

WHAT'S ON

Book Fair
82nd birth anniversary of Bangladeshi Sheikh Mujibur
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpi Academy
Date: March 15-26
Time: 4pm-8pm

Francophonie 2012
Organiser: Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD)
Venue: AFD, Dhanmondi, Gulshan and Uttara
Date: March 15-24

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Quest for Self
Artist: Gayum Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: March 9-22
Time: 12pm-9pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Vision -5
Venue: Gallery Cosmox-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: March 10-29
Time: 11am-8pm

Tagore Dance-Drama
Title: 'Naya Dohar'
Organiser: Shadhona
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 18
Time: 7pm

Book Reading
Group: The Reading Circle
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: March 18
Time: 6:30pm

Book Launch
Book: Shubhagaprasanna: Jewelina O Narayana
Venue: Bengal Shilpajaya, H 42, Rd 16, Dhanmondi
Date: March 17

Theatre
Play: Shesher Kobita
Troupe: Theatre Art Unit
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 17

NEW RELEASES

Klanto Potthik
Solo album by Wasiun A Khan
Source:

1+1=3?
Mixed album
Source:

Mon-e Porey
Aaj Album of Nazrul
Sangeet by Deepti Samadder
Dipu
Source: Laser

Vaccination Center
For Dogs & Cats

advance animal health CARE services
214-215 Sababon, Dhaka University Market, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Email: advance@bangla.net
Mobile: 01730080950, 01730080962

A BENGALI IRON LADY

Japani Bodhu by Tanvir Mokammel

PALLAB BHATTACHARAYA, New Delhi

From a nondescript woman in Dhaka to Tokyo, where she read news in Bangla on radio for Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj, travelling in the dead of night every day risking her life through bomb-ravaged streets of Tokyo during the Second World War.

That is the exceptional story of Hariprobha Basu Mallik, who married a Japanese entrepreneur Wemon Takeda, and travelled to Tokyo in 1912, and whose life has been recreated on the celluloid by eminent Bangladeshi director Tanvir Mokammel in his latest documentary, "Japani Bodhu" (The Japanese Wife) set to be premiered in Dhaka next month.

Born in 1890, Hariprobha would have remained a largely forgotten figure but for her "Bongo Mohilar Japan Jatra", a memoir of her journey to Japan in 1912, considered the first book on that country by any woman from the subcontinent. The book was first published from Dhaka in 1915, Mokammel told The Daily Star.

Hariprobha a fell in love with and married Japanese entrepreneur Wemon Takeda who had set up a soap factory in Dhaka and she was 22 when she travelled with her husband to Japan in 1912.

It was an opportunity for Hariprobha to not only meet her in-laws but also see the socio-cultural life of Japan. She not only visited Japan but also wrote a memoir, a kind of travelogue about the then Japan. Japan, as portrayed in Hariprobha's book, is a different country altogether 100 years back, Mokammel said.

"Bongo Mohilar Japan Jatra" was published four years before Rabindranath Tagore's "Japan Jatri".

Hariprobha shifted permanently to



Wemon Takeda and Hariprobha.

Japan in 1941 when the country was in the throes of the Second World War and when Japanese nationals from across the world were returning to their homeland. Besides the War, what made

Hariprobha's life tougher was the illness of her husband and with the help of revolutionary Rashbehari Bose, she took up the job of reader of Bengali news aired from Tokyo Radio for Subhash Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj in 1944-45 to make a living.

Day in and day out, Tokyo was battered by allied forces bombing and Hariprobha saw around her all the horrors of the war as well the sufferings of the Japanese people and wrote another memoir on Japan. Wearing a helmet, she used to travel through the streets of Tokyo in the dead of night to reach the radio station to read the news, to take care of her ailing husband. It was during this time that Hariprobha was introduced to Subhash Chandra Bose.

After her husband's death in 1948, she shifted to West Bengal and stayed with her sister in Jalpaiguri before breathing her last in Kolkata in 1972.



Hariprobha (in a black sari), to the left of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Mokammel said what inspired him to make the documentary was the "extraordinary courage" shown by Hariprobha in marrying a Japanese and travelling to a totally different country, society and culture.

"I have huge respect for women like Hariprobha who muster the courage of venturing into totally uncharted territory in life. It takes a lot of courage to do so," the director said adding that "finding her books interesting and herself an exceptional character I decided to make a film on Hariprobha."

"The film was with me for last 10 years and

the special reason I made the film this year is because 2012 is the centenary year of Hariprobha's travel to Japan," asserts the director.

The research for the film has been done by journalists Manjurul Huq and Kajihito Watanabe and the documentary was shot in Tokyo, Kobe and Nagoya, the places where Hariprobha had lived or travelled, in India and in Bangladesh.

