

WHAT'S ON

Liberation War National Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 1-20

Group Art exhibition
Title: "The Voice of Time-2"
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture, H-2, B-1/A, Gulshan-1
Date: July 7-20
Time: 3pm-8pm

Celebrating Life Photo Exhibition
Venue: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Campus B, H-84, R-7/A, Dharmadipi
Date: June 27-July 5

Film Screening
Title: Endless Journey, Faith & Rhythm of Bangladesh
Filmmaker: Khalid Mahmood Mithu
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, B-24, Gulshan 1
Date: July 7

Discussion & Film Festival
Organiser: Le Putas del Cinema
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre
Date: July 5
Time: 2:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Color of Time
Venue: Radius Art Gallery, Bay's Galleria, 57 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 1
Date: June 29-July 21

Solo Print Exhibition
Title: Living with the Expressions
Artist: Bahal Karim Rumez
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dharmadipi
Date: June 30-July 10
Time: 12pm-8pm

Film Screening
Title: The Japanese Wife
Filmmaker: Tamekazu Makamell
Venue: Shaikat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh
Date: July 6, at 6:30pm



"Court Martial" depicts how a Birangana's son is oppressed and finally treated as a murderer.

JAMIL MAHMUD
As the Theatre Festival on the Liberation War reaches its fourth day today, diverse issues regarding the glorious events from our history were articulated on the second day (July 3) through the staging of nine plays. Popular troupe Theatre Art Unit staged "Court Martial" which has a universal approach on the War, while Aikik Theatre from Narayanganj staged "Thikana", a play dealing

NATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL ON LIBERATION WAR
Flashbacks in time

with a guerrilla attack by Freedom Fighters and others captured by the Pakistani army. Govt Azizul Haque College, Bogra staged "Babur Pukurey Ganohotya", a testament to brutality unleashed by the Pakistani Army. Govt. Nazimuddin College's (from Madaripur) "Ekta Chawa" was a play that deals with a rural musician's existential crisis during the War. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in association with Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation has been organising the fortnight-long festival that features over 100 plays. It is amazing to see that after so many years, "Court Martial" still draws a full house. At the play staged at the National Theatre Hall, the audience were glued to their seats till the end and observed how a Birangana's son was oppressed and finally treated as a murderer under martial law. Adapted from an Indian literary work, the play was initially directed by SM Solaiman. At present, Mohammad Bari is overseeing the directorial aspect. While "Court Martial" has a universal appeal of the War, Aikik Theatre's "Thikana" is more of an intriguing story during the war. It narrates a guerrilla squad's pre-operation plan. An address which is given to an elderly woman is essential for the plan. But she is captured along with some other people. The play, staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall, is written by Utpal Dutta and directed by Ashit Kumar. "Ekta Chawa" is a research-based collage work written by Azizul Islam Swapan and compiled by AJM Kamal. Both "Ekta Chawa" and "Babur Pukurey Ganohotya" were staged at the Studio Theatre Hall. The other plays were staged by Shingair Degree College, Manikganj; Sherpur Government College; Brojomohan University College, Barisal; Amanullah College, Pirojpur and Rajbari Govt College. They respectively staged "Balika O Ekti Swarnapasham", "Sector 11: Baghro Akraman", "Mukhosher Antarealy", "Banaphuley Bishlata" and "Mukhomukhi". While on stage performances upheld different issues, the display of installation art works added colour to that theme. The organisers placed several installations at different corners of the venues. Mostly articulation of the empathic moments from the War and the aftermath of the War, the art works create a meaningful ambience with the use of lights in the evening. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has been organising the festival as part of its year long celebration on the 40th anniversary of independence. Today, on the fourth day, 13 plays will be staged at four venues.



"Babur Pukurey Ganohotya" is a testament to brutality unleashed by the Pakistani Army.

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Freedom Struggle in the light of art
"Swat" charms Chittagong audience

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong
"Swat", a play based on the Liberation War, penned by the noted theatre personality Mamunur Rashid, enthralled the audience of the port city. The play, a production of Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) under the programme titled "Forty years of independence and Liberation War in the light of art" of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, was staged at TIC auditorium on Monday. This was the first staging of the play supported by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC). Earlier, CCC Mayor Mohammad Manjur Alam inaugurated the programme as the chief guest. A short discussion was held prior to the staging of the play.

