

WHAT'S ON

Musical Soiree  
Artist: Faridus Ara  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: May 18, Time: 6:30pm

Film Screening  
Title: European Short Film  
Venue: Institute of Modern Language, University of Dhaka  
Date: May 13-17  
Time: 7pm

Solo Art Exhibition  
Artist: Debashis Pal  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sec-4, Uttara  
Date: May 4-15  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Classical Concert (Instrumental)  
Performer: Noto Quartet, Germany  
Venue: Berlin Hall, Goethe-Institut, H-10, Rd-9 (New), Dhamond  
Date: May 24, Time: 7:30pm

Group Art Exhibition  
Organiser: Shiko  
Venue: Radico Centre, 57, Gulshan Avenue  
Date: May 4-18  
Time: 10pm-9pm

Photography Exhibition  
Title: World Press Photo 12  
Venue: Dink Gallery, H-58, R-15A(New), Dhamond  
Date: April 26-May 18  
Time: 3pm-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition  
Artist: Intajia Shobag  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (Dhamond)  
Date: May 10-22  
Time: 2pm-9pm

Theatre  
Play: Sambar Mati Banglar Jal  
Troupe: Pakar  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 16

# CATCHING UP WITH DIPA KHONDOKAR

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Dipa Khondokar, with 13 years of experience behind her, grabbed public attention with her appearance in a commercial even before her debut in the TV play "Kaktaru". A product of a golden age of media newcomers, Dipa Khondokar has refined her resume with acting performances opposite many big stars on the scene.

The drama serial "Roopkotha", featuring Dipa, is now being aired by ntv. The actress talked to The Daily Star on her recent projects, along with many other subjects.

Which dramas are you doing at the moment?  
Dipa: I'm doing a daily soap called "Jononi", which will be aired soon. Shahadat Sujon is the director. Banglavision is airing "Gulshan Avenue"; ntv is telecasting the serials "Roopkotha" and "Priyo". I'm also working on a new mega serial called "Ma", as well as performing in a drama titled "Chup Adalat Cholekhe".

Are you also working on the remake of "Gronthikgo n Kohey"?  
Dipa: Yes. I forgot about

Who are your closest friends in the media?  
Dipa: Sharmin Shila, Tanvin Sweety, Mir Sabbir, Farzana Chumki, Bonnya Mirza, Shahriar Nazim Joy -- these are my long standing colleagues in the media and my close friends. Many of the new actors are also my good friends, like Moushumi Bishwas and Mou.

Many people now do plays without scripts. Have you had any such experience?  
Dipa: I've done couple of works like that. But I felt that it is not for me; I cannot adjust to such dramas. I get tired and it increases my mental pressure. That's why I choose not to do script-less dramas.



