

WHAT'S ON

Book Fair
92nd birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur
Venue: Bangladesh Shiksha Academy
Date: March 15-26

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

Duet Art Exhibition
Artists: Dragomirica Bena and Butu Sanda
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New 2005
Date: Inauguration March 24
Time: 7:30pm

Monodrama Fest
Organiser: Marchokhola
Venue: Natmandal, DU
Date: March 24-26
Time: 7pm

Musical Soiree
Organiser: Gencostilla
Venue: Chhayansal Auditorium, H-72, Rd-15/A, Dhanmondi
Date: March 24
Time: 7pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Anarchy and the Blue
Artist: Shraprasanna
Venue: Begul Art lounge, Gulshan-1
Date: March 16-25
Time: 12pm-6pm

Theatre
Play: The Distant Near
Troupe: Bangla Theatre
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 24
Time: 7pm

Basha Shrangami
Shammelan
Organiser: Dabhey Chetona
Venue: Seminar Room, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 23-24, Time: 9am

Conference of Biswa Banga Sahitya O Sangskritik Sammelon



Artistes of Udhay Digangan clad in red and green attire give a recitation. PHOTO: STAR

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
A conference of Biswa Banga Sahitya O Sangskritik Sammelon (BBSS) was held at the district Shilpakala Academy Auditorium recently. BBSS is an organisation of Bengali speaking people cutting across countries. Mymensingh district unit of BBSS organised the programme. Marking the conference the local unit held programmes, including discussion, rendition of classical music, dance, poetry recitation and a play.

Sangstha danced while child artistes of Udhay Digangan took part in poetry recitation at the cultural programme. Ensemble Theatre staged "Court Martial", a play written by SM Solaiman and directed by Abul Mansur. Earlier, Mayor of Mymensingh Municipality, Ekramul Haque Titu, inaugurated the conference as chief guest. A discussion followed. Radhakanta Sarker and Bimol Roy of BBSS, from India; Additional Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Mahbul Alam Talukder; editor of the daily Ajker Kagoj, Advocate Abdur Razzak; chairman of Muktagacha Upazila Parishad, Advocate Badar Uddin Ahmed and joint-secretary of Awami League Faruq Ahmed Khan addressed the discussion, among others. Eminent theatre personality Saiful Islam presided over the discussion. Poet Anwara Sultana, secretary of BBSS Mymensingh unit, delivered the welcome speech. The speakers said that Bengali literature and culture has a universal appeal and gained momentum in institutes of higher education in many countries. Radhakanta Sarker, also founding secretary of BBSS, thanked all for making the programme a success. Earlier, Dhaka and Chittagong units of BBSS were formed, it was also said.

TV WATCH

"Phirey Chol Matir Taney" on Channel i

A CORRESPONDENT
"Phirey Chol Matir Taney" is a special segment of agriculture-based programme in "Hridoye Mati O Manush" that is aired on Channel i. The objective of the programme is to give urban students a basic idea of farming and agro-market policy. This time the programme will air the potato harvest episode where 20 Scholastica students took part in the school campaign of 'Returning to Roots'. Media personality Shykh Seraj took the students to Munshiganj's Kewar village three months ago when they sowed potatoes on local farmer Kamruzzaman's land. The elated students have now harvested a bumper crop of potatoes. The programme has been planned, directed and hosted by Shykh Seraj and aired on Channel i on every Saturday at 9:35pm and is re-telecast on Sunday at 11 am.



Scholastica students take part in the TV show.



Bidya Sinha Meem in her new avatar

PHOTO COURTESY: TUHIN HOSSAIN

SHAH ALAM SHAZI
Meem is much in demand in her avatar as an actor. She works in short films, telefilms, daily soaps and occasionally in advertisements. She has even worked in a film named "Amar Praaner Priya" earlier this year with actor Shakib Khan. The movie was a commercial success. "I was very hopeful about the movie, and the audience response was very encouraging," added Meem. On her plans for other movies, she said "I am waiting for the right kind of script." Ten of Meem's television serials were broadcast last Eid-Ul-Azha, among them "Shopnomoji", "Makbul Enterprise", "Shanatan Babu O Tar Shopner Projapati Gulo" and "Lighthouse". Meem also has a full plate with daily soaps like "Oloshpuri", "Uttaradhikar", "Shokal Shondha Raat" and "Motiheel Commercial Area" being aired currently. "My characters in the serials differ vastly and I have put in my best," she says.

