

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
Play: Kingfish
Troupe: Loko Natyghal
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 21

Photography Exhibition
Title: Motherhood is Unique Lets Make it Safe
Photographer: Naymuzzaman Prince
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: May 02-23

Film Screening
Title: Emmaus Group
Venue: Berlin Hall, Goethe-Institut, H-10, Rd-9 (New), Dhanmondi

Classical Concert (Instrumental)
Performers: Notoa Quilich, Germany
Venue: Berlin Hall, Goethe-Institut, H-10, Rd-9 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: May 24, Time: 7:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Tumi Achio Ontony
Artist: Rozzan Nahi
Venue: Shilpanang Gallery, H-7, R-13 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-30

Theatre
Play: Chitrangada
Troupe: Swapnada
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Inshaj Shohag
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: May 10-22
Time: 2pm-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Minimal Kanti Das
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-26
Time: 3pm-9pm

MAKING LIGHT OF SHAKESPEARE

"Hamlet- the Clown Prince"

RAISAA TASHNOVA

Plays, especially comedies, are not a regular feature of the Dhaka entertainment scenario and that is why the staging of "Hamlet: the Clown Prince" was eagerly awaited by theatre lovers in Dhaka. The additional fact that this production has been popular on an international scale, completing 126 shows till date, added to its promise of being fun and good entertainment. Finally a cast of renowned Bollywood based actors only added to its attraction.

An expectant audience filled the Utshab-Banquet Hall of the Radisson Blu last Friday to witness Shakespeare from a different perspective, a perspective that promised to be far removed from the lengthy and tedious features one commonly assigns to Shakespearean plays. The play promised to be 100 minutes of fast paced comedy.

A six- member cast of clowns forms a company and relates what happens when the company strives to put together a production of "Hamlet". In the play they do not intend this production of "Hamlet" to be funny at all; that happens due to their clownishness and their apparent inability to stick to the serious,

Shakespearean characters of Hamlet. Atul Kumar, who plays Soso the clown and Hamlet in their production arrives late and is outraged that the show started without him. He is asked by the master of the company, played by Sujay Saple to apologise to the audience and he does so begrudgingly, complaining how he was sent back to India because of the Dhaka strikes and how an ambulance was used to commute him to the venue. This is just one example of how the play accommodated and made light fun of Dhaka and its lifestyle, widely appreciated by the audience present.

Neil Bhoopalam, who plays Fido the clown and Claudius in the Hamlet production was by far the favourite among the audience. At the very beginning of the show he won the hearts in the hall by turning to his clown co-stars and asking in a joker's heavy voice "Why so serious?". Throughout the play he kept the audience entertained by taking every opportunity to break into a dance with hilarious affects on the "Hamlet" production.

The second most popular cast personality was Puja Sarup, playing Buzo the clown who gets steadily more and more drunk as

the play commences in order to get over her breakup with Soso. The drunk Buzo playing Gertrude in the Hamlet production obviously messes up many scenes being unable to distinguish between when Soso is Hamlet and when he is Soso himself.

Sadly, the cast member the audience expected the most out of was perhaps the most mundane. Kalki Koechlin, known for her debut as Chandramukhi in the Bollywood movie "Dev D" failed to leave a mark in her role as Ophelia. Namit Das playing Polonius also went almost unnoticed.

Delivered in a mixture of Italian, French, English and gibberish (used profusely to shorten the long speeches of Shakespeare) the play stayed energetic till the very end. The few solid, serious, Shakespearean Hamlet scenes within the play also managed to convey the brilliance of the cast in their acting potential. However, 100 minutes was perhaps a bit too long to maintain the humour. Towards the end of the show many in the audience were seen frequently gawking at their wristwatches and the hall which was bursting with laughter an hour previously had grown silent.

When the audience thinks back to this experience of "Hamlet: the Clown Prince" they probably will not remember the length of the show but will definitely enjoy their own private moments of laughter as they remember how Polonius was gagged in mid-sentence with real duct tape, how

Ophelia plucked real flower from thin air and threw them to the audience and how one audience member was even thrown the garter of a drunk Buzo by herself because she thought he looked like her husband! In that respect director Rajat Kapoor can sign4 this visit to Dhaka as another success in the long list of successes for this play.

The play was presented by Airtel and produced by Rajat Kapoor. The show was organised by Excalibur Entertainment in association with Jatrik and Culturepot.



PHOTO COURTESY: ARIEF HAFIZ

Cricket among the stars

Four-nation tournament on the cards



Nobel
SHAH ALAM SHAUZI

Instead of going head-to-head on the screen, stars from four subcontinental countries are set to compete against each other on the cricket field, in an upcoming match in Sri Lanka this October. A recent press conference revealed that popular figures from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will participate in the exhibition matches.