PHOTO: TUKIN HOSSAIN

# Mrinal Sen: The real on reel, without sugarcoating

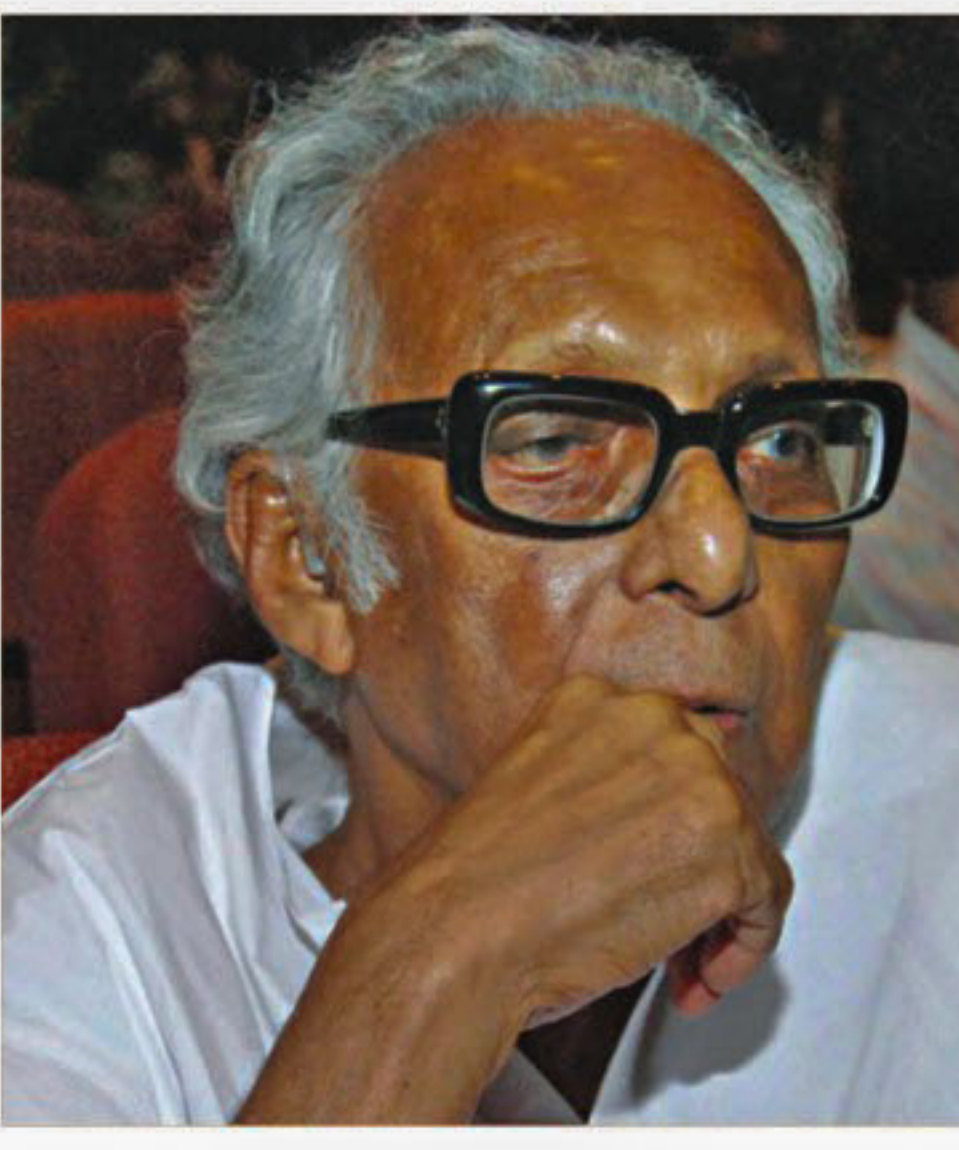
PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It was a balmy summer evening in mid-1970s when I first got to see director Mrinal Sen at a get-together in a club set up by my friends in my locality in a south Kolkata suburb. It was at the height of Naxalite movement and the subjects of discussion with "Mrinal-da", as he was popularly called then, were films and politics.

Sitting on a worn-out mat, sipping steaming tea from an earthen pot and smoking cigarettes almost one after another in the club house made of bamboos and cane, Sen engrossed us, who were all college students at that time, in more than an hour-long discussion. We did not agree with Sen on all issues but what struck me most was the total absence of any air in a director who was already an established name in Indian cinema and the ease with which he could mingle with a group of commoners.

I have not met Sen since then but felt it was a good opportunity to remember the man who turned 89 yesterday and said the furthest from his ever-able mind is retirement from film-direction. In fact, it's just the opposite -- his enthusiasm for filmmaking is strong as ever and said he might just come up with another new film.

His previous film "Amar Bhuban", starring Nandita Das, was released a decade ago but that does not deter him from going behind the camera again. "Everyday I feel like making a new film. Ideas pop up out of my head. Let's see when I can act on them," said Sen, one of the pioneers of parallel cinema in India, along with Satyajit Ray



and Ritwik Ghatak, who changed the profile of Indian films internationally.