Chetonar Gaan

Salil Chodhury's unrecorded songs

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Gano Sangeet or 'protest songs' -- whether on oppressed landless peasants or factory workers -- are never dead. Proceeding from that conviction, Gautam Choudhury, a Netherlands-based friend and admirer of legendary composer-lyricist Salil Chowdhury, has come out with "Chetonar Gaan", an album of 12 protest songs that were penned and set to music by the late musician but never recorded before. Barring only one song "Ognikonor Tollat Jurey" which was written by the late poet Subhash Mukhopadhyay, the songs were penned by Salil Chowdhury. So, you have songs like "Kara Duar Bhang", "Aage Chalo Aage Chalo", "Bolishtho Dui Hathey Tuley Nao Hatyari", "Rail Mojurer Bahur Jorey", "Shoinik Tuley Nao Hatyari", "Ebar Ghurchey Chaka", "Amra Gaan Gai", "Arey Poushali Batashay" and "Amra Kishore Dol". The songs were composed by Salil Chowdhury in the course of his association with Indian People's Theatre Association, the cultural front of the Communist Party of India, at the time of agrarian reform movement, Bengal famine of 1943 and Indian Naval mutiny. Some of these songs were banned during the Indian independence movement but they are remembered by those intimately associated with IPTA. Most of these songs were sung at protest meetings and demonstrations across villages, often without any accompanying musical instrument, and no recordings were made because of the ban imposed by the British rulers at that time, Gautam Choudhury, a 72-year-old IT consultant, told The Daily Star in an email interview. "Chetonar Gaan" is the product of more than 10 years of painstaking efforts by Gautam Choudhury who put in his own money to bring out the album. Asked how long it took him to complete the project, Gautam said, "The whole process of collecting these songs (and many other similar



Salil Chodhury

songs) took me over 10 years. I decided to record these 12 songs in 2008 and it took me three years to complete the recording and the final mixing. In order to do this, I had to visit India several times. The whole project was funded by me." Gautam recorded these songs on his portable tape recorder as he interviewed people and requested them to sing the songs. Most of the songs in the album were sung by the members of the IPTA, of West Bengal. A couple of songs were sung by Sayantoni Majumdar, the daughter of Probrir Majumdar and was a close disciple of Salil and all the harmony parts were sung by the students of Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata, said Gautam. To a question if he tried to strike a balance in using musical instruments while recording the songs for the album, because many of these songs were originally sung without accompanied musical instruments, Gautam said, "It is very true that these songs were originally performed by Salil and his comrades with very little music accompaniment. "But what I have been repeatedly told by his long-time IPTA colleagues is that the way Salil played his single-reed harmonium using all five fingers of his right hand, made it sound like an orchestra. His (Salil's) unique mastery of harmonium played in the western style lifted these songs to a different level," he added. He said Salil Choudhury had recorded some of his protest songs in the '80s with a large choir and modern arrangement. "We had to remain very careful while arranging these 12 songs in our album 'Chetonar Gaan'. Since, these songs were never recorded before, we had to make educated guess how Salil might have arranged these songs had he been around. Keeping his style in mind, we tried our best to arrange these songs," said Gautam.

THEATRE ART UNIT STAGES SHESHER KOBITA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Theatre Art Unit staged its latest production, an adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's much acclaimed literary work "Shesher Kobita", at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on March 21. Mohammad Bari is the director of the play adapted by Prashanta Haldar. The play depicts inter-relationship between two young individuals Amit Roy and Labonya Debi, who meet each other after a minor collision of their respective vehicles on a hilly road in Shillong. Amit and Labonya fall in love and the rest unravels slowly. There are other important characters in the story, such as Shobhona and Ketoki. The troupe brought the play onstage to pay tribute to Tagore on his 150th birth anniversary. However, the play is a deconstruction of the literary work, especially in the directorial approach. Bari has set the play in a contemporary surrounding. He asserts that he has tried to experiment with the story. He focused on the inter-relationship of the characters rather than the time period. Describing the adaptation of the Tagore classic as a "challenge", the director sees his work as a "fusion". Contemporary experimental arrangement of Tagore songs has been used in the play as background score. Some of the choreography in the play also takes inspiration from Western elements. Mahbul Selim has planned and directed the music. His work has been juxtaposed with western forms; for example a Scottish song and a re-arranged Tagore number. Prashanta Haldar and Fauzia Karim played the protagonists. The young performers did reasonably well. Among others, Saif Sumon, Anika Mahin, Jolly Ahmed and Mehmd Siddiqui played important roles. Shaheerun Rahman designed the set. He used elements that helped create a hilly ambience on stage. Moreover, with the help of Sudip Chakroborty's concepts on light, Rahman used the backdrop as an open sky -- where the full moon embraces the hills. "Shesher Kobita" is the 16th production by Theatre Art Unit. The play was premiered on December 24 last year.