A team of 42 celebrities from television, silver screen and music has already been formed under the title Vasabi Celebrity



Amin Khan
Cricket Club. Popular model Nobel will captain the side.

Apart from the skipper, other stars who will be featured include Shakib Khan, Riaz, Ferdous, Mahi B Chowdhury, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Nirob, Amin Khan, Emon, Monir Khan Shimal, Oparubo, Nisho, Hillol, Arfin Rumi, Shuvro Deb, Arman Parvez, Asif Akbar, Tahsan, Debashish Bishwash, Abid Rehan, SD Rubel, Giasuddin Selim, Anisur Rahman Milon and more.

The stars are now busy practicing two days a week at the Abahani field or the Gulshan Youth Club grounds. Former National team



Anisur Rahman Milon
coach Osman Khan is mentoring the stars.

At a press conference, captain Nobel said the preparations are on full throttle as the star-studded team will be representing the country in the four-nation tournament.

Actor Anisur Rahman Milon asserted that despite his busy schedule, he has made time to practice. A win for the all-star side will mean a win for Bangladesh, he added.

Popular singer Asif Akbar, on the other hand, said that although he had dreams of becoming a singer, he never thought of getting the chance to represent the country as a



Shakib Khan
cricketer. Nevertheless, added Akbar, he was preparing for the match.

Singer Arfin Rumi, a regular cricket player at one point, said he is enjoying the practice sessions immensely.

Model Nirob meanwhile informed that 30 out of the team of 42 are practicing on a regular basis. An exhibition match will be held in Dhaka next month, where the Bangladesh side will face India's Mumbai Heroes led by Bollywood star Salman Khan.

The inter-nation matches will be held in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates.

Motherhood

Solo photo exhibit by Naymuzzaman Prince at Dhaka Art Centre

JAMIL MAHMUD

"After a photo shoot at the village Gabura under Shatkhiira district, I was returning to the place where I was temporarily living. On my way, I suddenly came across some people burying a corpse. When I asked them, they informed me that it was a woman who had died while giving birth. I found my subject although my empathy surpassed my professional obligations for a while," says documentary photographer Naymuzzaman Prince pointing to one of his photographs taken at Gabura, a remote village in the Southern part of the country.

A solo photography exhibition featuring the works of Prince has been going on at Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi. Titled "Motherhood is Unique Lets Make it Safe", the exhibition opened on May 2.

The exhibition is part of UNFPA's safe motherhood activities. It mainly features photos depicting mothers during pregnancy and birth related complications. Family planning, child marriages and maternal mortality and morbidity are key subjects of the photos. Some photos also focus on the livelihood and other social surroundings, largely because of which mothers face birth related complications.

Prince's photos particularly focus on poor and rural women who face such difficulties during pregnancy and

after giving birth. For his works, Prince went to several districts of the southern and northern regions of the country. There he saw the dismal situation of maternity services at Health Complexes and at home. "Many feel shy to go to the local Health Complexes as privacy is not a standard practice here," says Prince.

Some of the photos show mothers at Health Complex in dire situations. Everyday, approximately 35,000 women worldwide will experience birth complications and 900 are likely to die. Bangladesh has achieved a remarkable 40 per cent reduction

in the maternal mortality ratio over the past 10 years, according to information provided in the exhibition catalogue. This reduction is more possible if proper and timely care is available.

The exhibition is open everyday from 3 to 8 pm till May 23. As part of the gallery exhibition, a mobile exhibition is also going on around the city.

Naymuzzaman Prince is a member of Agency Bildenberg-Germnay. His main areas of interest are socio-cultural aspects, such as women and women rights, culture and identity.

