

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Senapong
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha
Venue: Nordic Club, Gulshan-2
Date: Nov 21-Dec7
Time: 5pm-7pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Bangladesh: The Price of Freedom
Photographer: Raghu Rai
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shikhalaya, H-42, R-16, Dharmadhi
Date: December 7-16

15th Asian Art Biennale
Venue: Bangladesh Shikhalaya Academy, Segunbagicha
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am-5pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Series 7
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-7A, Dharmadhi
Date: December 1-10
Time: 3-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Kulu
Title: The Making of Kulu Art-2
Venue: Radius Art Gallery, Gulshan
Date: Nov 30-Jan 15

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Kullides Karmakar
Title: Abstract Faces and Diary
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture, Gulshan
Date: Dec 1-20
Time: 10am-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Touch the Sky
Photographer: MA Mohi
Venue: Onk Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A, Dharmadhi
Date: December 7-14
Time: 12-6pm

Victory Festival 2012
Organiser: Sammilito Shangkritik Jote
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar, Dhaka
Date: Dec 14-16; Time: 4pm



Natya Teertha stages Phagun Sheshey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Natya Teertha staged its play "Phagun Sheshey" at the temporarily built stage next to Shikha Chirantan, inside Suhrawardi Udyan, Dhaka on December 7. The staging was part of a festival to celebrate the Victory Day. The festival began on December 5 and will continue till December 31.

A national celebration committee has been formed to arrange the festival that, apart from staging of plays, also features music, dance, recitation and screening of films based on the war. Everyday, the programme begins at 3 pm; staging of play takes place in the evening. Based on the Liberation War, "Phagun Sheshey" was written by Shadhona Ahmed and directed by Tapan Haifz. The play fea-

tured two characters that were enacted by the director Tapan Haifz and Dr. Irin Parvin. The play centres on the war and its aftermath through a narration of the woes of a Birangana. At one point, her husband wants to abandon her but her determination and dignity help him realise the truth.

Faiz Zair designed the set and light of the play. However, the show did not feature much of his work because of some technical limitations.

Throughout the month, other troupes including Nagarik Natyangan, Theatre (Bailey Road), Mahakal Natyasampradaya, Theatre Art Unit, Theatre (Arambagh), Loko Natyadal and Prachyatnat will stage their popular plays based on the war.

The next play will be staged tomorrow.



Raghu Rai speaks at the opening.

KARIM WAHEED

"The trickling stream of refugees coming from East Pakistan was swelling. By the end of the day, it took the shape of an exodus. I arrived in Kolkata by the morning flight and drove straight to Khulna via Jessore Road... It was August and monsoon was at its peak, the sky was a deep grey and it rained all the way... The refugees with their meagre belongings were pouring in... Most were drenched soaked in rain, and overwhelmed with suffering and fatigue. There was a kind of silence -- no one talked..."

-- Raghu Rai

In 1971, Rai, then working for The Statesman, took photographs of the refugees coming from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and young freedom fighters. These images were published in newspapers, but they didn't just meet the needs of the media, they became much more. These images documented a nation persecuted and dehumanised, a nation fighting tooth and nail against Pakistan army to stay alive and be free. Rai's conscience essentially put a human face on conflict coverage.

Of these photos, 51 are now on display at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhaka. The exhibition -- jointly organised by Bengal Gallery and Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), High Commission of India in Dhaka -- opened on December 7.

The exhibition was formally inaugurated by chief guest, Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Md. Abdul Hamid Advocate. Special guests were: Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Pankaj Saran, and trustee of Liberation War Museum, Mofidul Hoque.

Welcoming all and thanking IGCC, High Commission of India, director of Bengal Gallery, Subir Choudhury, said that this exhibition is an invaluable documentation of the Liberation War and should be taken to all parts of Bangladesh.

Mofidul Hoque urged Raghu Rai -- who was present at the opening -- to undertake another photographic journey through Bangladesh which can provide a contrast between the country in 1971 and now. This could evaluate our progress as a nation, he added.

Speaker of the Parliament, Md. Abdul Hamid

PUTTING A HUMAN FACE ON THE LIBERATION WAR

Bangladesh: The Price of Freedom at Bengal Gallery



These images documented a nation persecuted and dehumanised, a nation fighting tooth and nail against Pakistan army to stay alive and be free.

Advocate, recalled India's sincere cooperation during the 9-month long war, particularly providing shelter to 10 million Bangladeshis, with gratitude.