The 67-minute film, supported by Japan Foundation, has been shot by Golam Masum Zico and edited by Delhi-based Mahadeb Shi and its music is done by Syed Shabab Ali Arzoo.

Musical Homage to Waheedul Haque

Chhayanaaut holds **Desh Ghar-er Gaan 1418**



Manoj Bahadur (3-R) and his troupe during a Jhum dance presentation.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

As a tribute to eminent cultural activist and Tagore exponent Waheedul Haque, a driving force behind the nationalist cultural movement for decades, Chhayanaaut held a two-day programme titled "Desh Ghar-er Gaan 1418". Seasoned folk singer Kutu Mansur inaugurated the programme on March 15.

Apart from speech by the inaugurator, general secretary of Chhayanaaut Khairul Anam Shakil delivered the welcome address. President of Chhayanaaut, Sanjida Khatun, was also present on the occasion.

Featuring the opulent heritage of Bangladeshi folk music and dance, the programme was held at Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts of University of Dhaka. Renowned artists and troupes from across the country performed on the occasion.

The two-day programme included Lalon songs, Pala Gaan, Kushan Gaan, Jhum, bottle and plate dance, Santal dance and more

by Pandit Ramkanai Das, Sudhir Lal Das, Shamim Ahmad and Sajia Binte Rahik.

Sajia Binte Rahik kicked off the inaugural day's event through rendering songs originally composed by Baul Shah Abdul Karim, Hason Raja and Syed Shahnoor. Her repertoire included "Ami Kul Hara Kalangkini", "Sona Bondey Amarey Diwana Banailo" and more, while Shamim Ahmad performed "Tor Soney Korey Piriti", "Amare Chhariya Kala" and "Agye Ki Sundar Din Kataitam" originally composed by Arkum Shah, Durbin Shah and Shah Abdul Karim.

Swarup Hossain on tabla, Dasherath Das on dhol, Babu on banshi and Ratan Kumar Roy on dotara instrumentally assisted the performers.

Manoj Bahadur and his troupe from Rangamati presented several indigenous dance forms including Jhum dance of the Chakmas, plate dance of the Marmas and bottle dance of the Tripura community. Sushmita, Annie, Shelley, Rimi, Rini,

Ria and Anupam took part in the dance presentations. Manoj Bahadur, Kirio Marma and Lovely Assam directed the traditional music, while Titu Devnath and Shimul Das instrumentally assisted the dance performances.

Based on a "Ramayan" story (Sita's banishment), Kripasindhu Roy and his troupe from Kurigram performed Kushan Gaan that wrapped up the inaugural day's performances. Kripasindhu Roy directed music for the presentation. Aynal Haque, Mithu, Sujan, Nazmul, Jagodish, Kartik Chandra, Kakoli, Trisha and others took part in the presentation.

Waheedul Haque believed that it would not be possible to form a complete impression of our culture, without becoming familiar with our folk music -- rooted in our tradition. Upholding this ideal, Chhayanaaut has been arranging this programme for the last six years, highlighting various forms of folk songs practised in different parts of the country.

THEATRE

One Hundred Sacks of Rice staged to celebrate Bangladesh Japan friendship



The play is set against the backdrop of the transition from Shogunate era to Meiji resurrection, about 140 years ago.

PHOTO: STAR

JAMIL MAHMUD

"One Hundred Sacks of Rice", a play produced jointly by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka, was staged on March 15 at the National Theatre Hall of the academy. The staging was part of a celebration to mark the 40th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and Japan.

The Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Shiro Sadoshima, and Director General of Shilpakala Academy, Liaquat Ali Lucky, attended the show.

The 16th Uchimura Naoya Prize (conferred by International Theatre Institute, Japan; 2008) winning play, "One Hundred Sacks of Rice", has been directed by Golam Sarwar. An adaptation of a Japanese literary work by Yuzo Yamamoto, the play has been translated into Bangla by Professor Abdus Selim.

Director Golam Sarwar

informed that the play has been selected for another prestigious Japanese award conferred by the Nagaoka Kome Happya Foundation. The authority will formally hand over the award this June.

The play is set against the backdrop of the transition from Shogunate era to Meiji resurrection, about 140 years ago.

During the Edo era, a war between Tokugawa Shogun and the Emperor, known as the Meiji Restoration War, took place. Nagaoka was an affluent region before the war. However, after the war started, Nagaoka faced a bad harvest and inevitable poverty. As aid, one hundred sacks of rice were sent to Nagaoka.

