

WHAT'S ON

**Exhibition**  
Featuring Life and Works of Mishuk Munier  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 22-31

**Theatre**  
Play: Libaboti Akhyan  
Troupe: Loko Natya Dal  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: July 27

**Film Screening 2**  
Film: Duddha, Uddi Ruti & Nazir  
Filmmaker: Most Kaul (India)  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-7A, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 27 & 28  
Time: 5 & 7 pm Everyday

**Theatre**  
Play: Khana  
Troupe: Bot-Tola  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: July 26  
Time: 7:30pm

**Film Screening**  
Film: The Scarlet Flower (Fairy Tale)  
Venue: Auditorium, Russian Centre of Science & Culture, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 28

**War and Peace**  
Film: War and Peace (Part 1)  
Venue: Auditorium, Russian Centre of Science & Culture, Dhanmondi  
Date: September 9  
Time: 6pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Heavy Metal  
Artist: Dr. Lambert Shambhucho  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka  
Date: July 12-29  
Time: 12-6pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Target Platoon  
Written & Directed by: Mamunur Rashid  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: July 27 & 28

THEATRE  
**Target Platoon premieres tomorrow**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mamunur Rashid and Professor Syed Jamil Ahmed join hands together to bring a humorous musical play, on the subject of the Liberation War. The play, "Target Platoon", will have its premiere tomorrow evening at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Professor Ahmed has designed the play, while Rashid is the playwright and director. The play has been produced by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Repertory.

Young actors of Prachyanat, Theatre, Theatre Art Unit and Aranyak Natyadal form the cast.

Rashid informed that he has tried to chronicle the war in the nearly two-hour play, starting from April 1971 to victory in December, 1971. Asked why a musical on Liberation War, Rashid said, "So far no musical has been produced on this historic episode and it tempted me." He opted to go for light-hearted comedy with lyrical dialogues because he wants to send the message to adolescents as well.

"You must've seen 'Life is Beautiful', on World War II. It's a comedy, yet it touched many. I wanted to create a play on war like that," said Rashid, during a technical show at Shilpakala Academy. After over three months of rehearsal, the cast and crew ran four consecutive technical shows at the venue over the last four days.

Those who are familiar with Rashid's directorial approach in Aranyak plays will find more or less similar kind of attitude in his new production. The play will start with humour and gradually delve into more serious issues.

Satire will be found in costume, as going beyond usual designs, the Pakistani Army and its collaborators will wear clothes that resemble colonial rulers. Rashid wanted to establish a parallel between the Pakistani and colonial rulers.

Audience will see the maximum utilisation of space



In the play, the Pakistani Army and its collaborators will dress as colonial rulers. PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

at the National Theatre Hall. Apart from using the last few inches of the backdrop, the performers will roam around to the deep of the two wings as well. Professor Ahmed's design will follow multimedia projection, using familiar artworks by Bangladeshi painters as well as computer-generated light and sound presentation.

Parimal Majumdar's non-stop music will try to sync each dialogue, from start till end.

The premiere show will take place tomorrow evening at 7:30 pm at the National Theatre Hall. A show for the press will take place this evening at the same venue.

OF MEN, MUSIC AND MOVIES  
**Shabnam and Robin Ghosh win hearts in Pakistan**

H.Q. CHOWDHURY

Sunset Boulevard is a 40-kilometer winding thoroughfare from Los Angeles to the blue Pacific, covering Hollywood. It is known for the galaxy of restaurants, clubs and abode of movie stars. But "Sunset Boulevard" is also a famous American film on a waning movie star. Directed by Billy Wilder with Gloria Swanson and William Holden in the lead, it is considered an all time black and white classic.

In life, every successful person is Sunset Boulevard's, Gloria Swanson, in some form or the other. In the film industry, it is most visible because of the enormity of a star's popularity. But then for some stars, there is no fading. Grace Kelly or Audrey Hepburn for example; they were always in the news. In the subcontinent, we have that in Dilip Kumar who went on to become the Sheriff of Mumbai once the chips were down, and in the Bengali community -- Suchitra Sen. In spite of being a recluse for decades, even today if there is news that she has had a sneezing bout, her fans get flur!

