

WHAT'S ON

Liberation War National Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 2-14

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

Indo-Bangla Master Painters Exhibition
Venue: Gallery Basilio, H-300, Rd-19/B, New DOHS, Mahabali
Date: July 7-20
Time: 12-6pm

Theatre
Play: Lal Jamin
Troupe: Shuyuan
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 11
Time: 7pm

Film Screening
Film: Dark Resonance (Gokule Shukla)
Filmmaker: Khaid Mahmud Mithu
Venue: Indra Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: July 12

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

Musical Soiree
Artist: Shabita Zahir
Venue: Indra Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: July 13
Time: 6:30pm

Award Giving & Cultural Programme
Organiser: Geetanjali Lalitkala Academy
Venue: Khudra O Kutir Shilpa Institute Auditorium, H24/A, Rd-13/A, Sec-6, Uttara

NATIONAL THEATRE FEST ON LIBERATION WAR Court Martial by Nandikar, Chittagong



PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

"Court Martial" upholds the spirit of the Liberation War through the story of a soldier.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Nandikar Chittagong staged "Court Martial" at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on July 9. An adaptation of an Indian play, "Court Martial" has been directed by AloK Ghosh. Dhaka based troupe Theatre Art Unit. The set design was more or less the same but the costumes were different.

It seemed that Nandikar's production had little less pace than that of Theatre Art Unit, particularly in delivering dialogues and in terms of engaging the audience.

The play upholds the spirit of the Liberation War through telling the story of a soldier who kills an army officer. During the trial when the soldier is labelled a traitor, Major Mahmud goes deeper into the case that gradually reveals a dark side of the ploton -- a story of abuse.

On the day, six more plays were staged at three other venues. District Shilpakala Academy, Munshiganj staged "Juddho Gatha" at the Experimental Theatre Hall. The play was directed by Aktaruzzaman. Dohar-Nawabganj College, Dhaka

staged "Smriti '71" at the Studio Theatre Hall, while Palash Industrial Area University College, Narshingdi staged "1971" at the National Music and Dance Centre Auditorium. The plays were respectively directed by Tapan Hafiz and Anisur Rahman.

As part of the festival, Liberation War based films -- "Joijatra" and "Chhana O Muktiyuddho" -- were screened at two different venues in the city.

As the shows are open to all and free, a significant number of audiences are gathering at the academy premises each evening. Some of them shared their views on the festival.

Abdul Khaleque, who works for a non-

government office, said that the festival is a timely initiative as the trial of war criminals is on. He also said that many untold stories are coming forth through the plays, especially through the outside Dhaka productions. However, Bodiuazzaman, a bank officer, finds the festival to be a bit disorganised. He particularly mentioned the sudden collapse of the elevator that created an awkward situation.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in association with Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation has arranged the two week-long festival that features over 100 plays on the theme of Liberation War.



"1971" and "Smriti '71" (right) chronicle the War time atrocities.



Lakshyapar celebrates monsoon with classical music

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Narayanganj based classical music organisation Lakshyapar celebrated monsoon with a classical musical soiree, titled "Colhar Shondhya", at Narayanganj High School and College auditorium on July 6.

Classical vocalist Latfun Lulio set off the event, performing a khayal based on Raga Gaur Malhar. The talented artiste also rendered another khayal set on Raga Sur Malhar.

Chhayanaud teacher Dr. Rezwan Ali was next to take the stage. He presented a khayal based on Raga Megh at the event. The artiste's style of rendition beautifully captured the images of monsoon. Young flutist Mrityunjay Das from Bagherhat played Raga Sur Sarong. The promising artiste mesmerised the audience with the melody of his flute during his one and a half hour long performance.

Tabla artiste Sabuj Ahmed earned accolades accompanying all the three performers at the soiree. Prior to the performances, coordinator of Lakshyapar, Professor Asit Kumar, welcomed all and spoke on the forthcoming activities of the fourth con-



Latfun Lulio sings at the programme.

secutive year including holding annual classical music conferences. The organisers also handed over the 'Haradhan-Sukhen Shastriyo Sangeet Pronodona Britti' to students (SSC and HSC level). Four years back, Lakshyapar started its journey through holding a night-long classical music conference. Apart from arranging annual music conference, the organisation has also been holding season based (spring, summer, monsoon and late autumn) musical programmes from this year.

