

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition Title: Sonaragan Artist: Proshanta Kamrkar Buddha Venue: Nordic Club, Gulshan-2 Date: Nov 21-Dec 17 Time: 9am-7pm

Photography Exhibition Title: Bangladesh: The Prize of Freedom Photographer: Rafiqul Rai Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shikhyap, H-42, R-16, Dharamdani Date: December 7-16

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

Group Art Exhibition Title: Scenes7 Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, Rd-7A, Dharamdani Date: December 1-10 Time: 3-8pm

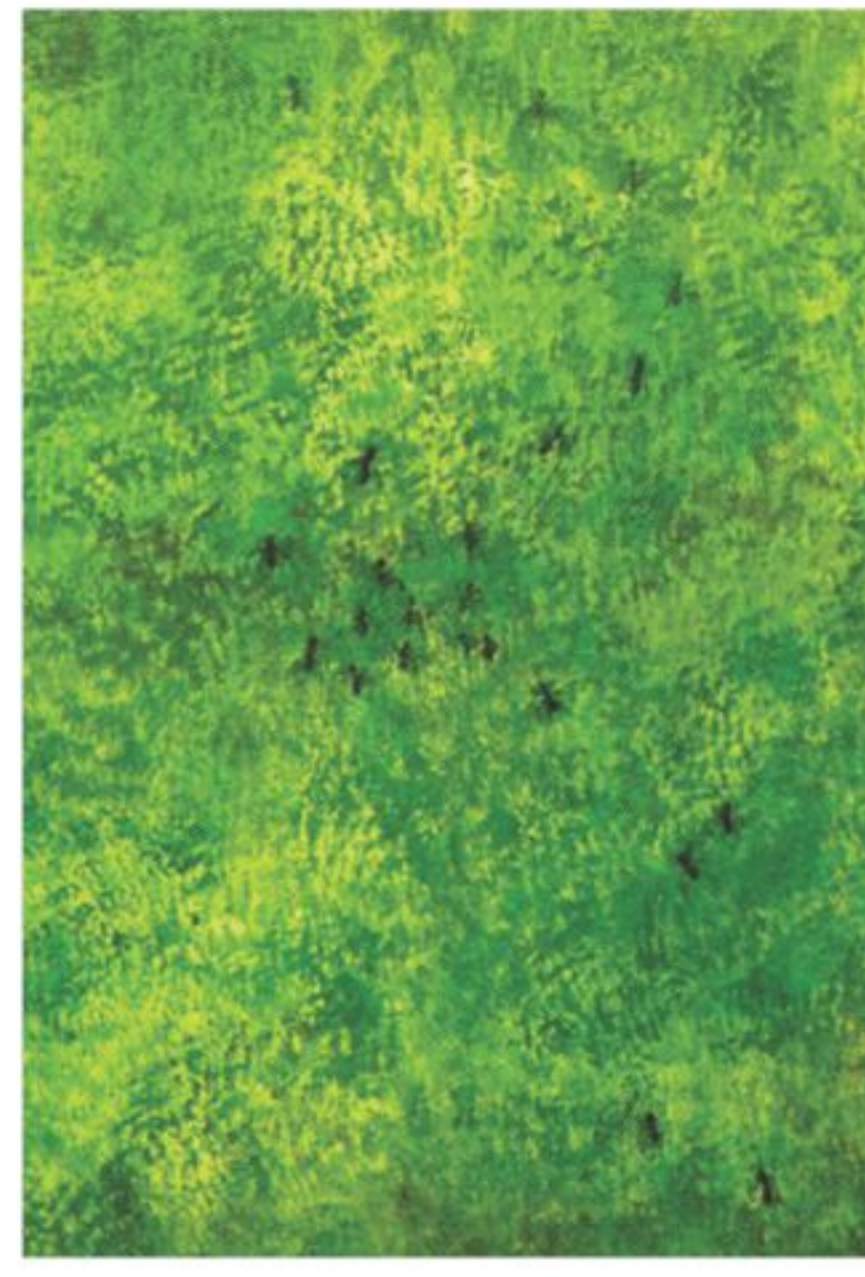
Solo Art Exhibition Artist: Kaku Title: The Making of Kaku Art-2 Venue: Radius Art Gallery, Gulshan Date: Nov 30-Jan 15