"I haven't so far made any more films. But, to assure you, I do not think that I have retired," said the director born in 1923, in Faridpur (now Bangladesh).

Besides bagging four National Film Awards as the best director for works like "Khandhar" (1984) and "Bhuban Shome" (1969), Sen also received the Dadasahab Phalke Award, India's highest award in filmmaking, in 2005.

The director had recently got an invite from a leading private bank offering him money to make films. "Money is not a problem for me. The bank

ment was worth upwards of Rs 5 crore. I told them I can make six films with Rs 5 crore," Sen said.

Asked if he has planning any birthday bash, the Left-leaning director said he doesn't celebrate birthdays.

"Birth or death, it is not my business to celebrate. My friends and relatives and others who think of me are there to celebrate if they will. Not me," Sen said.

At the age of 89, what worries Sen is not his own health but the poor health of his film prints. "Most of them are in pretty bad condition. All due to unfriendly climate and, of course, due to unhealthy storage," the director said.

Under the monitoring of the National Film Archives of India in Pune, private labs in Mumbai are now working on digitalising and restoring two of his films -- "Antareen" (The Confined) and "Ek Din Pratidin" (And Quiet Rolls the Day) which is arguably his best creation.

In 2010 when his film "Khandahar" was invited to the Cannes Film festival, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had personally intervened to get the film print restored in time for the screening.

"I have now gathered that the central government had since then been going ahead with the restoration work for various other films including mine," the director said.

Having started his career as a director with "Raar Bhor" in 1951, he went on to make 28 feature films and four documentaries in languages varying from Bengali to Oriya, Hindi and Telugu.

It is but natural that Sen, a student of Kolkata's famous Scottish Church College and later

# Dr. Sanjida Khatun felicitated by Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre

A CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Sanjida Khatun, president of Chhayanat and eminent cultural personality, was felicitated by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India in Dhaka, on May 12, to celebrate her receiving "Deshkottam", the highest honour conferred by Visva Bharati University in Shantiniketan.

In his speech, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Shri Pankaj Saran lauded Dr. Khatun for her tremendous effort in keeping the legacy of Tagore alive, at times under the most difficult political circumstances. Chief guest, Professor Anisuzzaman, recalled Dr. Khatun and his student days and cited her research paper on poet Satyendranath Dutta calling it the best on the subject to date. In her speech Dr. Khatun thanked everyone and said she has been rewarded for her dedication and devotion towards Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. She also paid her respects to the late Waheedul Haque, calling him a "visionary", and said that she had only imple-



Sanjida Khatun speaks at the programme. PHOTO COURTESY: IGCC

# THEATRE

# Thirty-eight shows of Shunnon's Lal Jamin in a year



The play reveals a female freedom fighter's involvement in the Liberation War. PHOTO COURTESY: SHUNNON

The play unfolds in a rural setting, zooming in on an adolescent and her carefree days. As the war breaks out, her father joins the freedom fighters. The young girl wants to do the same but her mother objects. Then one day, she meets a young man, whom she calls "an illusionist".

The illusionist's spirit compels her to overcome all hurdles and join the pro-Liberation forces. But the girl, along with other freedom fighters, is captured by the Pakistani occupation forces. They engage her till the war is over.

After four decades of independence, she asks the nation whether the spirit and values of the war have been upheld.

Ramiz Raju and Julfikar Chanchal directed the music for the play. An added attraction is a flute recital by Bari Siddiqui.

# Disability is no barrier

## Foot Painter Bimol attends art workshop in Singapore

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Twenty-four-year old Bimol Marandi, a differently-abled painter of Mymensingh's Protibondhi Community Centre (PCC), attended a workshop in Singapore, arranged for "Mouth and Foot Artists" from various parts of the globe.

The six-day workshop ran from April 29 to May 5 this year. The workshop was organised by the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists Worldwide (AMFAW) at Marina Mandarin Hotel in Singapore.