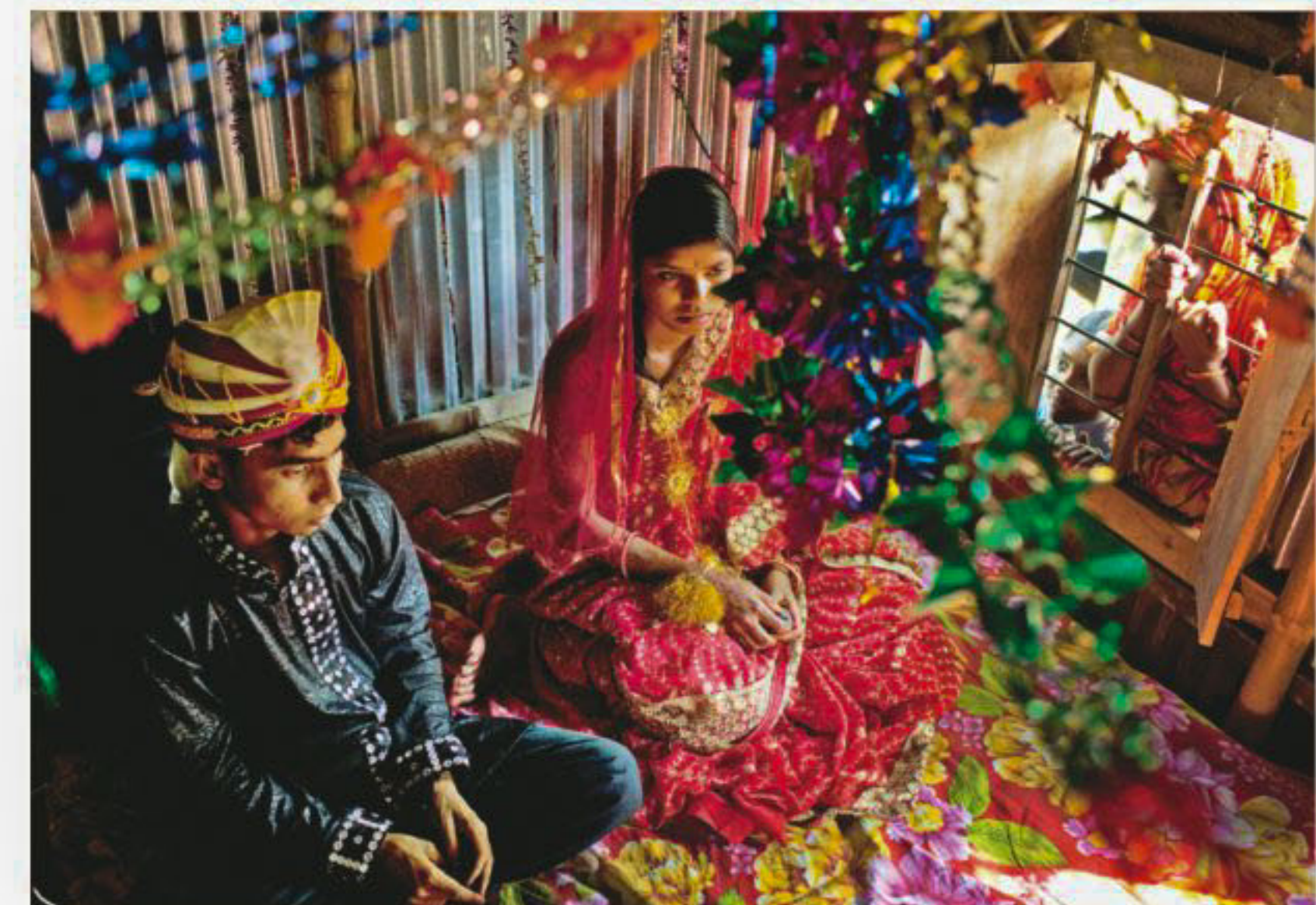


PHOTO: MUMUKTA K.

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Vidya Balan looks beyond The Dirty Picture



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

After winning the National Award for Best Actress for her raunchy role in "The Dirty Picture", Vidya Balan is now keen on working with two superstars—Prosenjit Chatterjee in a Bengali film and with Bollywood 'badshah' Shahrukh Khan whom she considers as the "ultimate romantic hero".

"We wanted to work together for quite some time. Every year, there are talks about us doing a Bengali film but we are not able to work it out," Vidya told reporters in Mumbai on Wednesday.

Apparently, Sujoy Ghosh, the director of Hindi film "Kahani" featuring Vidya in a lead role, is working on a script which is most likely to feature Vidya and Prosenjit in the lead.

"Sujoy is working on something. He will write a film with both of us. We are waiting for a good script," she said.

Meanwhile, Vidya's other film, "The Dirty Picture", is being made in Bengali with item girl Rakhi Sawant. "She is a mast girl...I have seen her work. I would love to see her in the role," Vidya said.

Vidya said she is in awe of Raj, the character played by Shahrukh Khan in "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" and wants to do a romantic film with the actor.

"I think every woman wants a Raj and that is why I have always wanted to work with Shahrukh Khan. Whenever we work together I would like it (film) to be a relationship story. He is the ultimate romantic hero," she said.

"When one thinks of romance, the foremost names that come to my mind are Rajesh Khanna and Shahrukh Khan," according to Vidya.

Vidya has never worked with any of the three Khans of Bollywood and said she would like to work with all of them.