Solo Art Exhibition Artist: Kullidas Kamrkar Title: Absent Faces and Diary Venue: Institute of Art and Culture, Gulshan Date: Dec 1-20 Time: 10am-9pm

Photography Exhibition Title: Touch the Sky Photographer: MM Mohit Venue: Dhik Gallery, H 55, Rd 15A, Dharamdani Date: December 1-14 Time: 12-6pm

Victory Festival 2012 Organiser: Sammito Shangkritik Jote Venue: Central Shaheed Minar, Dhaka Date: Dec 14-16; Time: 9pm

Articulation of diversity



Artworks by Nasima Khanam Queenie.

TAKIR HOSSAIN Although Nasima Khanam Queenie is quite aptly described as an abstract painter, her work is never non-figurative. Her paintings can be categorised according to the use of varied alien forms as well as detailed compositions. A notable feature of her painting is the way in which the forms seem to push outwards on the way to the viewers at its centre and to gather to pursue each other around the edges of the paintings. This reflects Queenie's longstanding interest in Cubism. After a long hiatus, the painter is holding a solo exhibition at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in Dharamdani. The exhibition will be held shortly. Having studied Oriental Art at the Institute of Fine Arts (now Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka), her work is bound to have romantic and scenic overtones. Currently Queenie is trying to focus on wide-ranging themes like pre-historic elements, chronological aspects of human life, civilisation and more. Illumination is a prominent feature in most of her paintings and the artist generally prefers glowing settings where human figures are frequently missing. In Queenie's paintings the loose brushwork takes on a real psychological experience. A number of her paintings have a moody, almost oceanic feel to them. Queenie's painting process is usually lengthy and involves a gradual refinement of everything that creates a superb atmosphere. The overall image -- the closeness of tones among the green, the blue and the black -- resonates like a perfect composition. Among the Western master painters, Rembrandt's light, Antoni Tapies' lines, Salvador Dalí's surrealist imagery, Jackson Pollock's vibrant colours and bold strokes inspire the artist. Queenie is comfortable working with any media -- be it oil, acrylic or watercolour. She feels that the colours and forms are meant to communi-

cate. When light and shade harmonically blend in her paintings, they generate an artistic ecstasy. Her use of space brings a silent joy and contemplative ambience. For Queenie, the best years of her training was at the School of Visual Art, Manhattan, New York (mid '80s), where John Foote, who was then the chief designer of Vogue magazine, groomed her in basic design for the media. Having mastered the grammar of colours, tones and lines, Queenie could use the methods in her paintings. In the series 'Through the Ages', her complex compositions, textural strength, thickness of colours and variation are the main ingredients. Through her paintings, she seeks to express the message that she is becoming more novel, using her space to relate with her colours and forms. A number of her nature-based paintings look neat and tranquil as the canvas typically displays colours and their various layers. The colours involved are azure, red, black, white, yellow and emerald green.

Victory Day celebration by Tarunner Uchchash

SHAHENOOR AKTHER URMI, Chittagong

To celebrate Victory Day, Tarunner Uchchash, an organisation of elocutionists in the port city, held a two-day 'Bijoy Utshab' (Victory Day Festival), featuring a number of cultural programmes with the theme 'Awdho Boloy Bhangre Ebar Shoiloi Alo Jele' at DC Hill Premises. The event concluded on Friday.