Many of the samurais and farmers, who survived the war, demanded the rice be shared among them. However, after a long debate, Torasaburo Kobayashi, one of the Nagaoka ministers and a highly educated samurai, persuaded his lord and the people to sell the rice instead

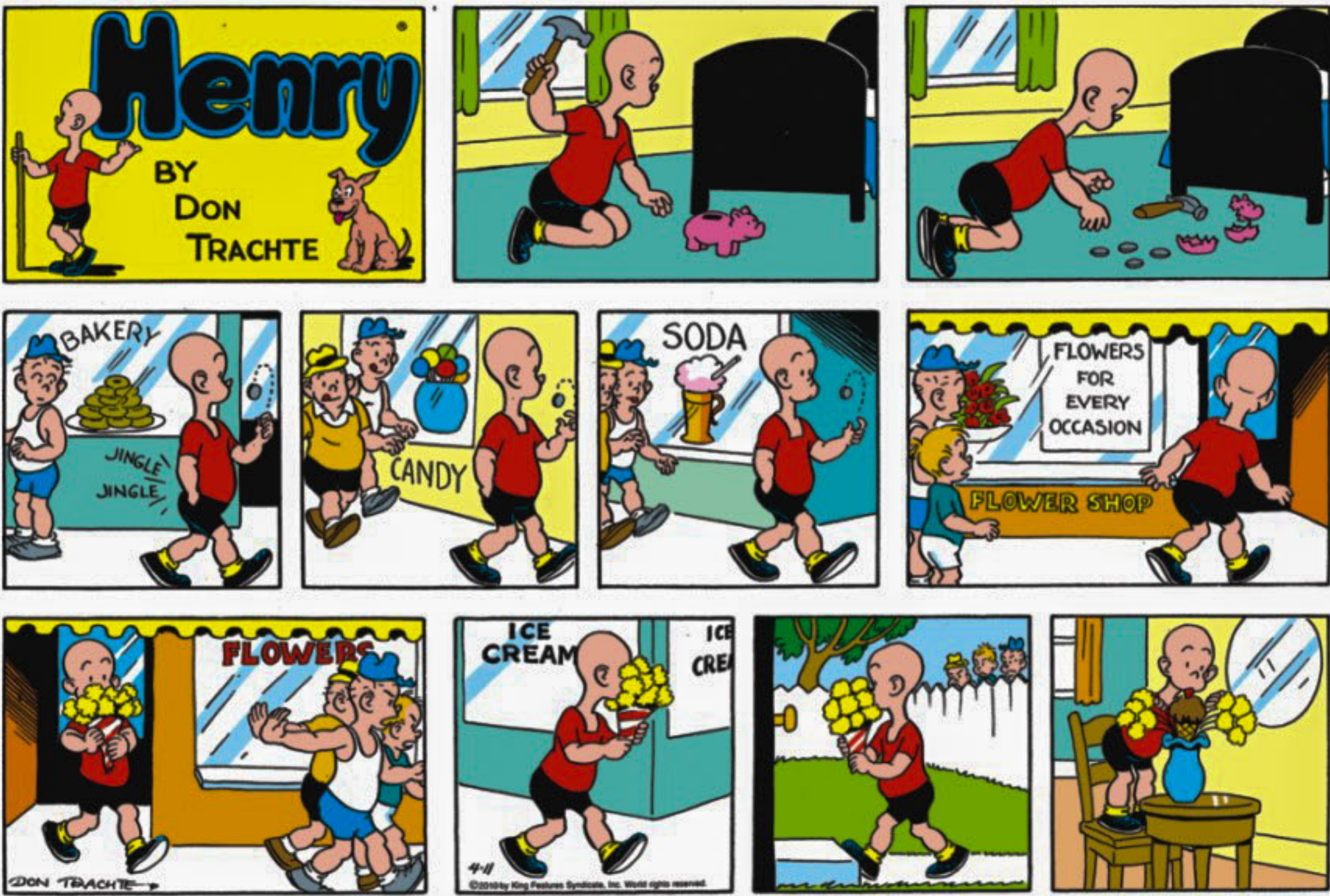
of consuming it.

He argued that sharing the rice would mean consuming it within days, but if they sold the rice and with the money built a school to educate children, these 100 sacks of rice would function as investment.

The Bangladeshi actors did a commendable job in incorporating Japanese nuances, especially a samurai's gestures. Constant allegorical reference of the sword -- an inseparable companion of a samurai -- made the dialogues meaningful.

A group of known faces from different theatre troupes performed lead roles in the play. The cast included Junaid Eusuf, Md. Nur Zaman Raja, Md. Rafi, Abul Kalam Azad, Faiz Zahir, Golam Shahriar Rabbi, Tashmi Tamanna, Sharmin Sangita Khanam, and Md. Abdul Qaium Bhuiyan.

Faiz Zahir and Junaid Eusuf did the set design and Thandul Raihan was the light designer. Ahsan Reza Khan directed the music.



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Eligible candidates are encouraged to attend a walk-in **written test** as per the following schedule:

Date & Time : **Friday, 23rd March 2012, 09.30 am.**

Venue : Hall Room at 3rd floor, Star Hotel & Restaurant, House # 16, Road # 2 Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.

