times, this concept has been used in painting, films and documentaries and in corporate events," he adds.

However, like many dreamers, Khandakar's hopes regarding environmental theatre could not last long. Lack of necessary support from different corners forced him to think of alternative options for survival.

At present he continues to exercise this concept of environmental theatre at his school of theatre for children that he runs on Fridays at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Along with many other plays, his 2005 production "Aladdin" (for children) is a successful implementation of the concept.

The concept is also apparent in Khandakar's latest directorial work "Rother Rosh" (produced by Natyadhara). After keeping the original Tagore text intact, Khandakar experimented with the space. Instead of setting the story at a common location, he chooses to set it in a place of historic importance.

He sees theatre's appeal as a bio-art as strong as ever.

"The socio-economic context has a great influence over arts and culture. It is true that the value of our arts and culture will be measured by our social and economical situation," he says.

Runa Laila judging musical feud between India and Pakistan



Runa Laila with Asha Bhosle.

A CORRESPONDENT

Iconic Bangladeshi singer Runa Laila is a judge on a musical talent hunt "Sur Kshetra". She is in good company with Asha Bhosle (India) and Abida Parveen (Pakistan) as fellow judges. The show is will be aired on Sahara One. It is being produced by Boney Kapoor and Saibaba Telefilms. Shot in Dubai, the contestants are from India and Pakistan.

The mentor and captain of the Pakistani team is singer Atif Aslam. Singer-music director Himesh Reshammiya is the mentor and captain of the Indian team.

The uniqueness of the show is that the three judges can either give the teams either zero or ten. There would be no score in between.

The two captains, Atif and Himesh can only comment and evaluate the teams' performances, but cannot give scores.

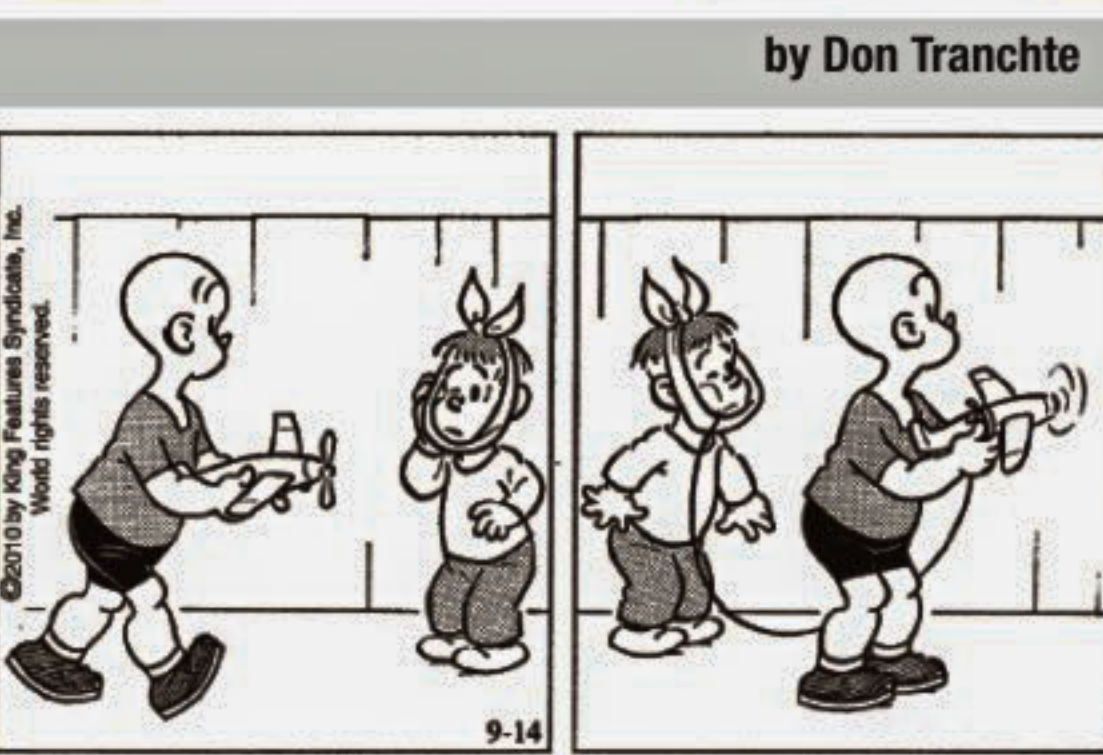
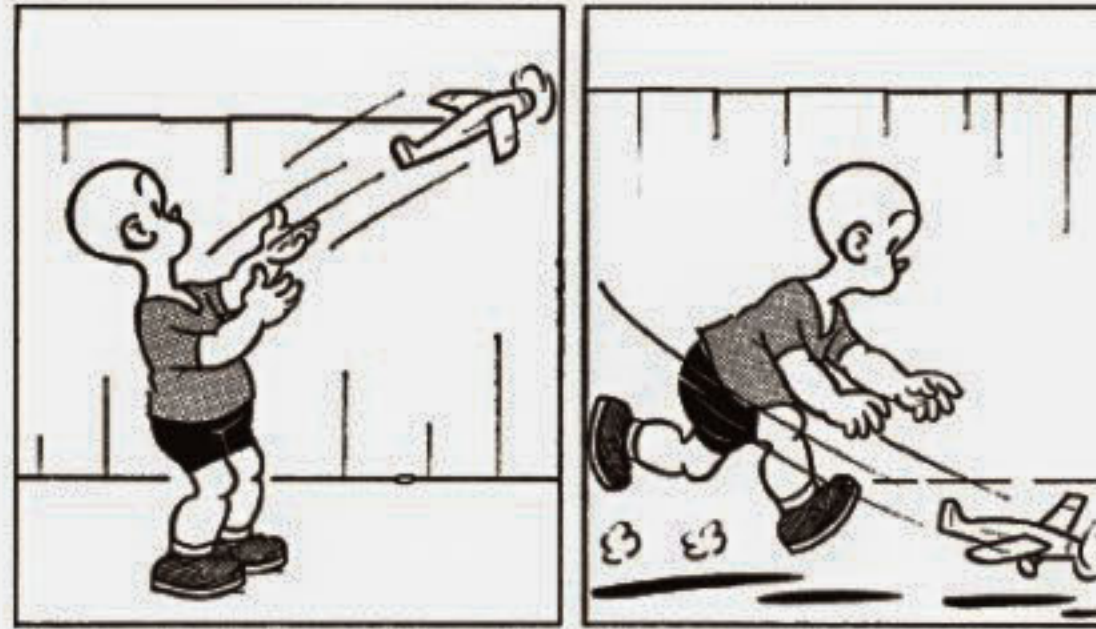
Beetle Baily