Pijush Bandyopadhyay, renowned actor and managing director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, was present as chief guest on the second day while Indian Assistant High Commissioner in Chittagong, Somnath Ghosh; Associate Professor of Jagannath University, Razib Mir; elocutionist Belayet Hossain; elocutionist Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay; and advisor to the organisation, Pradip Dewanji, were also present at the discussion preceding the cultural programme. Pijush Bandyopadhyay said, 'After an

immense sacrifice we gained victory but we have not yet achieved our desired goal because some criminals who were against our liberation are still living in glory.' Somnath Ghosh said, 'The history of Bangladesh's victory is now known to people all over the world and this carries a positive image of the country.' Razib Mir said, 'Much has been written about our Liberation War and victory but research-based books are rare. Many people are still unaware of the real history.' Tarunner Uchchash presented a choral recitation, while elocutionists Kazi Arif, Balayet Hossain, Shantanu Biswas, Indira Chowdhury and Aisa Haque Shimu read out poems solo. Kaberi Sen Gupta, Shahriar Khaled and Sreyoshi Roy, among others, performed songs at the cultural programme. After Mayabi Dance Academy's group dance, the cultural programme was wrapped up by Tina Biswas and Premshundor Boishnab whose rendition of regional folk songs won hearty applause from the audience.

Shotoborsher Arghaya in memory of Ustad Amir Khan

Classical Music Soiree at National Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Asit Dey (C) performs a khayal at the soiree. PHOTO: ATLA AAKASH

A classical music soiree, titled 'Shotoborsher Arghaya', organised by Ustad Amir Khan Jonmshotoharshiki Udjapan Parishad (UAKJUP), was held on December 7 at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh in Dhaka. Ustad Amir Khan, a classical musician extraordinaire, was born in 1912. Amir Khan Jonmshotoharshiki Udjapan Parishad was formed with the aim of commemorating the 100th birth anniversary of the legendary personality and paying tributes to him for his outstanding contribution to Indian classical music.

The soiree featured several renowned classical artists from both Bangladesh and India, including Asit Dey, a Chhayanaut guru and a noted classical vocalist of Bangladesh; Asim Chaudhury, renowned sitarist of India; Rimpa Siva, a tabla prodigy; and vocalist Mahendra Toke, a torchbearer of Amir Khan's Indore Gharana. Setting off the soiree, Asit Dey performed a khayal based on Raga 'Yaman'. He presented vilambit and drut bandish set on vilambit ekaal and teentaal respectively.

He performed a khayal set on Raga 'Puria Kalyan'. His vilambit and drut bandish performance was set on vilambit ekaal and teentaal respectively. Later, the artiste presented a chhoti khayal set on Raga 'Janasamohini'. Badal Chowdhury on tabla and Bizon Mistry on harmonium accompanied the vocalist. Prior to the musical soiree, a short discussion was held where Cultural Secretary Suraiya Begum ndc, spoke as the chief guest. The convener of UAKJUP Sanjib Dey delivered the welcome address at the event. The turnout of the audience was good. Ustad Amir Khan, in a life span of over 60 years, developed a unique style of singing that is now known as the 'Indore Gharana', which blends the spiritual flavour and grandeur of dhrupad with the ornate vividness of khayal. His performance had a soothing elegance and restrained passion that could both move and awe the listeners. Amir Khan also helped popularise the tarana compositions. The Ustad passed away on February 13, 1974 in Calcutta, in a tragic car accident.

To mark Victory Day, 'Bijoy-e Parbone Utshab Udjapan Parishad' is organising a festival. The festival was officially inaugurated on December 7 at the central ground of Dhaka University. The festival will feature procession, discussion, film screening, food, painting and sculpture exhibition. The celebration will also feature street play. Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique, also chairman of the Utshab Udjapan Parishad; and Bivuranjan Sarkar, member-secretary of the Parishad, will be present as guests at the festival.