"I think all three Khans -- Shahrukh, Aamir, Salman -- have their own individual styles. I would like to work with all of them.

"I would love to pair with Abhishek Bachchan. Also, I would like to work with Hrithik Roshan because I haven't worked with him before. I am very much greedy. I want to work with all good actors and directors," she said.

THEATRE

Prakrito Purangana: All about women's woes

JAMIL MAHMUD

Not only such misjudgement on women by the so-called male dominated society, rather oppression, abuse and discrimination all come forth as the core aspects of Dosh Natok's play "Prakrito Purangana". The play was staged on May 18 at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Written by Khandakar Hafiz

Redu, the play has been directed by Shamsul Alam Bakul. Rupai, the protagonist of the play, is unmarried though social mores dictate that she should have been married years ago. One day a Baul comes to her neighbourhood. Rupai learns about the spiritual theory of creation and Adam and Eve, the first man and woman to come to the world. That story makes her yearn for her better half. She begins to believe that one day she will meet him.

That's the beginning of her tragic life. She falls for a spiritual leader's son but ironically the leader himself wants to marry her. This feminist approach of mistreating a woman carries on symbolically throughout the play, as it gradually unfolds that the story of Rupai is the same in all societies. Throughout the play the director tries to establish the point that though society is changing continuously, the common mindset on women remains unchanged. Tithi Zaman, Rafi and Jolly Chowdhury play the role of Rupai in different segments. Firoz Alam as a spiritual leader, priest and Hindu temple is impressive. Among others, Mamun Chowdhury, Susmita Saha and Anisur Rahman play other roles.

Nasirul Haque Khokon did the light, while Ali Ahmed Mukul was the set designer. Ayan Chowdhury and Ashim Kumar Nattyo composed the music for the play. "Prakrito Purangana" is Dosh Natok's 18th production.



A feminist approach of mistreating a woman carries on symbolically throughout the play. PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

Depicting six seasons through Tagorean dance

Open-air dance at Gulshan



Twelve noted dance troupes and schools put up an impressive performance at the programme. PHOTO: MUMUKTA K.

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Though the world enthusiastically celebrated the great bard Tagore's yearlong 150th birth anniversary, yet Bangladeshi dancers are still continuing their celebration programme commemorating the occasion.

Dance and drama subcommittee of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh is organising five open-air Tagorean dance programmes at five different venues of Dhaka city. It was the first of its kind held at Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park, Gulshan-2 on May 18. Artists performed dance pieces with Writu Parjaya (seasonal songs) songs of Tagore at the programme.

Depicting six seasons of Bangladesh artists of twelve noted dance troupes and schools -- Dibya Shangskritik Sangathan, Rewaz Performers' School, Pallabi Dance Centre, Spondon, Bulbul Academy, Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts, Angikam, Ghash Phul Nadi, Nandanik, Benuka Lalitkala Academy, Sukanya Nriyangan and Jhankar Lalitkala Academy danced to twelve Tagore numbers including "Darun Ogni Banerey", "Pagla Hawar Badol Diney", "Amol Dhobol", "Hemontey Kon Boshonter-i Gaan",

"Shiter Hawar Laglo Nachon", "Eki Labonye Purna Pran" and more at the event. Jhunjun, Panna and Raka of Dibya Shangskritik Sangathan put up an impressive performance while Shoma, Ridita, Roopkalpa, Oroni and Ongshu of Rewaz Performers' School stood out in their presentations based on autumnal compositions of the bard. Deepa Khandakar, Mummun Ahmed, Minu Haque, Anik Bose, Shahidul Islam Babu, Farhana Chowdhury Baby, Tabassum Ahmed, Noor-e-Alam Chandan, Nilufar Wahid Pappi, Golam Mostafa Khan, Sultana Haidar and Tabassum Ahmed choreographed the pieces. Noted personalities, including dancers, presented bouquets, uttaro, books and crests to the featured choreographers and dancers at the event.

Prior to the performance, convenor of the open-air dance programme Laila Hasan spoke at the programme while Deepa Khandakar read the event.

Set on Tagore compositions, four other open-air dance programmes will be held at Rajuk Open Premises (adjacent to Sonargaon Waterways); behind DUS (Dhaka University Snacks) of TSC, Dhaka University; Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi and Russell Park of Mirpur-1 on May 26, June 1, 8 and 15 respectively.