Moderated by Ahmed Iqbal Haider, Director of TIC, the discussion was addressed by Anwara Begum, chief executive officer of CCC, Md Samsuzzoha, secretary of CCC, and Councillors, Jawhar Lal Hazari and Rehana Begum Ranu, among others. In his speech Alam said that the victory of the Liberation War was not achieved in a day; there are many untold sacrifices, heart breaking stories of the war heroes behind the landmark victory which should come to light. TIC Director Ahmed Iqbal Haider said, there is no hero in the play; the ship "Swat" itself and its brave captain and crew are the real heroes. "Through this production, we will try to uphold the diverse culture of the port city and its vital role in the Liberation War before the audience at home

and overseas," asserted Haider. Directed by Haider, "Swat" was staged later. Through their lively performances the actors of the play successfully depicted the sacrifices of the crew of "Swat" and the labourers of Chittagong port for their beloved country. The theme of the play centred around March, 1971. "Swat", a ship of Pakistan Shipping Corporation, anchored at Chittagong Port. The Pakistani army brought arms in the guise of food grains through the ship in which most of the crew and labourers were Bengalis. This was to kill the innocent people of the then East Pakistan. Hearing the news, mass resistance built up at Chittagong port during the Liberation War. Chittagong's dialect was effectively introduced

in the play. Many popular local and indigenous songs and rhymes like "Chodochodo dhew tuli", "Utto meghe meghe meghe", "Bador bador heio" and "Ghum jare tubbachha" were creatively used in the play. Some compositions with the apt use of light such as 'sea voyage', 'fishing in the sea', 'life of sampan majhi' (boatmen) were well received. Ramiz Ahmed, Priankar Debnath, Md Ali Titu, Abdul Hadi, M Shahin Chowdhury, Mahbulul Islam Rajib, Ripan Barua, Allur Rahman, Juel Chakma, Amit Chakraborty, Santanu Das, Shyamal Barua and Ahmed Iqbal Haider enacted important roles in the play. The stage design, light and music of the play were done by Haider.

Cementing a relationship

Monalisa back from New York

SHAH ALAM SHIAZU

Popular model and actress Monalisa recently returned from New York after her engagement to expatriate Faiyaz Sharif. Taking a day off to recover from jetlag, she was caught in a whirlwind of photo sessions and interviews with leading dailies of the country. The star shared her excitement at her Uttara residence with this correspondent and gave updates on her life. Monalisa says she was unprepared for her sudden engagement, adding that birth-death-marriage rests in the hands of the Creator. Seeking blessings from everyone, the popular model also admits that she is very happy at the recent development. Monalisa says she didn't have the least idea that her engagement to Faiyaz would be held this year, and that the entire turn of events was a surprise for both the bride and groom to be. "The purpose of my recent visit to the US was to attend the Dhaliwood awards; but my sister Munira Ashraf and Faiyaz's family fixed the engagement before I had reached the country," she says. On her arrival, Munira told Monalisa about the engagement proposal and the star consented. Monalisa says Faiyaz's family is fond of her and she reciprocates the feeling, and the engagement took place with the consent and blessings of both families. Monalisa's sister, Faiyaz's family and close friends of the popular model were present at the engagement ceremony which was held at a New York restaurant. On her soon-to-be-wedded husband, Monalisa says, "Faiyaz is currently doing his PhD in Biology." Faiyaz is the only son and his family hails from Narayanganj. Monalisa adds. The two families will decide on the specific date of marriage. Monalisa informs. Faiyaz's family came to see her off at the airport, but she felt no great remorse as she had known Faiyaz only for a day, Monalisa admits. She will go and live in the US permanently after the wedding, but it will not spell an end to her career in Bangladesh, Monalisa says. She will come regularly to Bangladesh to resume work in the media which launched her to fame, Monalisa said, adding that Faiyaz and his family support her work. Faiyaz's family is also very positive about her stardom in the country and happy about the news of the engagement spreading through the newspaper and the internet. Although Monalisa is currently busy with her shooting schedules, she does not miss a single chance to talk to Faiyaz over the phone. Monalisa said instead of just focusing on herself, her emotions now surround two people, while sharing and responsibility is gradually growing among the two. The famous model always wanted to marry someone who understands her well, and Faiyaz seems to fit the bill, Monalisa adds. Apart from cementing her new relationship, Monalisa is busy shooting for several Eid TV plays, while two of her serials are currently being aired. Channel 24 is airing the serial "Paa Rekhechhi Joubone" and Ekushey Television is telecasting "Joynal Jadukor". Monalisa informs that she will soon go to Qatar to shoot in a new serial titled "Maago Tomar Jonno", directed by Mahfuz Ahmed. She has also recently done a commercial for Botanic Powder, with another advertisement currently in the pipeline.