by Mort Walker



Henry

by Don Trachte



BTV	11:05	Gaan-e Gaan-e Bangladesh	09:45	Drama Serial: Ikhey
	03:05	Canton	10:30	Pothey Jety Jety
	08:35	Amader Ei Boshundhara	12:30	World Music
	10:25	Ekhoni Bolbar Shomoy		Total Sports
ATN BANGLA	12:45	Vision 2020	01:30	Business Time Live
	05:15	Obiram Bangladesh	06:30	Jilon Onnesha
	08:40	Drama Serial: Ei Shahorey	08:00	Drama Serial: Shahaj
	11:30	Drama Serial: Cafeteria	08:40	Manush
CHANNEL i	01:05	Ebong Cinemar Gaan	10:00	Chitra Bichitra
	04:20	Amal Chhola		Prime Time
	07:50	Drama Serial: Kamol	05:30	Amazing Animals
		Bibir Oitshi Shala O Kana Sirajdala	09:02	Drama Serial: Santaran
			09:30	Oshadharon
			11:00	Gaanpoka
				Z Studio
ntv	04:10	Jamar Achhey Bolar Achhey	03:20	The Hot Chick
	06:10	Shubho Shondhoya	05:35	The Godfather
	08:15	Drama Serial: Poth Gecchey Beley	09:30	The War of the worlds
			12:05	Anchorman:
				The Legend of Ron Burgundy

RADIO

abcradio FM 89.2	10:00	Morning Express
06:00 Bhorer Janajaly	12:00	No Tension
Mukhonto Jiboney	04:00	Dhaka Calling
12:00 Baran Shomoy	09:30	Knight Riders
03:00 Dusanta Bishoy	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6	
05:00 Shondha Tara	06:00	Green FM
07:00 Shaj-er Maya	06:30	Good Morning Dhaka
09:00 Raat-er Akashy	08:00	Today's Adda
11:00 Galper Shesh Nei	04:00	U Turn
	07:00	Tobey Tu Hok
RadioFooti	10:00	Rast Bhor Gaan
07:30 Hello Dhaka	12:00	Hutum Pecha



09:00	Glamour World	HBO	
ETV	04:30	01:55	The Last Air Bender
	05:30	04:10	The Mummy
	07:50	06:45	The Blind Side
	08:20	09:30	Pottergeist II: The Other Side
Boishakhi TV	04:15		Star World
	08:10	03:30	Combat Hospital
		09:30	Supernatural
		10:30	The Shield
	08:45	11:30	The Big Bang Theory
			National Geographic Channel
BANGLAVISION	04:15	03:30	Mega Breakdown
	11:05	09:00	How Big Can It Get
	05:20	10:00	Mega Factories
	09:05		Discovery Channel
	11:25	02:30	Man vs. Wild
Rtv	12:35	08:30	Gold Rush: Alaska
	05:00	10:30	One Man Army
	08:20		BBC World
		03:30	HARD talk
		07:00	Impact Asia with Mshai
Antenna	09:50		Hesair
Look at Me		10:00	The Hub with Nik
Desh TV	04:30		Gowing
	06:30	06:30	Sport Today

ATNBANGLA	08:00pm	Asha Toki	Rtv	09:05pm	Boiya Paribar
	09:20pm	Poochi Phaguner Pala		11:30pm	House Number 138
CHANNEL i	09:35pm	Oogunthan	BANGLAVISION		No Problem
ntv	09:45pm	Priyo	Desh TV		Sat Kaban
	11:30pm	Terminal	08:15pm	Maasranga Television	
ETV	09:30pm	Ghatak Baki Bhai	08:00pm	Pathor Dabi	
			08:30pm	Window	

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

ATN BANGLA	12:30am	Lead News	Rtv	10:40am	Tarakalip
CHANNEL i	09:45am	Italo Matra		07:40pm	Our Democracy
	12:30pm	Tanaka	Boishakhi TV		Zero Hour
		Kothan	Desh TV		
ntv	2:12pm	Ei Shomoy	11:45pm	Shoja Korha	
ETV	10:10pm	Golpo Shajpo Gaan		Maasranga Television	
			07:30pm	Prime Issue	
			12:00am	Shamporkit	