Second group exhibition by Institute of Art and Culture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second group art exhibition at the Institute of Art and Culture (IAC) in Gulshan, Dhaka, titled "The Voice of Time-2", was inaugurated on July 7. The exhibition featuring 102 artworks by 69 artists, aims to showcase contemporary trends in Bangladesh art.

Mijarul Quayes, secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Eminent artist Monirul Islam; Ali Reza Iftikhar, managing director of Eastern Bank Ltd; Ziaul Karim, head of Brand & Communication of Eastern Bank Ltd; Ishrat Akhond, director and a founding trustee of IAC; diplomats representing different countries and participating painters attended the inaugural ceremony.

The exhibition has brought together a number of prominent and budding artists to promote interaction and initiate a creative dialogue between artists and art aficionados



Guests at the inaugural ceremony.

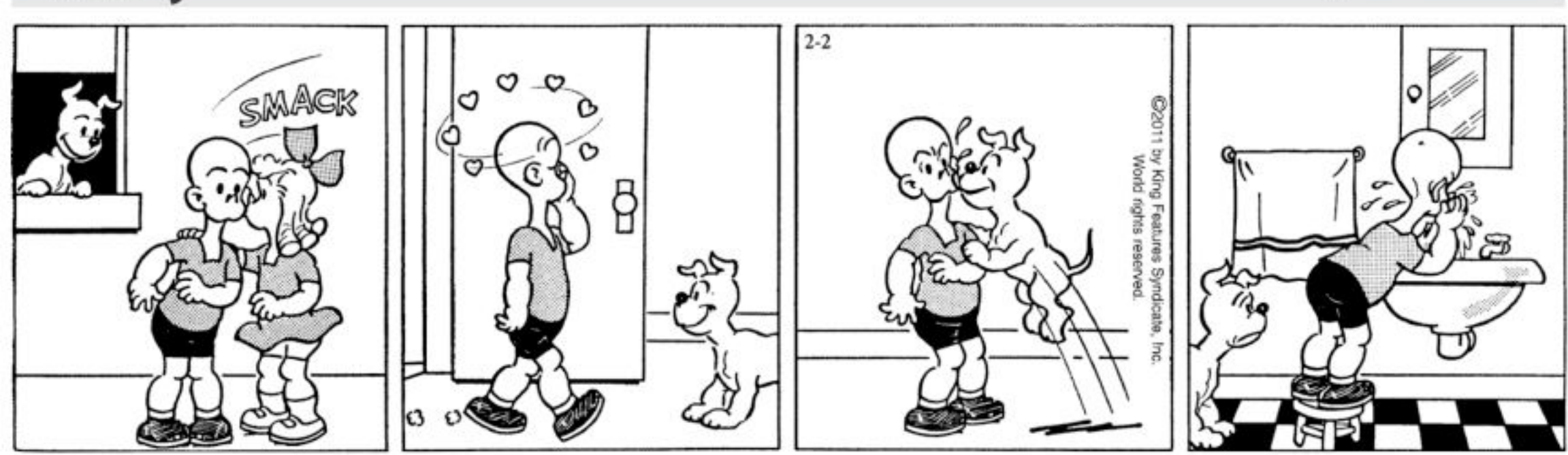
in the country. Artists such as Shahid Kabir, Abdul Mannan, Bishwajit Goswami, Ashim Halder, Mukul Kumar Barai, Abdul Aziz, Vadhreshu Rita, Mohammad Niamul Bari, among others, are participating in the exhibition with their artworks.

The artists have experimented with various mediums like watercolour, oil, pastel, pencil, woodcut, ceramic, print, terracotta, mixed media and others. The exhibition ends on July 20.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker



Henry by Don Trachte



Farooki receives Asian Cinema Fund for Post-production 2012

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mostafa Sarwar Farooki joins legendary Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf and young Japanese filmmaker Atsushi Funahashi in receiving the 'Asian Cinema Fund for Post-production 2012' for their respective upcoming projects. Farooki received the grant for his film "Television", while Makhmalbaf -- widely acclaimed for his works such as "The Day I Became a Woman", "Kandahar" and "Blackboards" -- received the grant for his upcoming venture "The Gardener".

"I am glad to receive such a big boost, especially along with a master filmmaker like Makhmalbaf. This is surely another indication that our cinema is gradually getting noticed in international circuits," Farooki shared his delight in an email, as he is in South Korea at present.

Funahashi received the grant for "Under the Cherry Tree".

Every year filmmakers from Asia apply for this grant and the organisers choose three movies they consider "important films for the festival circuits". The prize money ranges from 50,000-70,000 US dollars.