About 70 artists from different Asian countries participated in the workshop.

PCC authorities played a major role in introducing the talented Bimol to the association and sent some of his paintings to AMFAW. Later, Bimol was invited to attend the workshop in Singapore.

Bimol lost the use of both his hands about 17 years ago after he was electrocuted. At the time, he lived at his village Paruile, under Dinajpur district.

In 2002, Bimol happened to meet Brother Frank of Mymensingh Taize Community at Cosba Mission in Dinajpur when he attended a congregation for people with disabilities.

Bimol shared his life story with Brother Frank who invited him to live at the Brothers' residence in Mymensingh. Bimol began to learn painting at the PCC under the guidance of Tofazzol Ahmed, an art teacher of PCC who inspired Bimol to use his right foot for drawing.

Bimol soon demonstrated his enormous talent. Now he is a paid-artist of PCC.

Bimol has participated in several local and national level art competitions for disabled children. He won a gold medal at the National Art Competition in 2007.

Greeting cards and paintings by Bimol are now sold both within and outside the country. He manages to make a sizeable profit for PCC and is economically self-sufficient.

Talking to reporters at the PCC hall room on May 13, Bimol said the workshop, where he established contact with other differently-abled international artists, was a very exciting experience. "I learnt many new painting techniques and use of colours," said an upbeat Bimol who pointed out that this learning experience would ensure him a bright future. Bimol also said that he donated 24 paintings and handmade greeting cards to the association that will be exhibited in many countries.

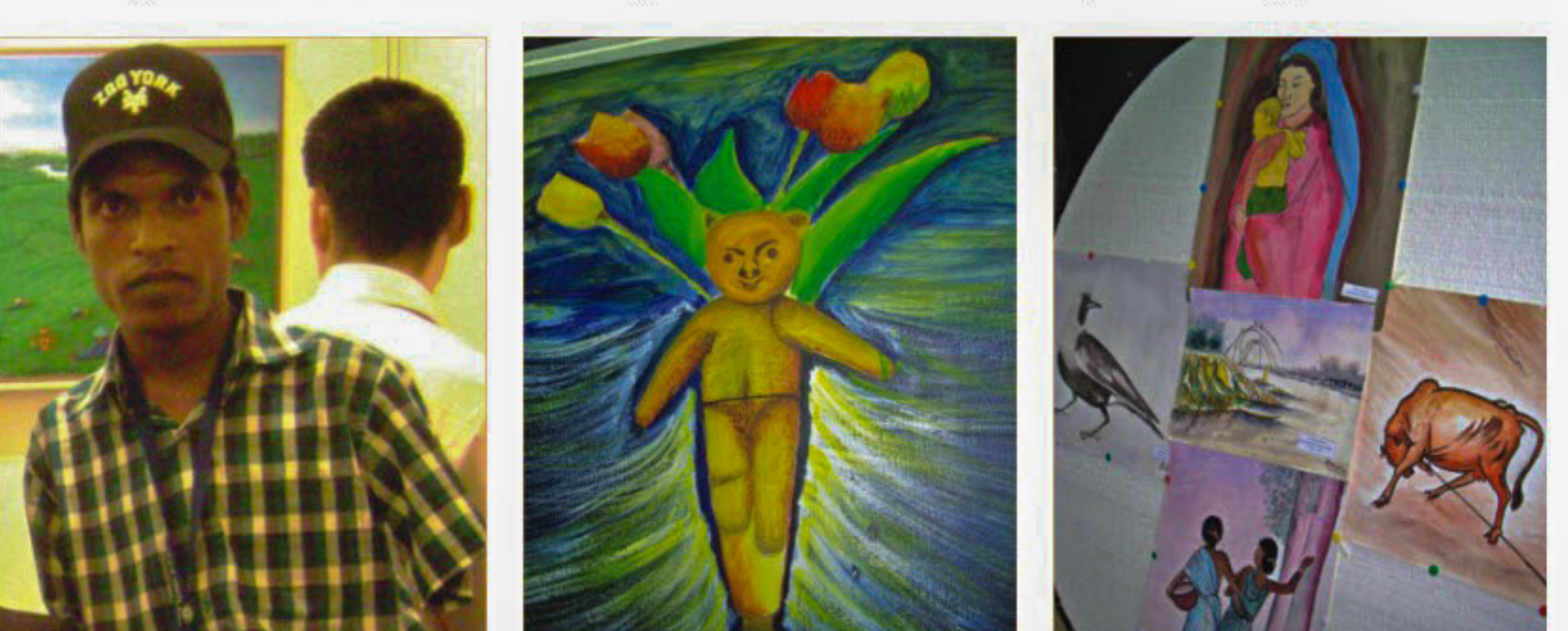
Bimol believes that things could be better for the disabled in his country. "I observed in Singapore that 'wheelchair persons' are honoured and they are assisted by different quarters when they are out of their homes and I would like to see the same in my own country."