The Indian High Commissioner Pankaj Saran wished all the best and said that IGCC was fortunate to bring these photos to Bangladesh in December, when the nation celebrates its victory.

The collection of images can be divided in two segments: 'Refugees' and 'After the Victory'.

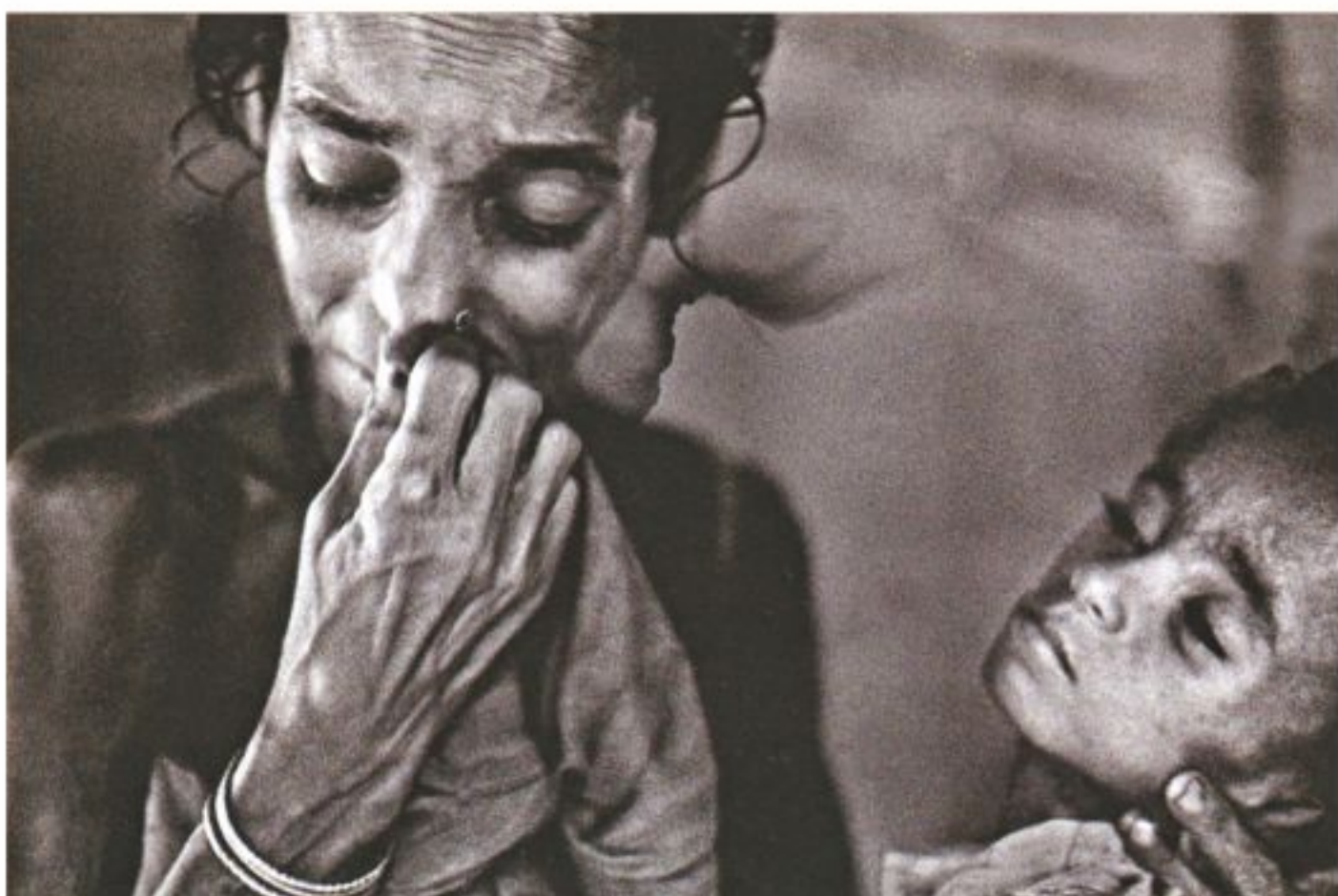
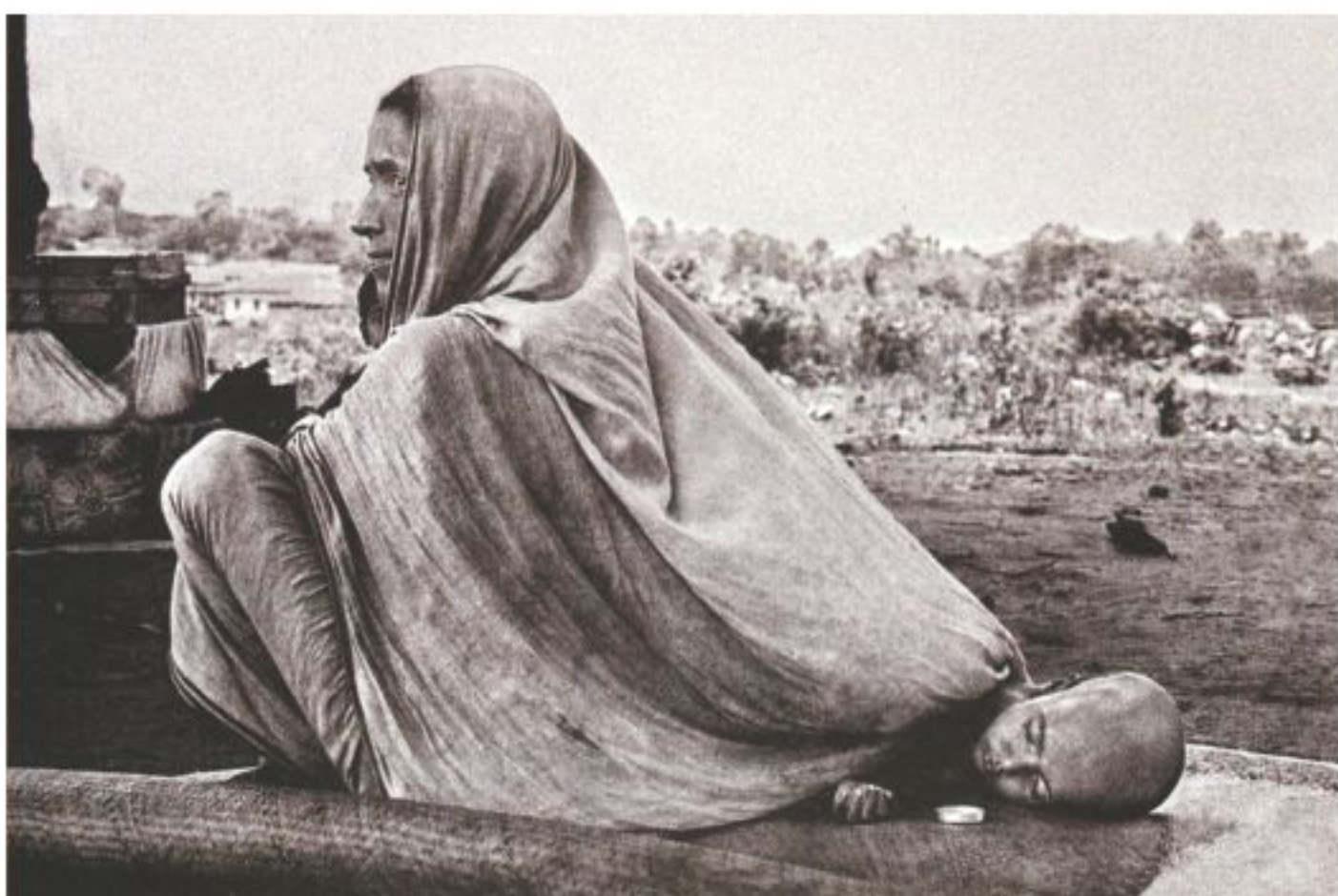
Black and white images of refugees, the exodus