When Shabnam and Robin Ghosh visited Pakistan after a 12-year hibernation to accept Lifetime Achievement Award from Pakistan Television, the sun never seemed to set in that country. From April 23 to May 14, it was a grand gala with people all around suddenly bouncing back to life in the midst of bomb blasts and political rife. The couple during their nostalgic "safer" sent the entire nation into a frenzy; there was ecstasy all around. The press, electronic media, professionals' associations, business groups, politicians were literally in competition to extend hospitality to the couple; and when they were in public places, special security measures had to be arranged to keep the "aam" at bay.

Shabnam and Robin Ghosh left Dhaka in 1968 to seek greener pastures in the then West Pakistan film industry. It was incidentally the time when the industry there, was going through a transformation. Sabiha, Shamim Ara, Musarrat Nazir, Nayyar Sultana, Neelo were past their peak and the new generation of actors notably Zeba, Rani, Deeba, Rozina, Sangeeta and Nisho were successfully taking over. In music, Rashid Attre and Feroze Nizami were dead; Khurshid Anwar, GA Chisti and Tassaduq Hussain were almost spent forces. But composers like Master Inayat Hussain, A. Hamid, Nisar Bazmi, Nashad, Khalil Ahmad, Lal Mohammad Iqbal, M. Ashraf and Sohal Rana were doing commendable work. Thus, for Shabnam and Robin Ghosh, the future was not to be a cakewalk, that also in a different cultural platform.

Shabnam, despite her flawed Urdu, soon developed a school of acting that was unique to the Pakistani audience while Robin Ghosh added a new dimension in the music industry. Over the years, their films ran from months to years generating business unheard of. In a country where quality of films was not much of a factor, they put dashes of refinement, wherever possible, albeit Bengali style to capture the heart of cine goers and become "industry standard". The way Shabnam carried herself in Pakistan not only caught fancy of the common man but also of personalities like Nusrat Bhutto and even President General Ziaul Huq's daughter, who secretly flew in once a



An artistic partnership: Shabnam and Robin Ghosh.

week to meet her favourite star in Lahore with due support from her mother!

Shabnam's artistic skills blessed the Pakistan silver screen with about 160 films and in the process she worked with actors, popular and unknown, to produce some of the greatest box office hits of all times. With over 50 block busters ranging from a minimum 25 week to 400 week run, including films like "Andaleeb", "Dosti", "Anmol", "Mere Humsafar", "Sharafat", "Chahat", "Aaj Aur Kal", "Pakeeza", "Qurbani", "Uff Yeh Biviyon", "Aaina", "Bivi Ho Aisa", "Dooriyan", "Naaraz", she became an all-time film legend and one of the greatest feminine icons of her time. Upheld as a standard of beauty, grace and style, her talent and persona influenced the directors so strongly that they attempted to make other actresses into her image without success.

Robin Ghosh did not lag behind in his field. He was already a much talked about composer in that country through his Urdu compositions in "Chanda", "Talak", "Karwaan", "Bhaiya" and "Chokori". He took off in style in "Jahan Tum Waham Hum" and then produced outstanding music in "Do Sahi", "Ehsas", "Sharafat", "Chahat", "Aaina", "Bandish", "Ambar", "Nahin Abhi Nahin", "Aahat", "Kiran Aur Kal", "Umang", "Dooriyan" and "Bhigey Badan" to be amongst the all-time greats in Pakistan film music. Just as in Dhaka, when he composed those exquisite numbers for Ferdous Begum, Anjumara Ara, Farida Yasmeen, Bashir Ahmad, and Abdul Jabbar, he did the same for Mehdi Hasan, Akhlaq Ahmad Alamgir, Nayyara Noor and Mahnaz giving them a new boost to their careers.

So, there was every reason for the Pakistani cine-goers to rejoice once the couple arrived. Besides the regular TV shows, interviews, Pakistan TV hosted a grand reception for



In her days of glory.

them on April 28 at the governor's house in Lahore. It was a show unprecedented in the history of the Pakistan film world, though qualitatively, the musical programme presented could have been more imaginative.

Former Prime Minister Gilani flew in from Islamabad to hand over the Lifetime Achievement Award to the couple, saluting them as "the greatest cultural ambassadors of the two countries". Stars of yesteryears and fans jointly voiced that a street or boulevard should be named after them -- an honour given only to the forgettable Noorjahan, not to forget the Pakistan Arts Council-Nigar programme in Karachi where it was proposed that the couple be given a special status by the two countries.