PHOTO: TUNIB HOSSAIN

Remembering a literary icon
Launch of "Collected Works of Sayeed Ahmad"



Luminaries at the book launch.

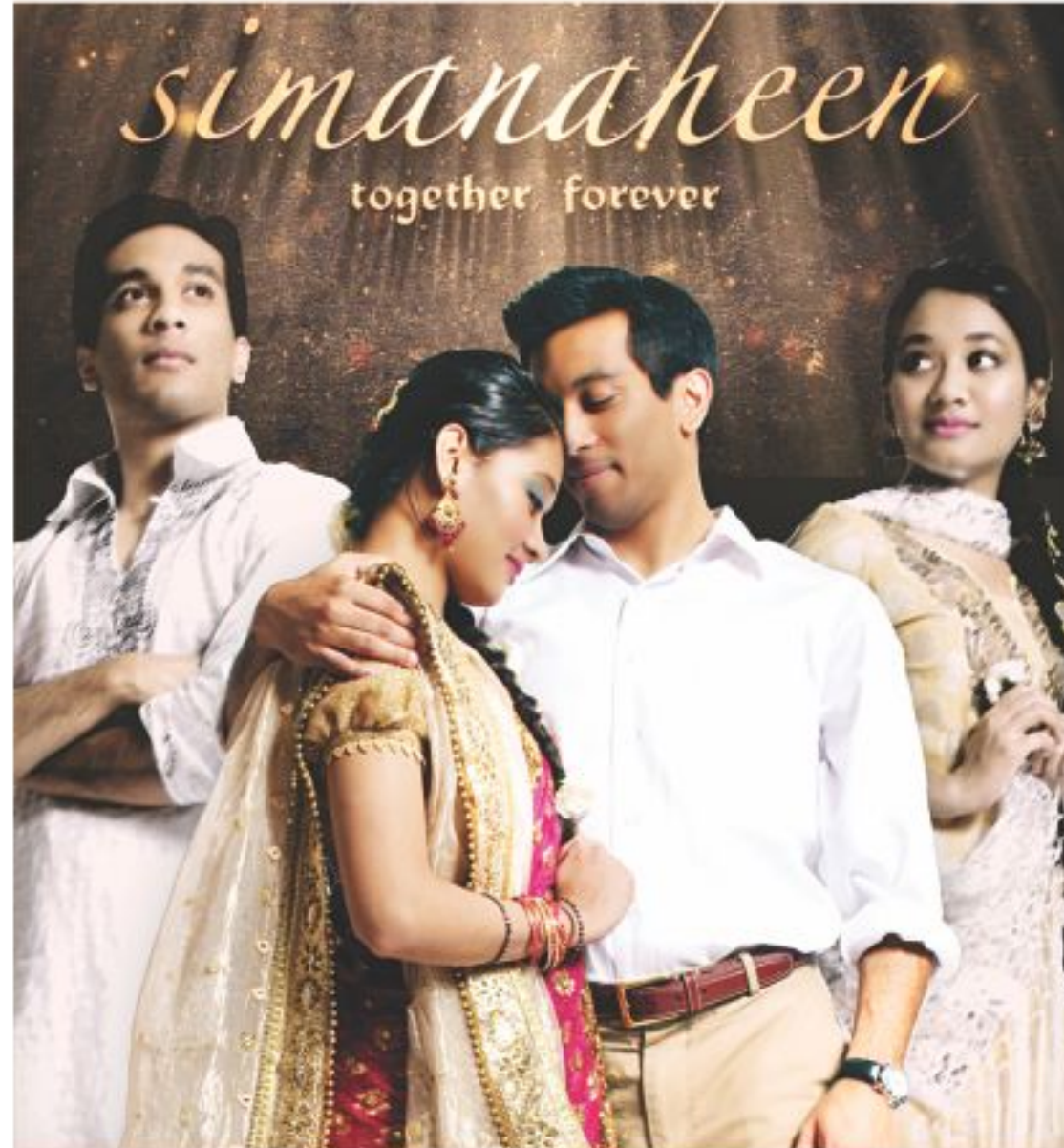
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Sayeed Ahmad Foundation for Culture and Arts (SAFCA) arranged a publication ceremony of "Collected Works of Sayeed Ahmad" published by the Bangla academy on July 3 at the Bengal Cafe in Dhannomdi. Sayeed Ahmad was a playwright, art critic, essayist and a scholar. He was recipient of Ekushey Padak, the Bangla Academy Award and "Officer de L'ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French Government, and several other national and international recognitions. Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury was present as chief guest at the ceremony. Theatre personality Aly Zaker; Sonia Nishat Amin, Professor, Department of History, University of Dhaka; Professor Ferdous Azim, chairperson of the English Department, BRAC University; Professor Fakhrul Alam, English Department, Dhaka University and Lalon singer Farida Parveen, among others, spoke on the occasion. Theatrical personality Ataur Rahman, also president of SAFCA, Perveen Ahmad (widow of Sayeed Ahmad), vice-president of SAFCA and Mosharraf Hussain Tutul, general secretary of the organisation, were