ATN BANGLA	07:45	Drama Serial: Mayer Daa
11:20	Business and Finance	Tribute to the Legend
05:35	Shurer Madhuri	Total Sports
08:00	Dhaka Dhol	Diganta TV
08:00	Drama Serial: Palabar	Prityo Shilpi Prityo Gaan
09:40	Push hai	Drama Serial: Rangra Maa
11:15	Drama Serial: Chhayamari	Gaater Jolha
12:05	Kayamari	News of the day
CHANNEL i	10:01	Maasranga Television
01:05	Ebhong Cinemar Gaan	Bangla Feature Film
02:40	Gony Gonyer Gaaner	06:30 Binodin Sharadin
03:00	Utshab	08:30 Drama Serial: Khonkhaty
06:00	Chhayajhankar	09:02 Tele-quiz
09:35	Drama Serial: Longkakarta	11:00 World Music
11:30	Prakti O Jibon	CHANNEL 9
08:45	Bangla Feature Film	09:15 Bangla Feature Film
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	06:00 Classic Cartoon
06:15	Shubho Shondhya	07:00 Rong Bhuboner Nao
		10:20 Dhulo Khela
		11:15 Hits & Bits
		Fox Movies

abc RADIO FM 89.2	07:30	Hello Dhaka
09:00	Mukhuto Jibonyo	Morning Express
12:00	Darun Dupuryo	No Tension
02:05	The Daily Star Jibonyo	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00	Joygan	09:00 Full Volume
03:00	Darun Dupuryo	11:00 Back to Back music
05:00	Shondha Tara	RADIO TODAY
07:00	Shaj er Maya	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
09:00	Raaj er Mashey	12:00 Radioy Adhik
11:00	Gopur Shek Net	04:00 U Tam
RADIO FOURTI	07:00	Tobey Tai Hok

Noorjahan
On CHANNEL 1 at 07:50pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Shohel Khan, Nazreen Hasan, Chumki

The Expendables
On Fox Movies at 08:35pm
Genre: Action/Adventure
Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham

Oloshpur
On Rtv at 09:45pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Faqur Rahman, Babu, Alvi

09:00	Drama	02:15	Neverland (Part 1 of 2)
11:30	Music Jam	04:45	Neverland (Part 2 of 2)
ETV	07:00	06:15	Once Upon A Time
06:30	Desh Jarry Oparadh	07:00	The Mechanic
	Porikoma	08:35	The Expendables
07:50	Gaaner Oparay	11:20	Tangled
08:20	Drama Serial: Ohangkar	HBO	
12:05	Ekushey er Raat		Around the World in 80 Days
02:00	Sunday Live		Rush Hour
07:50	Gaaner Oparay	02:25	Step Up
08:20	Drama Serial: Ohangkar	04:35	The Twilight Saga: Twilight
12:05	Ekushey er Raat	09:30	Henry 2
07:50	Gaaner Oparay	11:50	Sanctum
08:20	Drama Serial: Ohangkar	12:25	Star World
12:05	Ekushey er Raat	01:30	The Big Bang Theory
02:00	Sunday Live	06:30	Jr Master Chef
07:50	Gaaner Oparay	08:30	Revenge
08:20	Drama Serial: Ohangkar	10:30	Desperate Housewives
12:05	Ekushey er Raat	11:30	Supernatural
07:50	Gaaner Oparay		National Geographic Channel
08:20	Drama Serial: Ohangkar	02:30	Main Hunt
12:05	Ekushey er Raat	03:30	Built for the Kill
07:50	Gaaner Oparay	07:30	Return to the Python Cave
08:20	Drama Serial: Ohangkar	09:30	Best of Missions

ATN BANGLA	09:20pm	Utshab	
08:40pm	Chora Goli	BANGLAVISION	
CHANNEL i	09:50pm	Long March	
07:50pm	Noorjahan	Rtv	
08:15pm	Bondhu Amar	09:50pm	Oloshpur
ETV	08:15pm	Sat Kahon	
09:30pm	Tattu Ghora	Maasranga Television	
Boishakhi TV	08:00pm	Sat Sawdagor	

BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.	Bolshakhi TV	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.
CHANNEL i	News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 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.
CHANNEL i	News (English) at 9am, 6pm.		News (English) at 11pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
CHANNEL i	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10-30pm.	Rtv	News (Bangla) at 14:50pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
nTV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10-30pm.	Desh TV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
ETV	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	ETV	Maasranga Television
			News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.

ATN BANGLA	12:30am	Lead News	Boishakhi TV	12:00am	Zero Hour
CHANNEL i	09:45am	Trilo Matra	Rtv	10:40am	Tanokap
12:30pm	Tanika Kothan	07:40pm	Our Democracy		
nTV	12:00am	Ei Shomoy	11:45pm	Shoja Kotha	
ETV	10:10pm	Media Gossip	12:02am	Shampirok	

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