But there is an unfortunate part too. The Lifetime Achievement Award was from Pakistan Television for which neither Shabnam nor Robin Ghosh ever took part as an actor or a musician and not from the cultural ministry or anything of that sort. Was it therefore a strategy to uplift the face of the "not so popular" government TV channel or an image building effort of the ruling party, or perhaps both? The opposition, primarily Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Sharif, a Robin Ghosh fan) and MQM with able support from the "non government" TV channels, took their turns too with flashy receptions. After all the elections are close! But so what? It only proved the enormous "vote power" that "Shabnam Begum or Shabnam Bhabhi" as popularly known, still has in that country. Yes, not all stars fade.

Sounds like a fairy tale? Just Google or YouTube "Shabnam Robin 2012" and you are there for some 'jhalak'!

The writer is a film and music connoisseur.

Seminar on film and political movement held

A CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on political movement and its impact on cinema was held at the Nawab Nabab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building, University of Dhaka, on July 24. Organised by Dhaka University Film Society (DUFS), the seminar featured Professor Janet Wasko from the US, AJM Shaful Islam Bhuiyan, Manzara Hasin Murad and Morshedul Islam as speakers.

Titled "Political movements and their impact on

film: Bangladesh context", the seminar mainly focused on how Bangladeshi films deal with the aspect of different political movements that took place in different eras.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of DU and moderator of DUFS, was the chief guest while Md. Ariful Islam, president DUFS, presided over the session.

Professor Janet Wasko, president, International Association for Media and Communication, University of Oregon, was the special guest. She spoke about the

corporate influence on the process of making and distribution of films. "Corporate influences have an impact on proving political messages of a film," said Professor Wasko.

Dr. AJM Shaful Alam Bhuiyan, chairman, Department of Television and Film Studies, DU, moderated the seminar.

Mentioning Zahir Raihan's contribution in the history of Bangladeshi cinema, Morshedul Islam urged all to make films on the Language Movement as well as more films on the Liberation War.

The pride of Bengali filmdom win recognition

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Veteran actors Soumitra Chatterjee, Supriya Devi and Sabitri Chatterjee were conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by West Bengal government on Tuesday for their contribution to Bengali cinema.

Bollywood and Tollywood actor Mithun Chakraborty was awarded 'Mahanayak Uttam Kumar Samman 2012', at a function held in Kolkata.

The awards, which comprise Rs two lakh besides a citation and plaque, were given on the death anniversary of Uttam Kumar, Bengal's evergreen matinee idol.

Announcing the awards to 46 actors, film directors, musicians, scriptwriters and technicians, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she wanted to bridge the gap between those who supported her and those who have strong Marxist leanings.