also present at the programme. About the iconic Ahmed Professor Fakhrul Alam said, "Sayeed bhai was friendly and an affectionate personality. Mingling sophistication and simplicity, his warm and loving personality overwhelmed me. He was very close to legendary philosopher Edward Said and other contemporary thinkers, writers and painters. He was cosmopolitan and yet deeply rooted in the Bangladeshi culture. He was a great promoter of Bangladeshi art and was also well-informed about the different fine arts." Aly Zaker said, "Sayeed bhai was a modern free-thinker. He was an entertainer, hilarious and at times he had a serious academic temperament. He was a great conversationalist. He guided us to immerse in knowledge and many creative activities. Among his most provocative plays are 'Kalbela' and 'Trishna'. His plays have been translated into English, French, German and Italian." Ataur Rahman said, "Sayeed Ahmad was well known to the BTV audience for his 'Bishwa Natok' where he introduced and directed plays of international fame. The impact of his works on our theatre is awe-inspiring, and his knowledge of the performing art form was vast."

Ninety years of Nazrul's Bidrohi
Bangladesh-India joint celebration on the occasion

On the occasion of the joint celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the publication of the epic poem, "Bidrohi", by Kazi Nazrul Islam, between India and Bangladesh, the Finance Minister of Bangladesh, A.M.A. Muhiht, is leading a 21-member Bangladesh delegation to Kolkata and Burdwan in India (from July 4-6). The joint Nazrul celebrations were inaugurated jointly by the Union Minister of Coal of India, Sriprakash Jaiswal, as the chief guest and the Finance Minister of Bangladesh, A.M.A. Muhiht, as the guest of honour in Kolkata yesterday, according to a press release. The joint celebrations are being held in Kolkata until today, and subsequently in Burdwan, close to Kazi Nazrul Islam's birthplace at Churulia, on July 6. The three-day Nazrul joint celebrations in India features cultural and literary personnel from both India and Bangladesh. Bangladesh is being represented by Khilkhil Kazi, the grand-daughter of Kazi Nazrul Islam, who is presenting the memorial speech. Noted Nazrul Sangeet exponents of Bangladesh -- Fatema Tuz Zohra, Salauddin Ahmed and Chhanda Chakraborty -- would be performing at the event. Jharna Sarker will recite Nazrul poems while Dr. Md. Nurul Huda would participate in lecture and interactive sessions. A 10-member Bangladesh dance group, led by Kabirul Islam Ratan, would present a dance performance based on the poem "Bidrohi" for the celebrations. Dr. Anup Ghoshal, Maitreyee Mazumdar, Chandrabali Rudra, Professor Miratun Nahar and others would represent India in the celebrations at Kolkata and Burdwan. The joint celebration of the 90th anniversary of the publication of "Bidrohi" was earlier held in Dhaka from May 25-26, 2012.