Bimol's talent has been well recognised. Brother Jean-Jacques of Taize Community in Mymensingh said, "We are proud of Bimol and he will be further instructed by a good art teacher so that he can develop his skills."

Mirza Noor-e-Elahi, present guide for Bimol in painting at PCC said that he is thrilled that Bimol was invited by AMFAW to represent the disabled artists of the country in Singapore.

Tofazzol Ahmed, a primary art teacher, said that Bimol also teaches art to disabled children at PCC free of cost.

Bimol leads a fulfilling life with his wife Jotsna Soren and their one-year-old son Joy Marandi.



Artworks by Bimol Marandi (left). PHOTO: STAR



# Kevin Spacey debuts South African short film

AP, JOHANNESBURG

U.S. actor and director Kevin Spacey said he sees opportunity for expanding film making in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Spacey spoke about his international outlook during a brief visit to South Africa Saturday for the premiere of a local short film he helped produce and in which he stars.

With backing from a whiskey company, Spacey ran a contest to find talent from the United States, Russia and South Africa.

A script from each country was chosen, and Spacey starred in and helped produce the three films, including South African Alan Shelley's "A Spirit of a Denture," which was given a red-carpet premiere in Johannesburg.

The 26-year-old Cape Town writer-

# Celebration at Shelaidaha Kuthibari

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A five-day programme marking the 151st birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore ended on Saturday at Shelaidaha Kuthibari in Kushtia.

The programme included a discussion, cultural programme, fair and staging of Tagore plays. Sultana Tarun, lawmaker of Kushtia-4, inaugurated the programme as chief guest.

With Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kushtia, Banamali Bhoumik, in the chair, the discussion was addressed among others by State Minister for Housing and Public Works, Advocate Abdul Mannan; eminent folk researcher Professor Dr. Abul Ahsan Choudhury; M. Moniruzzaman and journalist Waliul Bari Choudhury.

Md. Moniruzzaman, Upazila Nirbari Officer (UNO) of Kumarkhali, gave the welcome address.

Thousands of people from across the country gathered at Kuthibari to commemorate the great bard.

Tagore stayed for over a decade at intervals, between 1891 and 1901, at Shilaidaha Kuthibari.

Sitting at his desk in the Kuthibadi or on a boat on the Padma, Rabindranath wrote a number of masterpieces: "Shonar Tari", "Chitra", "Chaitali", "Katha O Kahini", "Ksanika", most of the poems of "Naibedya" and "Kheya", and the songs of "Gitanjali" and "Gittimalya".

Shilaidaha Kuthibari is now a protected national site where the Tagore Memorial Museum has been established by the government.

The Department of Archaeology oversees the mansion.