As per the regulation, the recipient filmmakers would get the chance to finish post-production work for their respective films in South Korea. "Television", the fourth feature film by Farooki, highlights rural characters rather than urbanites and circles around the first television to arrive at a village. Mosharraf Karim, Chanchal Chowdhury and Nusrat Imroz Tisha appear as lead characters in the film. The film is a joint production by Chhobial, Star Cineplex and Mogador Film (Germany). The film is expected to be released in the later part of this year.

It should be mentioned that "Television" has received the Asian Cinema Fund award for script development at the Pusan Film Festival.



Poster of the film "Television".

Mehdi Hassan knew no borders

RAS H. SIDDIQUI

Mehdi Hassan, one of the finest ghazal singers that South Asia has produced, passed away in Karachi, Pakistan on June 13 at the age of 84. It has been reported that he suffered a stroke over a decade ago and had been struggling with his health ever since, dealing with a number of related problems and trying to pay for his medical bills.

He had not been singing for a long time; his last reported effort being a duet with Lata Mangeshkar -- poet Farhat Shahzad's "Tera milna bahot achha lage hai" -- in the "Sarhadain" (Borders) album. Both Hassan Sahib and Lata Ji recorded their segments of the song separately which were later merged together to produce this historic song.

Mehdi Hassan Khan was born in 1927 in Luna, Rajasthan, located in Jhunjhunu district bordering Haryana. Rajasthan is well known for its handicrafts, forts, palaces and *havelis* (large dwellings of the rich) and somehow as a place of birth of geniuses and great ghazal singers no less. It is interesting to note that we have now lost not one but two of the giants of ghazal singing within a year (the other being Jagjit Singh). And they were both born in Rajasthan where the native language is not even Urdu or Hindi. Maybe some kind of scientific study is needed of the soil of the area to determine why it has produced such fine singers although this writer credits that feat to the presence of Ajmer Sharif and its Sufi shrine located near the centre of the state.

There were two visits by Mehdi Hassan to the San Francisco Bay area during the closing period of the last century that this scribe attended. The first was when he was still quite mobile and singing not only in Urdu and Punjabi but also in Dari (Persian spoken in Afghanistan). At this venue it came as a surprise to me that he had a large following amongst the Afghan diaspora.

Before that show I was only used to sharing his songs with Indian and Pakistani fans (and with a few Nepalese and Bangladeshis). I was told at the show that he used to sing for former Afghan King Zahir Shah at the monarch's invitation. The second time Mehdi Hassan performed here, he was physically helped on to the stage so we knew that something was seriously wrong. If memory serves me right he started off with a beautiful rendition of Farhat Shahzad's "Tanha tanha mat socha kar" (Don't think too much while alone). He came to the stage very late that night and left after singing just a handful of songs to our disappointment.

For the masters and connoisseurs of the

Urdu language, its written poetry is all-inspiring. But for many of us, who do not have a good grasp of the nuances of its script, we have had to depend on the singers of India and Pakistan to keep us connected to our most cherished emotions. The ghazal is the ultimate expression of this emotion. Amongst others, the late Mehdi Hassan and Jagjit Singh had done wonders for us in understanding this art form. On the musical side, we who do not understand the difference between a Raag and a Thumri also have to thank them for making it all appear simple.

Young Mehdi once worked in a bicycle repair shop in Pakistan when his family migrated there after the 1947 partition of Brit-



ish India. Belonging to a family of musicians from the Kalawant clan of which he was the 16th generation, he refused to give up singing and took Radio Pakistan by storm during the 1950s. Poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz's "Gulon mein rang bharay" (The Fill of Colours in Flowers) did additional wonders for Mehdi Hassan's singing career and for Faiz Sahib's mass appeal when it was included in the film "Farangi" in 1964. He became the most significant male playback singer for the once thriving Pakistani movie industry along with Ahmad Rushdie (who died very young) and Masood Rana during the 1960s and early '70s. He returned to live classical singing after that as the industry started declining. But while it

lasted, Mehdi Hassan's voice became associated with the faces of lead actors Mohammad Ali, Waheed Murad and Nadeem.

The 1969 film "Zarqa" which celebrated its diamond jubilee in Karachi was a crowning achievement for him. The peak years for his many movie songs were during the 1970's. Hassan Sahib's duet with Noor Jehan for the 1970 movie "Insaan Aur Aadmi" -- "Tu jahan kabin bhii jaye, Mera piyar yaad rakha" -- certainly enhanced one of the finest Mohammad Ali and Zeba films.