Theatre activists exchange notes

Discussion on Charitroshristi Ebong Obhinoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
To encourage the book reading habit among the young, theatre-based magazine Theatrewala yesterday arranged a discussion on a book titled "Charitroshristi Ebong Obhinoy", written by Rahman Chowdhury. The discussants were veteran and young theatre activists who exchanged notes on the book at the Seminar Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Among the veterans were author Rahman Chowdhury along with theatre personalities Nasiruddin Yousuff, Mamunur Rashid and Afroza Banu. Divided into five chapters, the book covers the process of acting and creating a character, be it in the Western or Eastern milieu. Chowdhury says that the book is not written on theatre practices in Dhaka, rather it focuses on world theatre. Starting from the era of ancient theatre practices the book ranges up to the Bertolt Brecht era. The eastern trend of theatre practice, especially sub-continent theatre, has also been focused in the book. Glimpses of the history of theatre inevitably come forth in the book. The book was published last year from Jatoy Shahitya Prakash. Mamunur Rashid, who wrote the preface of the book, urged the author as well as other theatre elated individuals to devise ways of popularising the book among university students. Afroza Banu emphasised that learning the theory is key to becoming a good actor. She saw the book as a useful tool for aspiring actors. Among others, Mohammad Bari, Shah Alam Dulal, Ashraf Alam, Abdun Noor Tushar and Kazi Toufikul Islam Emon attended the discussion. Hasan Shahriar, editor of Theatrewala, conducted the discussion.