across the border to escape genocide, are stark. There's no digital manipulation at work. Emaciated people in rags, carrying their belongings in sacks, marching ahead. The journey was best described by American poet Allen Ginsberg:

*Wet processions families walk
Stunted boys big heads don't talk
Look bony skulls & silent round eyes
Starving black angels in human disguise...*
(September on Jessore Road; November 14-16,

1971)

Rai's photos show elderly people, who cannot walk any more and have to be carried by family members during the journey across border; refugees living in concrete pipes; desolate faces who have nothing to say but just looking straight at the camera, looking into the soul behind the lens; and the then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, folding hands to gesture 'namaskar', amongst refugees.



against a backdrop of ruins; valiant freedom fighters waving the 'red and green'; refugees returning home; and the triumphant return of Bangabandhu to Bangladesh on January 10, 1972.

It takes tremendous courage to be a refugee -- leaving everything behind, becoming stateless and dehumanised. That was the price of freedom Bangladeshis paid. Raghu Rai's photographs narrate that journey with deep empathy.

The exhibition will continue till Victory Day (December 16).

UNFPA-BAMBA Concert against gender violence

ZAHID HOSSAIN, Khulna

With the message, "Say No to Violence against Women: Be a Real Man", a concert was held at the District Stadium in Khulna last Friday. Organised by UNFPA and BAMBA, the concert featured top 12 bands of the country.

Khulna City Mayor, Talukder Abdul Khaleque, addressed the concert as the chief guest. Secretary, Children and Women's Affairs, Tariqul Islam; UNFPA Bangladesh representative Arthur Erken; BAMBA vice president Fuad Nasser Babu, were special guests.

The chief guest said, a real man does not throw acid on or torture his wife. A real

man puts a stop to sexual harassment. We should be very vocal about such burning issues and incidents.

In the absence of LRB and Miles, artistes from 12 popular bands performed their songs that appealed to all.

The 12 bands who performed at the concert were: Nagarbaul, Warface, Maqsood O Dhaka, Dolchhut, Lalon, Prometheus, Feedback, Nemesis, Shironamhin, Beduin, Mechanix and Dreck.

The concert began with a message that violence against women in any form should be stopped.

Welcoming the crowd, chief of operations of UNFPA, Afsana Tahera, said UNFPA has been organising this 16-day long campaign in Bangladesh in collaboration with BAMBA annually since 2010 to send the message that November 25 is the international day to mark EVAW and December 10 is International Human Rights Day.



PHOTO COURTESY: PRESLEY JAYSON

Cultural feast

Bijoy Utshab gets off the ground



Cultural personalities inaugurate the festival.

PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

FAHMIM FERDOUS

"Bijoy Utshab 2012" (Victory Festival) was inaugurated at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in Dhaka on December 7, with the celebrations set to go on at different places in the capital, and end at Rajshahi and Cox's Bazar's Ramu. People from the cultural fraternity arrived at the Shaheed Minar as the afternoon set in. People from all walks of life also gathered at the spot -- to be a part of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote's programmes.

The programme began with the placing of floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, followed by a minute of silence in memory of the martyrs of the Liberation War. Artistes of the Gono-Sangeet Shamannay Parishad then sang the national anthem.

Mofidul Hoque read out the announcement of the festival, reminding on Bangladesh's struggle for independence, and how the opposing forces of liberation are still actively

engaged in conspiracy.

Artistes then performed an inspirational gono sangeet written by Mukunda Das, "Bhoy Ki Morone", followed by the welcome address by general secretary of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Hasan Arif, who also inaugurated the festival along with distinguished guests and Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artistes and technicians.

A dance performance to "Purbo Digonte Shurjo Uttheche" was next. Eminent journalist and cultural activist Kamal Lohani then addressed the gathering on behalf of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. A number of popular slogans from the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra were recited by Ashrafur Alam, followed by addresses of Mamunur Rashid; Asaduzzaman Noor (MP); Mannan Hira; poet Dr. Md. Samad; Fokir Alamgir; theatre personality and DG of Shilpakala Academy, Liakat Ali Lucky; vice president of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Golam Kuddus;

Salauddin Badal; chairman of the event, Nasriddin Yusuf; and Ramendur Majumdar.

The speakers urged citizens to be conscious, and organise themselves so that the dark forces against the country's sovereignty can be halted in their tracks through cultural and political movements. The speeches were followed by performances of popular songs aired on Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the war.

The month-long cultural programmes of the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, under the banner of "Bijoy Utshab", will be held in the capital's Gendaria, Bahadur Shah Park, Hajariabagh, Motijheel, Shaheed Minar, Dhaka University premises, Dharmadhi Rabindra Sharobar, Rayerbazar memorial, Uttara, Dania, Mirpur and Pallabi; and will close in Rajshahi on December 28 and Cox's Bazar's Ramu on December 29. The festival will include music, dance, recitation, film shows, street plays and presentations by children.

Rokeya and Sakhawat Memorial School -- One Hundred Years After

IQBAL BAHAR CHOUDHURY

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain was a social reformer, educationist, prolific writer and campaigner for human rights and gender equality in British India. She was a writer without boundaries. Her words spoke to the world as a whole and often talked passionately on issues that are only now being recognised as vitally important. Her writings, ideas and message are still hugely influential on the life of the people in South Asia today. Unfortunately few people in the West know of Rokeya.