His last big movie hit was "Aaj tu ghair sahi" for Nadeem in the film "Dehleez" in 1983, one in which Shabnam was Nadeem's love interest during the song.

The fact that Mehdi Hassan had a huge fan following in India cannot be overstated. From Lata Ji, Dilip Kumar and a host of others connected to Bollywood, many have acknowledged his passing. Some leading personalities from India have already visited his grave in Karachi and many condolences have accompanied the news of his death from across the border. A statement from the Indian Prime Minister's office was also reported on this sad occasion. Many ordinary Indian fans also posted their feelings on various websites. Thus the "King of Ghazals" was mourned in death by fans irrespective of borders.

Faiz Sahib has already been mentioned as has the work of Farhat Shahzad, both given a bigger musical following with Mehdi Hassan's singing of their work. From Ghaleb, Mir Taqi Mir ("Patta patta boota boota..."), other more contemporary poets were featured including Parveen Shakir whose "Kubaku phail gayi" will be long remembered. But there was one poet in particular who stood out in Mehdi Sahib's work and that was Ahmed Faraz. From "Shola tha jab bujha hoon" (which today could apply to Mehdi Hassan himself, or its author Ahmed Faraz or possibly to its original subject Zulfikar Ali Bhutto) to "Ab kay hum bichray to shaayid, kabhi khabon mein milein," to the unparalleled masterpiece "Ranjish hi sahi", also composed by Mehdi Sahib himself, which was in this scribe's opinion his crowning achievement.

Others will have their own favorite songs by the King of Ghazals, but the master stood out with his rendition of this particular number. Nobody has expressed the pain in the lines of love written by Faraz and captured in the word "Ranjish" (anguish) better than Mehdi Hassan. His own struggle has ended, may his soul now rest in peace.

THE WRITER IS A MUSIC CONNOISSEUR

Exciting fare Traditional bullfight in Natore

BULBUL AHMED, Natore

A bullfight was held at Baroharishpur village near Natore town on Monday afternoon, creating edge of the seat excitement for a huge audience. Doyel Sporting Club of Baroharishpur union organised the programme.

A total of 16 bulls were brought for the fight from different upazilas in the district. People in thousands, including a good number of children, thronged the venue to get a view of the bullfight, a traditional form of rural entertainment now on the wane.

Fayes Uddin, owner of a winning bull said, "We participate on various occasions. Prizes are not that important to us."

Golap Mia, another bull owner said, "Once village fairs were inconceivable without bull-fights but now the scenario has changed totally. We want to preserve this tradition for the next generation."

Shafiqul Islam Kalia and Atik Hossain were the judges of the event. A discussion was held on the occasion. Shafiqul Islam Shimul, chairman of Natore Sadar Upazila Parishad, formally inaugurated the bullfight as chief guest.

Osman Ghani, the organiser and president of Doyel Sporting Club, said that bullfight, a common source of entertainment in the past, is rapidly heading towards oblivion. There was a time when people were inclined towards traditional sources of recreation. But now the interest in such entertainment has declined due to an aggression of foreign cultures. So the organisers have made bullfight an annual fixture. He also urged the young to come forward to help revive a tradition that testifies to our identity as Bengalis. Mahtab Ali Bhuiyan, chairman of Baroharishpur Union Parishad, handed prizes among the bull owners.

Children recite works of greatest poets

SHAHENOUR AKTHER URM, Chittagong

Proma, an organisation of elocutionists in the port city, held a programme, titled "Shopne Harai Ochinpur" at the district Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong on Monday.

Child elocutionists of the organisation presented solo and group performances at the event.

The programme started with solo performances. Young elocutionists recited Sukumar Ray's "Jiboner Hishab", Rabindranath Tagore's "Makal"; Kazi

Nazrul Islam's "Khukhi O Katbirali" and Nirmalendu Goon's "Government-er Taka".

Elocutionists of other organisations, such as Taruner Uchchash, Nirman Abritti Angan, Shuchayan Lalitakala Kendra and Sahajpat-Fulki, took part in the programme as well.

Performers of Proma wrapped up with a group performance of "Rangin Fanush". Theatre personality Pradeep Dewanjee; Rashed Hasan, president and Bishwajit Pal, general secretary of Proma, among others, were present at the widely appreciated programme.