Theatre activists take part in the discussion. PHOTO: STAR

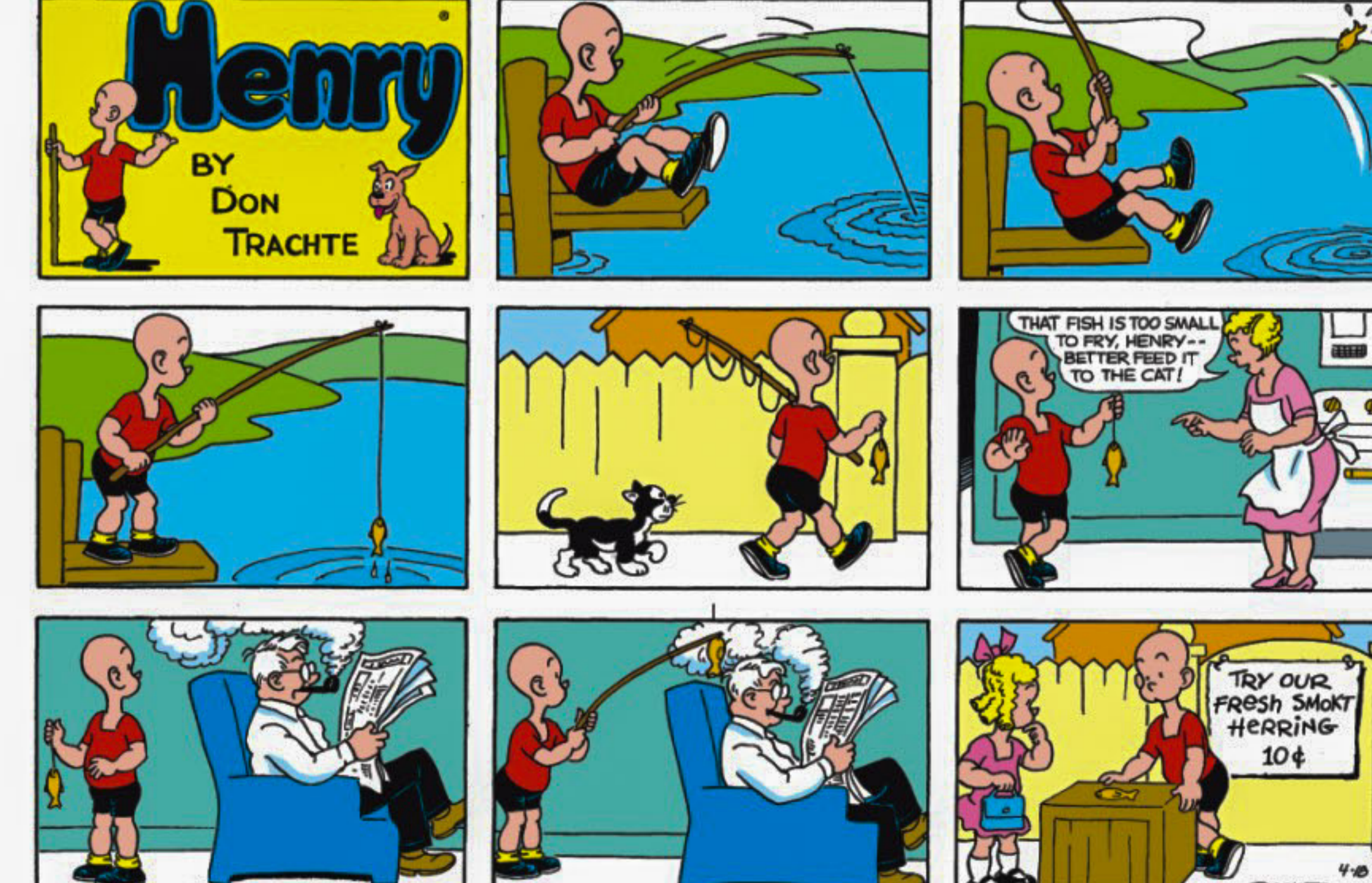
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Oswald the Lucky Rabbit is the wacky predecessor to Mickey Mouse.

Disney image displayed for first time in 40 years

AP, Los Angeles
One of Walt Disney's oldest drawings is seeing the light of day after being locked away for nearly 40 years. A rough 1928 image of Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, the wacky predecessor to Mickey Mouse, was brought out of the Walt Disney Co. archive this week and showcased at an event unveiling "Disney Epic Mickey 2: The Power of Two", an upcoming action-adventure game for the Wii, PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 that allows players to control both Mickey and Oswald. The mischievous Oswald was co-created by Disney before Mickey, but he was lost in a 1928 contract dispute with Universal Studios. Oswald hopped back to Disney in 2006 when CEO Bob Iger brokered a deal that sent sports-caster Al Michaels to Universal-NBC. Oswald's first appearance since his return came in 2010's "Epic Mickey" as the ruler of a forgotten realm. "We've always known about the character and loved him and wished that we could do things with him, but he wasn't a character that belonged to us," said Walt Disney Co. archive director Becky Cline. Cline noted that most of the drawings from Disney's early Oswald cartoons were destroyed, likely because there was a lack of storage when his studio moved to a new facility in Burbank, Calif., in 1939. She said the image of Oswald comes from a box of drawings that was found in the 1970s and has been preserved in the Disney archives for the past 40 years. The image, drawn on paper in graphite, comes from the 1928 animated short film "Sky Scrappers." It shows Oswald shielding himself from falling bricks with an umbrella. Warren Spector, the creative director at "Epic Mickey 2" developer Junction Point Studios in Austin, Texas, said he's aiming to include the image of Oswald somewhere within the sequel.