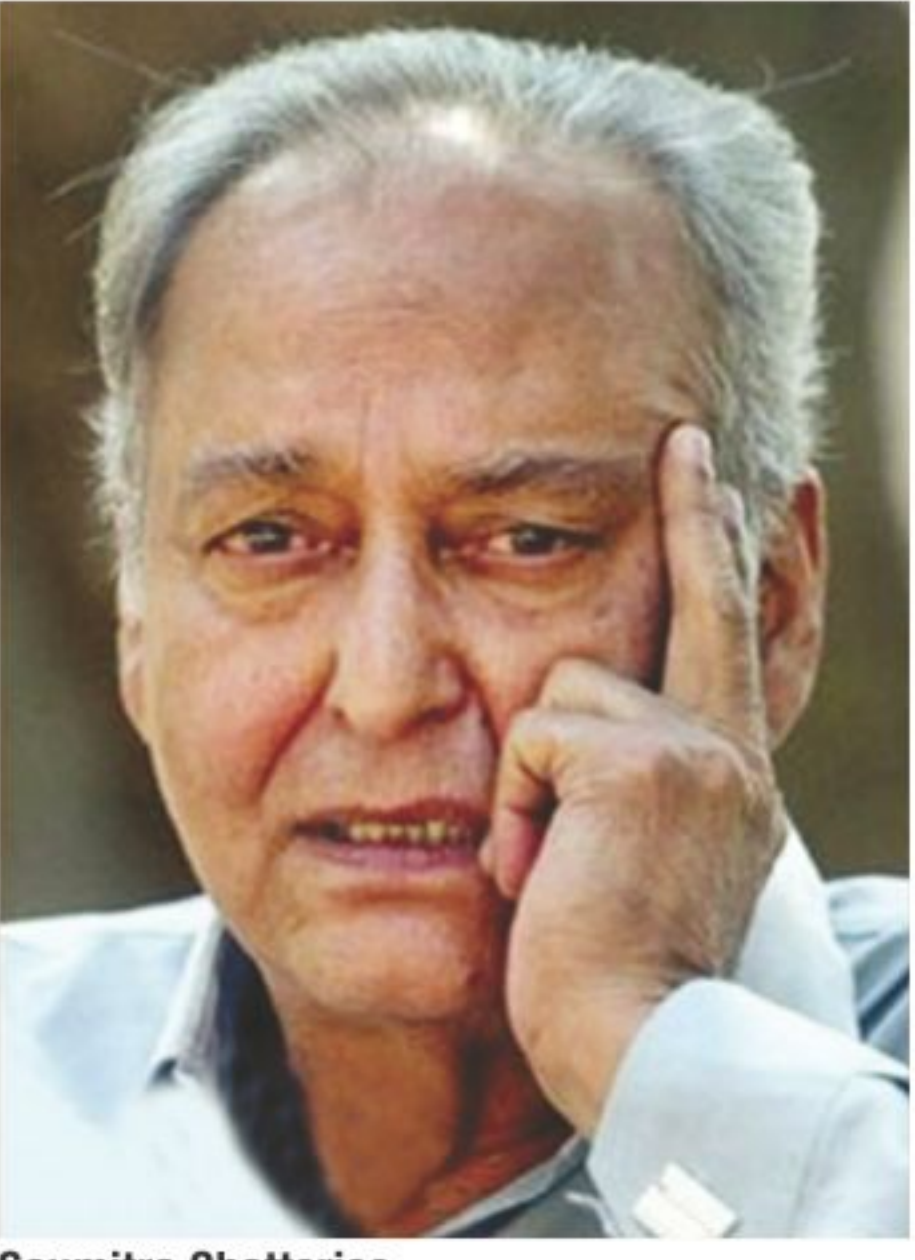
Soumitra has always been considered close to the Communist Party of India (Marxist) which ruled West Bengal for 34 years at a stretch at the head of a Left Front government before Mamata Banerjee's party Trinamool Congress ousted the Front in assembly elections in May last year.

Praising her for the initiative, Soumitra Chatterjee said such awards were earlier given by the state government only for dancing and music but none for those in the film world.

"I hope that this initiative will give an opportunity not only to contemporary artists in the film world but also inspire the younger generation," said Soumitra.

Mamata Banerjee described Soumitra, who features in a number of films directed by maestro Satyajit Ray, as the "pride of Bengal" and congratulated him for accepting the award.

Soumitra had stayed away from the inaugural ceremony in the last edition of the Kolkata Film Festival complaining that he was not properly invited by the state government. However, the authorities later on made up with him and he had attended the closing function.



Soumitra Chatterjee



Supriya Devi



Sabitri Chatterjee



Mithun Chakraborty

London 2012: Olympic graffiti

For many, London is the number one place in the world for street art.

But now as the Olympics approaches, many artists are complaining that artwork is being removed in some areas but not in others.

Meandering among the market stalls and curry restaurants of Brick Lane in east London are people stopping to soak up the street art.

Tourists armed with camera phones and art lovers with high-end cameras all stand to absorb the stencils and murals which adorn every available space.

This is one of the few places in London where street art is celebrated.

In fact, an information point at Spitalfields market just down the road counts street art as a highlight.

But, according to street artists, this is not the case across the rest of London as walls which they say have not been touched in years are now being cleaned off.

Authorities say that there has been no official remit for graffiti to be removed -- rather, they just clean the walls if someone complains.

But Geoff Whitehouse from Very Nearly Almost, a magazine which documents street art, disagrees.

"It's been going on for over a year or more with a general clean-up around Hackney," he says.

A spokesman for Hackney Council said it took time to decide whether something was graffiti or street art which should be preserved.