Rokeya was born in British colonial India in 1880 in Pairaband, a village in Rangpur (now in Bangladesh) to an aristocratic Muslim family. Although her father and two brothers had a western education, she and her sisters were denied education. Her elder brother taught her to read and write in the dead of night.

When Rokeya was 18, her brothers helped to arrange her marriage to a friend Syed Sakhawat Hossain, a Deputy Magistrate from Bihar. He was almost 40 years old and a widower. Sakhawat had a progressive attitude and supported Rokeya in her studies. Soon she became a writer.

After about 10 years of a happy married life, Sakhawat Hossain passed away in 1909. Rokeya was always concerned about the lack of education of the Muslim women of her time. Her husband left her ten thousand rupees to help fulfill their shared dream of a school. She opened a school in Bihar with only five girls. Soon she was forced to move to Calcutta (now Kolkata). But Rokeya never gave up. Finally, in 1911 she established Sakhawat Memorial School in Kolkata with eight students and only two benches. The school grew despite difficulties and opposition and now is one of the top rated schools of the region.

Mamlukul Fatema Khanum (my grand-aunt) was the first Bengali teacher of Sakhawat Memorial School. She was a friend and co-worker of Rokeya. At the request of Rokeya, she joined Sakhawat School in 1927. My mother Anwara Bahar Choudhury was a direct student of Rokeya and was also the last principal of the Sakhawat Memorial School in British India (1944-1947).

The School celebrated the one year-long centenary (March 1910-March 1911) and I along with two of my sisters were invited to join the celebrations. I went to Kolkata from Washington, Shaheen Choudhury Westcombe MBE (an architect) went from London and Professor Nasreen Shams joined us from Dhaka. We were touched by the love, affection and respect shown to us, during the centenary of the school. Shaheen had helped earlier in staging a play -- "Rokeya's Dream" in London (based on Rokeya's "Sultana's Dream", a satire written in English) with the support of Rose Bruford College.

During the centenary celebrations we joined the school parade in the streets of Kolkata along with students, teachers -- both past and present, and guests with placards, photograph and message of Rokeya.

I thought and planned to do a documentary film on Rokeya and Sakhawat Memorial School while participating in the centenary celebrations of this educational institution. The film was completed in March 2012 after two years of hard work and shooting in Pairaband, Rangpur (Rokeya's birth place), Dhaka and Kolkata. The premiere shows were held very successfully in Dhaka and Kolkata in April 2012 with wide media coverage.

I intend to present the documentary in several cities in the West and spread the message of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain.

We already had a successful screening of this film in the United States. Bangamela 2012 screened this film in Virginia in July during their three-day convention. Bangladesh Mission to the United Nations hosted a show of this film in New York in August 2012. This was followed by two separate shows of the documentary organised by the American Association of Bangladeshi Engineers & Architects (AABEA) and Dhaka University Alumni Forum in Maryland.

Begum Rokeya passed away on December 9, 1932 in Kolkata. She was born on December 9, 1880. Bangla speaking people are celebrating this day in Bangladesh and West Bengal, and paying tributes to this iconic personality. Dhaka University Rokeya Hall is celebrating Rokeya Dibash today and the documentary film "Rokeya and Sakhawat Memorial School -- One Hundred Years After" will be screened at this function. On this occasion, let us all spread the message of the visionary Begum Rokeya.

Iqbal Bahar Choudhury is former Chief of VOA Bangla Service, journalist, TV anchor, elocutionist and filmmaker.

How well do you know 007?

Test your knowledge to win **FREE PREMIUM TICKETS** to SKYFALL with

The Daily Star **STAR** GENEPOOL JAMES BOND QUIZ.

QUIZ: 09

- 1) Give the first name for Jaws' romantic interest in "Moonraker".
- 2) In "Goldfinger", give the full name of the character who utters the famous line, "No, Mr. Bond, I expect you to die".
- 3) In how many James Bond films has Pierce Brosnan starred?

To participate for your chance to win **TWO FREE PREMIUM TICKETS** to SKYFALL, email your answers to skyfall.quiz@thedailystar.net or skyfall.quiz@gmail.com by 4pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow on the newspaper and through email.