ATN BANGLA	07:45 Anura Dujan Dekhitey
11:10 Shobar Jonno	08:15 Pothey Jety Jety
01:25 Prapok	12:30 Total Sports
03:05 Bangla Feature Film	Diganta TV
09:20 Drama Serial: Chhayamari	12:30 Duranto Khabor
Kaynari	03:05 Music Hour
11:00 Drama Serial: Dokhbat	08:00 Drama Serial: Chhaya
Pakhira	08:40 Ghatok
CHANNEL i	08:40 Lime Light
12:05 Ebong Cinevar Gaan	11:10 Apun Khabor
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	Maaranga Television
06:20 Quiz Competition	06:30 Bangla Feature Film
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush	06:30 Khola Mon
11:30 Fun Club Tournament	09:02 Archinagar
ntv	11:00 Rajwadee Ballyary
08:45 Bangla Feature Film	12:00 Top of the Pop
03:10 Drama Serial: Romger	Z Studio
Manush	01:30 Ed Wood
Drama: Ebi Dairy O	04:15 Enemy of the State
Kichu Prokno	07:05 Panic Room
11:30 Viewers Hour	09:30 The Chat Room
12:30 Chobor Gaan	11:35 Crank
ETV	

abcr radio FM 89.2	02:00 Fourti Unlimited
06:00 Bhoore Janakaly	06:00 Bumper to Bumper
09:00 Mukhorho Jiboney	10:00 Back to Back Music
12:00 Darun Bapurey	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
02:00 Desanta Boley	06:00 Green HA
05:00 Shandhataras	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
07:00 Shajer Maya	11:00 World Music
09:00 Raat-er Akashey	04:00 U Turn
11:00 Golper Shesh Net	07:00 Rise and Shine
RADIO FORGRT	10:00 Raat Bur Gaan
08:00 Adhabao	12:00 Hurum Pecha

Bondhu Amar
on ntv
at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Apurba, Jenny

Crank
on ntv
at 11:35pm
Genre: Action/Crime
Cast: Jason Statham, Amy Smart

Amar Ami
on BANGLAVISION
at 09:45pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Kamina Biswajit, Samina Chowdhury

10:02 Dehghari	HBO
01:30 Bangla Feature Film	03:15 Cellular
06:30 Volo Gure Dot Com	05:20 Black Water
12:05 Eksheyer-er Raat	07:10 Master-in-Law
Boishakhi TV	09:30 The Bourne Identity
09:20 Meena Cartoon	12:00 Clash Of The Titans
10:30 Bangla Feature Film	Star World
05:30 Shadinatar Surjodyo	03:30 Missing
06:20 Manush Manusher Jonno	04:30 Supermatural
11:00 Nirapad Sarak Chai	08:30 Touch
BANGLAVISION	10:30 Panam
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	11:30 Dexter
06:25 Front Line	National Geographic Channel
09:45 Drama Serial: Gulshan Avenue	11:30 Secrets of Wild India
Lal Golap	02:30 Air Crash Investigation
Rtv	09:30 Prehistoric Park
10:10 Dhipodi Kahini	10:30 Anamalai
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	Discovery Channel
07:40 Thik Bolchen To	11:30 Rebuilding Japan
09:50 Drama Serial: Dhan Shaik-er Gaan	02:30 Man Vs. Wild
11:30 Jegey Achho Ki	08:30 Breaking Point
Desh TV	10:30 Dual Survival
03:00 Bangla Feature Film	11:30 Tattoo Hunter
06:30 Nupur Bejay Jai	BBC World

ATN BANGLA	08:30pm Rangla
08:00pm Poramaty Golpo	Boishakhi TV
08:40pm Choro Goli	09:00pm Itikulum
CHANNEL i	09:20pm Uthab
07:50pm No Mans Land	BANGLAVISION
10:00pm Koonya	08:15pm Harkipety
Ruprobati	Rtv
ntv	08:15pm Chorkaboo
08:15pm Bondhu Amar	09:00pm Odoopur
ETV	Maaranga Television

BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm, News (English) at 9am, 5pm.
CHANNEL i	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm.
ntv	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.
ETV	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
Boishakhi TV	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm, News (English) at 9am, 5pm, 6pm, 9pm.
BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
Rtv	News (Bangla) at 14:00m, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
Desh TV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
ETV	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	BANGLAVISION
CHANNEL i	09:55pm Amar Ami
09:45am Trisio Matra	Rtv
11:05am Amader Asyna	10:40am Tanoklap
12:30pm Taroka Kothon	Desh TV
ETV	09:45pm Bida Dheo
07:50pm Ottopor Ami	Shardala
10:10pm Golpo Shoppo Gaan	11:45pm Shoja Kotha
Boishakhi TV	Maaranga Television