Helen Bingham, campaigns manager for Keep Britain Tidy, said: "There's a difference between low grade tagging and the work people like Banksy do. You have to look at it and know the difference -- it's not a black and white thing."

On Monday, Banksy put pictures on his website of stencils with an Olympic theme on a building. The location has not been revealed.

One artist who has had a piece painted over is Mau Mau.

impact, was painted on the side of a privately-owned warehouse which he had permission to paint in Ealing, west London, in July.

It lasted six days before it was painted over by the council.

"I kind of expected it (for it to be cleaned). I guess someone deemed it was offensive to the public," he says.

A spokeswoman for Ealing Council said the piece was removed following a complaint.

In Brick Lane, a petition was set up to remove a large council banner which advertised the area as the "Olympic 2012 Curry Capital", placed over street artist Roa's mural of a crane.

The petition said: "Everyday hundreds of people are captivated by a beautiful piece of artwork that was given to the people of Tower Hamlets by an internationally renowned artist."

After it received more than 1,700 signatures, the banner was duly removed overnight by the council.

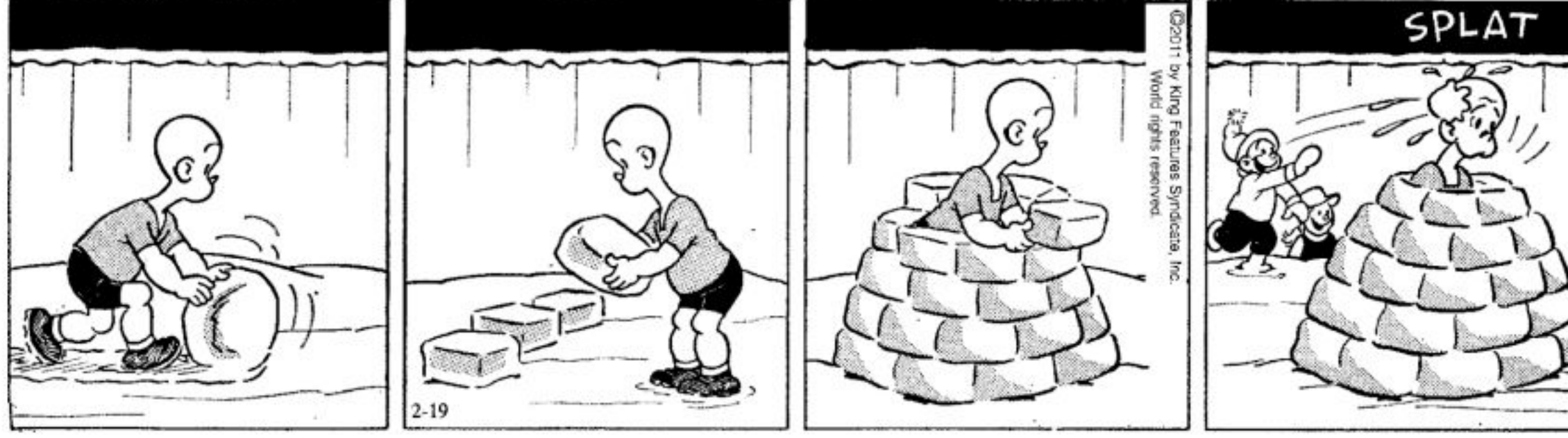
SOURCE: bbc



Olympic-themed street art on Brick Lane has been left untouched.



Nasiruddin Yousuff's "Guerrilla" was recently screened at World Cinema Section of 34th Moscow International Film Festival. On the occasion, Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Dhanmondi, Dhaka organised a press conference on July 24 at the seminar room of the cultural centre. Nasiruddin Yousuff shared his experience and varied aspects of the film at the programme. Alexander P. Demin, head of the Russian Centre of Science and Culture, presided over the programme.