Shimanaheen set for global release
Young Bangladeshi expats in the lead



MOSFEKA ZAHID

Many new generation Bangladeshi expats have carved a firm place in the art and cultural firmament overseas. Although born and brought up in a different environment and cultural milieu, they have successfully portrayed the Bangladeshi social and cultural life quite naturally and impressively. Recently, I had the opportunity to view sequences of a movie titled "Shimanaheen", being shot in Chicago, USA and targeted for global release within a few months. The movie is being produced in NEQUA studios, Chicago. Based on a story written by Rahsaan Islam, and directed by Kevin Dalvi and Ria Mahtab, all the major roles of the movie are essayed by young Bangladeshis. The story draws inspiration from the romantic classics of yesteryears. The film hinges on the eternal search for love viewed through two relationships in two different eras. The title song of the movie sung by the diva Runa Laila is another major attraction of this new venture by a few American born Bangladeshi youngsters. Rusho Mahtab, a Bangladeshi musician, is the music director and his perfor-

mance was impressive. The lead role is played by Rahsaan Islam, an American born Bangladeshi immigrant. Born and brought up in a typical American environment, Rahsaan managed to stay connected to his roots. "My parents instilled strong values in me and always kept me connected to our culture and language; we have always been involved in artistic and cultural events," he told me. Rahsaan, although a fresh new face in the cultural field, comes from a family that is no stranger to the arts. His grandfather, the late Nurul Islam Patwary, was a well-known writer and editor of Dainik Bangla and Ittefaq. The South Asian and the global audiences today are quite selective. They are clear in their tastes about what they like and what they don't, what they want to see and the kind of on-screen chemistry they enjoy. It's not just about pretty faces. After seeing "Shimanaheen", I am personally of the view that with its release, a new standard of acting and a new concept of romance will be in place. The Writer was Women's Page Editor of the Bangladesh Observer and The Independent.

Rotimi Babatunde wins Caine prize for African writing



Rotimi Babatunde... 'To understand the present we have to explore the past!'

The "ambitious, darkly humorous" story of a Nigerian soldier fighting in Burma during the second world war has won Nigeria's Rotimi Babatunde the £10,000 Caine prize for African writing. Babatunde, who beat authors from Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe and South Africa to win the prestigious award for a short story by an African writer published in English, tells of the experiences of Colour Sergeant Bombay in his winning piece Bombay's Republic. Chair of judges, the novelist and poet Bernadine Evaristo, praised his "vivid" descriptions. "It is ambitious, darkly humorous and in soaring, scorching prose exposes the exploitative nature of the colonial project and the psychology of independence," she said. Evaristo had previously spoken of her desire to avoid the "stereotypical narratives" of African fiction when finding a winner. Babatunde said he was moved to write his story because "that context of world war two in African history, and the story of the Nigerians who went to the Burmese front, has not been properly explored." "To understand the present we need to explore the past," he said. "In African literature so many stories have been lost, and I think we need to establish the stories of the past have been explored properly to understand the present."

In Babatunde's story, at first, when the army recruiters come to Bombay's town, they are largely ignored. "Shrugging, people just said, the gecko and the lizard may decide to get married, fine for them, but it would be silly for the butterfly to dance its garments to shreds at their wedding celebration." But when "reports came that Hitler himself was waiting with his ruthless army at the border and that with him things were going to be much worse than the imagination could conceive", that "those he didn't preessang into slavery would be roasted alive for consumption by his beloved dogs... panic began spreading with virulent haste" and people begin to sign up. Babatunde, who lives in Ibadan, Nigeria, has previously had his fiction and poetry published in international journals and anthologies, and his plays staged by institutions including Chicago's Halcyon Theatre and London's Institute of Contemporary Arts. He joins former winners of the Caine prize including Zimbabwean NoViolet Bulawayo, whose debut novel We Need New Names is due out, and Sierra Leonean Olufemi Terry, who won in 2010. The award counts the African Nobel winners Wole Soyinka, Nadine Gordimer and JM Coetzee among its patrons.

ADMISSION GOING ON
One Year/Six Months Diploma in
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Fashion Design
Apparel Merchandising
Quality Management System
CAD (Pattern & Marker Making)
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IE / Work Study
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ATN BANGLA	11:20 Business and Finance	10:02 Bangladesh Feature Film
	12:10 Bangla Feature Film	05:30 Amazing Animals
	06:15 Ama Korbo Joy	06:30 Binodon Sharadin
	08:00 Asho Shuddy Jani	11:00 Tomay Gaan
	11:00 Doya Mahfil	Shonabo
CHANNEL i	11:05 Shantir Pothey	09:15 Bangla Feature Film
	01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan	06:00 Classic Cartoon
	02:40 Hridoye Mati O	08:30 Drama: Ghera Top
	Manusher Daak	09:50 Lailatul Baraat
	03:30 Bangla Feature Film	11:15 Islamic Gaan
ntv	10:05 Tele-film	01:05 Musical Show
	04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar	03:05 Drama Serial: Ekahi
	Achhey	Gangchil
	06:15 Shubho Shondhya	08:10 Dawn Out with Us
	Alokapat	12:00 Talk Show
	11:30 Jogi Tomari Naam	Gtv
ETV	11:30 Bangla Feature Film	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
	04:30 Ekushey-er Business	06:30 Chayachobir Gaan
	Shankar Shomachar	09:45 Spot Light