104 questions refer to the last series of James Bond

Answer of QUIZ 08:

1. THEY ARE THE SAME PERSON.
2. ONE MILLION DOLLARS.
3. CARLY SIMON.

Winners of QUIZ 08:

01. Riyadul Ul Munir - Mirpur, Dhaka
02. Ahsanul Hoque - Dhaka University, Dhaka
03. Aftreen Shafata - DOHS Baridhara, Dhaka

BTV	03:05 Apun Aloy	12:30 Total Sports
	07:25 Ekboni Bolbar Shomoy	Maasranga Television
	09:10 Drama Serial: Dosh	10:02 Bangla Feature Film
	Bochor Por	06:30 Binodon Sharadin
10:25	Digital Bangladesh	08:40 Drama Serial: Khonikaly
CHANNEL i		11:00 Tele-quiz
02:45	Gorey Gorey Gaaner Utshab	CHANNEL 9
06:20	Rupantar	09:00 Bangla Feature Film
09:35	Drama Serial: Tukro Chhobir Album	08:15 Drama Serial: Nagarik
11:30	Prokriti O Jibon	09:00 Power Voice 2012
ntv		11:15 Bits Unlimited
08:45	Bangla Feature Film	CHANNEL 24
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	01:05 Musical Programme
06:15	Shabho Shondhya	08:00 Shopping & Cooking
09:00	Tomakei Khujche Bangladesh	08:30 Travel Show
		Gtv
		11:30 Bangla Feature Film
		09:00 Harmony
		09:35 Drama Serial: Jonani

abc Radio FM 89.2	12:30 No Tension
09:30 Eek Odik	04:00 Dhaka Calling
05:30 Kacha Lanka	09:00 Full Volume
06:30 Mocha Koro	11:00 Back to Back music
07:20 GPl Launch	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
07:45 Megh Barata	06:00 Green FM
09:30 Love Hour	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:10 Hindi Hits	12:00 Today's Adda
RADIO FOOTI	04:00 U Turn
07:30 Hello Dhaka	07:00 Today Tai Hok
10:00 Morning Express	10:00 Raat Bhor Gaan

Tomakei Khujche Bangladesh

On ntv at 09:00pm

Musical Talent Hunt

Judges: Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, Fahmida Nabi &

Bhuter Bari

On Boishakhi TV at 11:35pm

Genre: Action/Adventure

Cast: Orlando Bloom, Eva Green & Liam Neeson

Drama Serial

Cast: Lutfur Rahman George, Shirin Bokul

ETV	03:30 Ekushey-er Business	02:40 The Walking Dead
	04:30 Documentary: Jibon Brittery	08:50 Homeland
	06:30 Desh Jurey Oporadhi Porikroma	09:50 UFC: Henderson Vs Diaz
12:05	Ekushey-er Raat	11:35 Kingdom of Heaven

Boishakhi TV	09:15 Bangla Feature Film	01:55 Transformers: Dark of the Moon
	04:00 Shorashoni Doctor	05:05 Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over
	09:20 Drama Serial: Ognipothi	06:45 Batman Begins
	11:00 Reporters: Diary	09:30 The Scorpion King 3: Battle for Redemption

BANGLAVISION	01:05 Bangla Feature Film	11:35 Black Water
	06:05 Ebony Class-er Bairey	StarWorld
	08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First	01:30 Packed to the Rafters
11:25	Business Vision	06:30 Grey's Anatomy

Rtv	12:35 Bangla Feature Film	08:30 The Diarists
	07:40 Drama Serial: Bihm Roti	09:30 Revenge
	09:50 Dhrupadi Kahini	10:30 Alcatraz
12:05	Business Vision	Discovery Channel

Desh TV	03:02 Gaan R Gaan	03:30 Wildest Latins
	06:30 Sanskritir Sharadesh	08:30 How Bruce Lee Changed the World
09:45	Tribute to Legend	

ATN BANGLA	09:20pm DB	Boishakhi TV
10:55pm Scandal		News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm
CHANNEL 10	07:50pm Noorjahan	09:55pm Long March
07:50pm Noorjahan		09:55pm Oloshpur
ntv	08:15pm Oghoton Ghoton	Desh TV
	Potiyoshi	07:45pm Saatkahon
ETV	09:30pm Ulaia 69	Maasranga Television
		08:00pm Hashi Bari

NEWS BULLETIN

ATN BANGLA	01:00pm Onno Drishti	Rtv	11:30pm Our Democracy
CHANNEL 1	12:30pm Taraka Kothon	Desh TV	11:45pm Shuja Katha
12:00am	Ei Shomoy	CHANNEL 24	12:05am Modyratra
ETV	10:10pm Media Gossip	Gtv	11:00pm G-Business Talk
Boishakhi TV	12:00am Zero Hour	12:00am	Shongbad Shongbad

TALK SHOW

ATN BANGLA	01:00pm Onno Drishti	Rtv	11:30pm Our Democracy
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