# Beetle Baily



# Henry



11:20	Business and Finance	12:35	Bangla Feature Film
12:15	VISION 2020	05:00	Cinema R Gaan
05:15	Obram Bangladesh	08:15	Drama Serial: College Road
08:00	Drama Serial: Palabar Poth Nei	09:50	Look at Me
11:30	Drama Serial: Cafeteria	12:05	Business Talk
01:05	Ebong Cinemar Gaan	Desh TV	
04:20	Amar Chhobi	03:00	Gaan R Gaan
06:20	Robin Hood	05:00	Durpath
07:50	Shea Nachye	06:00	123 Sissimur
11:30	Banglar Pothey	06:30	Obak Pruthi
		10:30	World Music
		10:02	Bangla Feature Film
		05:30	Amazing Animal
		06:30	Rinodan Sharadi
		07:30	Amarer Pruthi
		11:00	Mudhysrater Train
		09:02	Bangla Feature Film

RADIO

06:00	Bhorer Janajay	10:00	Morning Express
07:00	Muktohan Jibonyo	12:00	No Tension
12:00	Darun Dupure	04:00	Dhaka Calling
03:00	Dewaner Bastey	09:00	Radio Today
05:00	Shudhu Tara	06:00	Green FM
07:00	Shari-e-Maya	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
09:00	Raai-e-Akash	12:00	Rudoyi Adda
11:00	Gajper Sherak Nei	04:00	U-Turn
07:30	Helo Dhaka	07:00	Tobey Ya Hok

Shera Nachye on CHANNEL 9 at 07:50pm  
Street Show  
Guest: Mejba Rahman

NEVERLAND  
On Fox Movies at 11:40pm  
Genre: Adventure/Fantasy  
Cast: Rhyf Ifans, Anna Friel

Raat Biratey on BANGLAVISION at 11:55pm  
Street Show  
Guest: Mejba Rahman

11:30	Drama Serial: Terminal	06:00	Film
		07:00	Classic Cartoon
		10:02	Tahader Kotha
		10:30	Dhulo Khela
		10:30	Drama Serial: Apon Apon Khela
		10:40	Mars Needs Mems
		01:40	Trust
		03:25	Blue Valentine
		05:15	Ramona and Beezus
		07:00	I Am Number Four
		08:50	HomeLand
		09:50	Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son
		11:40	Neverland
		(Part 1 of 2)	
		02:30	Supernatural
		03:30	Desperate Housewives
		05:30	Dexter
		07:30	Coffee with Karan
		10:30	Person of Interest
		12:00	Raising Hope
		Discovery Channel	

DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA	08:40pm	Ognipath	
BANGLAVISION			
09:20pm	Rupantarar Manush	08:15pm	Bokulpurer Jani
09:35pm	Poush Phaguner Pala		
CHANNEL 9			
09:55pm	Longlakoando	09:55pm	Boya Paribar
ntv		11:30pm	Urul Pangkhi
08:15pm	Berhal		
09:45pm	Ochona Prothomha	08:15pm	Radio Chocolate
Boishakhi TV			

NEWS BULLETIN

BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm	Boishakhi TV	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm
NEWS (English) at 10am, 6pm, 10pm		NEWS (English) at 9am, 6pm	
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7-30pm, 10-30pm
NEWS (English) at 9am, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm		NEWS (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm	
CHANNEL 9	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm	Rtv	News (Bangla) at 14:50m, 6:45pm, 10:45pm
ntv	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm	Desh TV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
09:45pm	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm	Massaranga Television	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 11pm

TALK SHOW

ATN BANGLA	Lead News	Dairy		
07:30am	Lead News	Zero Hour		
09:55am	Tanis Mitra	BANGLAVISION	10:10am	Front Line
12:30pm	Tanika Kothon	Rtv	10:40am	Tarikagap
ntv	12:00am	Ei Showoy	07:40pm	Our Democracy
Boishakhi TV	11:00pm	Reporters	11:45pm	Shoja Kotha