RADIO

abc radio FM 99.2	10:00 Morning Express
06:00 Bhoier Janaloy	12:00 My Time
09:00 Mukhoto Babony	01:00 No Tension
12:00 Darun Dupury	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00 Daranto Bilety	09:00 Night Rider
05:00 Shomohara	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
07:00 Shajer Maya	06:00 Green FM
09:00 Raat-er Akushey	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
Radio Foorti	12:00 Today's Adda
07:30 Hello Dhaka	04:00 U Turn

Lailatul Baraat on ETV at 10:00pm
Special Programme
on **Shab-e-Barat**
Host: Ataur Rahman Miyaji

Bipashar Othithi on BANGLAVISION at 09:50pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Azad Abul Kalam

Scream 2 On HBO at 11:55pm
Genre: Horror/Mystery
Cast: Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox

05:40 Sports Plus	12:00 Shongbad Shonglap
09:30 Ekushey-er Chokh	Fox Movies
10:10 Lailatul Baraat	01:50 Tron: Legacy
Boishakhi TV	03:55 Ice Age
11:15 The Business Show	05:20 Drive Angry
04:15 Shorashori Doctor	07:00 Scream 4
06:20 Carrier Path	08:55 The Season of the Witch
08:35 Punnyomoy Rozoni	10:35 Across the Universe
BANGLAVISION	HBO
11:05 Shokal Belar	11:25 Kull the Conqueror
Roddur	03:10 The Big Bang
02:20 Cinebit	05:10 The Mummy
06:05 Shyamal Bangla	07:40 Disaster Movie
09:05 Bipashar Othithi	09:30 Blade
11:25 Gaane Gaane Deshe Deshe	11:55 Scream 2
Desh TV	Star World
05:00 Durpath	04:30 The Simpson
06:00 123 Sompur	07:30 Two and a Half Men
09:25pm Boeng 737	07:45pm Sat Kahon
09:45 Style & Fashion	08:15pm Radio Chocolate
Diganta TV	09:30 Master Chef
11:30 Diganta Omashandhan	Australia
03:30 Public Parliament	10:30 White Collar
06:30 Kanopkhulle Teve	12:00 New Girl
11:05 Music Hour (Live)	Discovery Channel

DRAMA SERIAL

CHANNEL i	09:05pm Okoshpur
07:50pm Bayano Goli Ek Goli	Desh TV
09:25pm Boeng 737	07:45pm Sat Kahon
ntv	08:15pm Radio Chocolate
08:15pm Mayanganj	Diganta TV
09:45pm Dakshinayener Din	09:40pm Choshma Motin
BANGLAVISION	CHANNEL 24
06:15pm Bokulpurer Jatri	09:30pm Paa Rekhechhi
09:45pm Gulshan Avenue	Joubone
Rtv	Gtv

NEWS BULLETIN

BTV	Bolshakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm,	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm,
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm,	News (English) at 9am, 6pm,
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm,	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7-30pm, 10-30pm,
News (English) at 9am, 6pm,	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm,
CHANNEL i	Rtv
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm,	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm,
ntv	Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm,	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm,
ETV	09:30pm Paa Rekhechhi
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm,	Joubone

TALK SHOW

ATN BANGLA	10:30pm Reporters Diary
09:20pm Special Talk Show	12:00am Zoro Hour
CHANNEL i	BANGLAVISION
09:45am Trilo Matra	06:30pm Talk of the Week
12:30pm Taraka Kothon	Rtv
11:30pm Shapno Orar Din	07:40pm Our Democracy
ETV	Desh TV
12:05pm Ekushey-er Raat	10:30pm Desh Golpo
Bolshakhi TV	11:55pm Shobe Barater Fajolot