<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	11:20 Business and Finance 12:10 Bangla Feature Film 03:10 Showbiz World 06:10 Islami Sawal O Jawab 11:00 Drama	<b>Maasranga Television</b>	11:02 Bangla Feature Film 05:02 Amazing Animals 08:00 Tele-film: Shobrokon Bhalobashar Joy Huok 11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo
<b>ntv</b>	10:05 Tele-film 06:15 Chobdo Hobor Patho 09:00 Amans Gate Kichhe Holo 11:30 Aporan Jiggasha 12:30 Crime Watch	<b>CHANNEL 9</b>	09:15 Bangla Feature Film 05:30 Alakiko Ramzan 08:30 Drama: Khacha 09:50 GP Tune Factory 11:15 Islamic Jiggasha
<b>ETV</b>	11:30 Ekushey-er Business 03:30 Bawla Ontar 07:50 Siyam O Shushastha 08:20 Neel Payar Gaan 09:30 Ekushey-er Chokh	<b>CHANNEL 24</b>	01:05 Travel Show 03:05 Drama Serial: Ekaki Gangchil 08:10 Dawn Out With Us 11:35 Sports 24
<b>Boishakhi TV</b>	12:00 The Business Show 04:15 Amra Dutii Kemon Juti	<b>Gtv</b>	11:30 Bangla Feature Film Jiggasha O Jawab 06:20 Mahoy Ramzan

<b>RADIO</b>	12:00 My Time 01:00 No Tension 04:00 Dhaka Calling 05:00 Night Rider 06:00 RADIO TOHAR FAKIR 06:30 Green FM 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka 11:00 Today's Adda 12:00 U Turn 07:30 Today's Hit 10:00 Rock the Station
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**Shobrokon Bhalobashar Joy Huok**  
On Maasranga Television at 08:00pm  
Tele-film  
Cast: Nisho, Shoshi

**The Mechanic**  
On Fox Movies at 09:15pm  
Genre: Action/Thriller  
Cast: Jason Statham, Ben Foster

**Bipashar Othithi**  
on BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm  
Celebrity Talk Show  
Guest: Shafin Ahmed

05:30 Ramzan Protidin	08:35 Boshakhi Ranna	11:00 Spot Light	09:35 Ghor Mon Janala
<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	04:05 Ramzan O Amader Jibon	05:30 Sarf's Up	<b>Fox Movies</b>
05:15 Qur'an-er Alo	07:00 Style File	09:05 X-Men: First Class	10:05 Just Married
07:00 Bipashar Othithi	09:15 The Mechanic		05:30 Sarf's Up
<b>Rtv</b>	12:35 Bangla Feature Film	03:10 Setup	07:15 The Last Arbender
05:15 Qur'an-er Alo	08:00 R Music	04:55 The Scorpion King: Rise	09:30 Clash of the Titans
11:30 Drama			<b>National Geographic Channel</b>
<b>Desh TV</b>	03:00 Gaan R Gaan	03:30 Caught in the Act	08:30 Mega Factories
05:00 Durpath	06:20 Ramzan Protidin	09:30 Caught on Safari	10:30 Return of the Coupled Leopard
09:45 Style & Fashion	11:30 Drama		<b>Discovery Channel</b>
<b>Diganta TV</b>	04:30 Shorol Path	01:30 Man vs. Wild	08:30 The Ascent of Mone
05:30 Islamic Talent Search	09:40 Drama Serial: Shumodhro Manushera		
11:05 Music Hour (Live)			

<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	08:00pm Hat Out 08:40pm Chand Phil 09:20pm Amabodhya 09:20pm Chayabrita	06:30m Rajdar Boishakhi TV 09:20pm Onipath BANGLAVISION 08:15pm Bakulapure Jatri Rtv 09:05pm Oloshpur Desh TV 08:15pm Mayangam 09:45pm Dohbhayoner Din ETV
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<b>NEWS BULLETIN</b>	08:00pm Hat Out 08:40pm Chand Phil 09:20pm Amabodhya 09:20pm Chayabrita	06:30m Rajdar Boishakhi TV 09:20pm Onipath BANGLAVISION 08:15pm Bakulapure Jatri Rtv 09:05pm Oloshpur Desh TV 08:15pm Mayangam 09:45pm Dohbhayoner Din ETV
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<b>TALK SHOW</b>	12:30am Lead News 12:00am Zero Hour 12:30pm Taraka Kothon 11:30pm Shawno Orar Din	08:30am Reporters Diary 10:50pm Zero Hour Rtv 10:40am Tarakalip Desh TV 10:30pm Desh E Golpo CHANNEL 24 12:00am Modhrrastar Muktakab
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