ATN BANGLA	01:25 Band View 04:20 Showbiz World 08:00 Destination Unlimited 08:40 Drama Serial: Chand 10:55 Bibeek Kache Proshno	10:02 Bangla Feature Film 06:30 Binodon Sharadin 08:00 Drama Serial: Bye Bye 09:30 Hari Ji Kabi Laj 11:00 Music Digest	Maasranga Television
CHANNEL I	11:05 Sports Time 12:30 Tanika Kethon 01:05 Ehang Cineinar Gaan 03:05 Tele-film 09:35 Drama Serial: Boeing 757	09:15 Bangla Feature Film 06:00 Classic Cartoon 09:25 Gen X 10:30 Drama Serial: Apn 11:45 Sports Daily	CHANNEL 9
ntv	10:05 Bangla Feature Film 06:15 Shubho Shondhya 08:15 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe 09:00 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan 11:30 Drama Serial: Chowdhury Villa	08:10 Made in Bangladesh 11:45 Sports 24 12:00 Talk Show 11:30 Bangla Feature Film	CHANNEL 24

abcr radio FM 89.2	06:00 Bhojer Janalay 09:00 Mukhoto Jiboney 12:00 Darun Popury 03:00 Dhanota Bhalay 05:00 Showhu Tara 07:00 Shaj-er Maya 09:00 Raat-er Akashy 11:00 Gajper Shesh Net Radio Footi 07:30 Hello Dhaka	10:00 Morning Express 12:00 No Tension 04:00 Dhaka Calling 09:50 Knight Riders 04:00 TOON (Ages 6+) 06:00 Green FM 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka 12:00 Today's Halk 04:00 U Turn 07:00 Rowley Hill 10:00 Raat Bhor Gaan	RADIO
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Bangladesh-er Shonge Add On Desh TV at 09:45pm
Talk Show
Guest: Carla Koppell

Dylan Dog: Dead of Night On Fox Movies at 10:15pm
Genre: Comedy/Horror
Cast: Brandon Routh, Anita Briem

Crime Fiction On Gtv at 09:05pm
Single Episode TV
Play Directed by Tarq Khan

ETV	11:30 Ekushey-er Business 06:30 Neel Payar Gaan 07:50 Fashion & Tune 09:30 Drama Serial: Kamini 10:10 Docu-Drama	06:30 Sholo Ana Bangladesh 08:00 Drama Serial: Janani 09:05 Crime Fiction 11:00 Z-documentary	Fox Movies
Boishakhi TV	11:15 The Business Show 04:15 Shazaban Doctor 08:35 Boro Bhalobashi Gaan 09:20 Drama Serial: Ognipath 11:00 Reporters Diary	07:00 The Joneses 08:40 Hancock 10:15 Dylan Dog: Dead of Night	HBO
BANGLAVISION	01:05 Bangla Feature Film 05:20 Bichitra 09:05 Nacho Bangladesh 11:25 Music Club	03:00 The Mask 05:10 The Back-up Plan 07:20 The Last Airbender 09:30 The Mummy 12:00 Open Water	Star World
Desh TV	05:00 Durpath 06:30 Durer Janala 07:45 Drama Serial: Saatkahan 09:45 Bangladesh-er Shonge Adda 12:30 Total Sports	04:30 The Simpson 09:30 Master Chef Australia 10:30 White Collar 11:30 Two and a Half Men	Discovery Channel
		02:30 Medical Anomalies	DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA	09:25pm Pooch Phaganer Pala Rtv 09:30m Bayanoan Golf Ek Goli 09:45pm Dokshinayoner Dm 08:00pm Pathorer Kanna BANGLAVISION	08:15pm Bokulpurer Jatri Rtv 08:15pm Parsha Protikha 08:15pm Radio Chocolate Maasranga Television 08:30pm khonkaloay CHANNEL 9 08:40pm Bachelor the Family	NEWS BULLETIN
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, 6pm CHANNEL I News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 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, 6pm BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm. Rtv News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm Desh TV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm. Maasranga Television News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.	TALK SHOW
ATN BANGLA	06:15pm Kothumala 12:30am Lead News CHANNEL I 12:05pm Trito Matrai Apni 11:30pm Aloy Bhubon Bhoru ntv 12:30am El Shomy ETV	12:05pm Ekushey-er Raat Boishakhi TV 12:00am Lead News BANGLAVISION 06:25pm Front Line Rtv 07:40pm Our Democracy Desh TV 11:45pm Shoja Katha	