Candidates are requested to submit a hand written application along with a complete resume, a recent passport size photograph and photocopy of National ID card, at the venue.

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

ATN BANGLA	07:45	Amra Dujan Dekhity
11:10	Promito Bangla	Kamur
01:25	Prapok	Pathey Jetey Jetey
03:05	Bangla Feature Film	Total Sports
09:20	Drama Serial:	Maasranga Television
	Chayanani Kayarani	Bangla Feature Film
11:00	Drama Serial: Shikhandi	Sandher Agami
	Korha	Rajperin Bairy
		12:00
		Top of the Pop
CHANNEL i		
12:05	Ebong Cinemar Gaan	Z Studio
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	10:35
05:30	Baula Batash	Mutant Chronicles
09:35	Hindoye Mari O Manush	01:30
11:30	Fun Club Tournament	Alice in Wonderland
		03:55
		Dead Man's Chest
ntv		
08:45	Bangla Feature Film	06:55
03:10	Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	09:30
		End of Days
		21
09:00	Drama: Notebook	01:45
11:30	Viewers Gaan	03:40
12:30	Chhobir Gaan	05:20
		Dinosoc vs. Supergator
		Music and Lyrics

abcr radio FM 89.2	02:00	Fourti Unlimited
06:00	Bhorer Janalaly	Bumper to Bumper
09:00	Mukhorho Jiboney	Back to Back Music
12:00	Darun Bapurey	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
03:00	Duranta Bideley	06:00
05:00	Shondhata	Green FM
07:00	Shajer Maya	08:00
09:00	Raat-er Akashey	Good Morning Dhaka
11:00	Gajey Sheal Nei	11:00
RADIO FOOTBI		World Music
08:00	Addabai	04:00
		U Turn
		07:00
		Robe ki Huk
		10:00
		Road Show Gaan
		12:00
		Hutum Pecha

Bela Obela Sharabela
On Desh TV at 09:45pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Binod Rihari Chowdhury

THE LOSERS
On HBO at 09:30pm
Genre: Action/ Crime
Cast: Idris Elba, Zoe Saldana

Istikutum
On Boishakhi TV at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Hassan Masud, Putul

Boishakhi TV	09:30	The Losers
09:20	Meena Cartoon	Transporter 3
03:30	Shudhu Cinemar Gaan	Star World
05:30	Shadinatar Surjodoy	02:30
06:20	Manush Manusher	The River
		03:30
		Missing
11:00	Nirapad Sarak Chai	04:30
		Supernatural
		10:30
		Panam
		11:30
		Doctor
BANGLAVISION		
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	National Geographic Channel
04:30	Bongobondhu O	
	Bangladeshi	02:30
06:25	Front Line	Seconds from Disaster
09:45	Drama Serial: Gulshan Avenue	03:30
		Man Eater Manhunt
11:25	Lal Golap	08:30
		Outback Wrangler
		09:30
		Prehistoric Park
Rtv		10:30
10:10	Dhruopadi Kahini	A La Cart
12:35	Bangla Feature Film	11:30
07:40	Thik Bolchen To	Taboo
09:50	Drama Serial: Dhan Shalik-er Gaon	Discovery Channel
11:30	Jegey Achho Ki	02:30
		Man vs. Wild
Desh TV		03:30
03:00	Bangla Feature Film	Bermuda Triangle
06:30	Nupur Bejey Jal	Exposed
		04:30
		Swamp Brothers
		08:30
		Breaking Point
		10:30
		Dual Survival

ATN BANGLA	09:30pm	Bangla
08:00pm	Poramutir	Boishakhi TV
08:40pm	Golpo	08:15pm
	Chota Goli	Istikutum
CHANNEL i		09:20pm
07:50pm	No Mans Land	Uttahab
10:00pm	Kuinya Rupaboti	BANGLAVISION
		08:15pm
		Harkiprey
ntv		Rtv
08:15pm	Bondhu Amar	08:15pm
		Chorkabbo
		09:05pm
		Olosipur
		Maasranga Television

BTV	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.	
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.		
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.		
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla) at 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.	
News (English) at 9am, 5pm, 10pm.		
CHANNEL i	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm.	
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm.		
ntv	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.		
ETV	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.		
Boishakhi TV	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.	

ATN BANGLA	12:00am	Zero Hour
12:30am	Lead News	
CHANNEL i	09:05pm	Amar i
09:45am	Tristio Matra	Rtv
11:05am	Amader Ajyna	10:40am
12:30pm	Taroka Kothon	Tarakalap
ETV	09:45pm	Bela Obela
07:50pm	Opposer Ami	Shakha
10:10pm	Golpo Sholpo Gaan	Bongobondhu O
Boishakhi TV	11:45pm	Bangladesh