Nrityanchal to stage Rai Krishna Padabali tomorrow in Kolkata



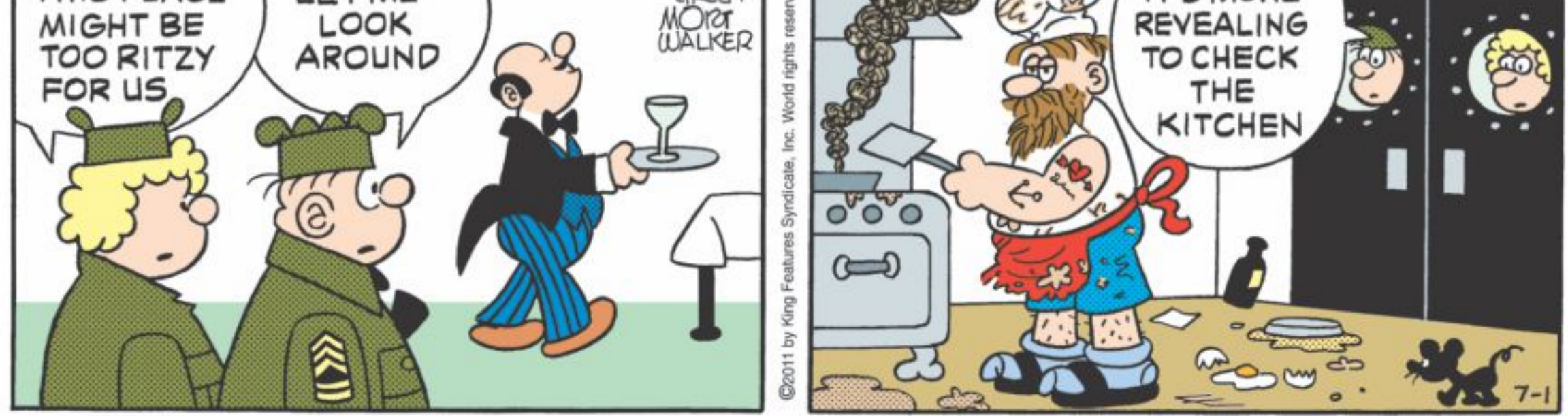
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nrityanchal's much acclaimed dance drama "Rai Krishna Padabali" will be staged tomorrow (December 11) evening at the auditorium of G.D. Birla Sabhagar, Ballygunge, Kolkata, India. The event is being hosted by "Shatkahon", a leading cultural organisation of Kolkata. Produced by Nrityanchal the dance drama has been written by a Bangladeshi poet Sheikh Hafizur Rahman. "Rai Krishna Padabali" is based on legendary love story of Radha and Krishna. The protagonists of the dance drama have been donated by famous dance artistes -- Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammed. The dance drama was composed, choreographed and directed by famous Kolkata based artiste Sukalyann Bhattacharyya. Music directed by Ratna Chowdhury, famous singers -- Haimanti Shukla, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonny, Joyti Chakrabarti, Monmoy Bhattacharyya, Agniwa Banerjee and others lent their voices in a number of songs while noted actor-elocutionist Soumitra Chatterjee and others recorded background voice for the production. Twenty-eight dance artistes of Nrityanchal started journey towards Kolkata yesterday (December 9) to stage "Rai Krishna Padabali" there.

Henry by Don Tranchte



Beetle Baily by Mort Walker



Storytelling for the young

Room to Read launches children's books

FAHMIM FERDOUS

"Girisha is a girl from the hills. Her house is near the waterfall. The crowing of the wild rooster wakes her up every morning. She roams around in the hills, and plays with the clouds." "Girisha from the Hills" is just one of the 25 books that 'Room to Read', an international award-winning NGO working for the development of education, is publishing this year, to reach out to the most beginner-level readers with enthralling stories, in the simplest form of their native language. On a cool December afternoon, US Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dan W. Mozena read out parts of "Girisha from the Hills" to a small but interested audience, at Room to Read's book launching programme at Dharamdani's Edward M. Kennedy Center on December 6. The ambassador termed the event "exciting", to the extent that he said of all the work Bangladesh and the USA do together; this could be the most important of them all. To promote reading, acquiring of knowledge development of children by themselves was a very commendable job, he said, thanking the organisation for their efforts. Author of one of the books, Nazia Jabeen, thanked Room to Read for their workshops in guiding and training the writers and illustrators, saying that it had taught all the writers under the programme that



US Ambassador Dan W. Mozena reads out to children at the event.

Room to read also has a programme of instructing teachers of class 1 and 2 in rural government primary schools, so that children develop the habit of fluent reading of their own language. The programme, currently on a pilot basis in 30 schools, will be expanded to thousands more, if successful -- Zaki Hasan said, expressing hopes that this could entirely change the reading habits of the next generation, going along the motto of Room to Read -- "World Change Starts With Educated Children".

Zaki Hasan, said he was very happy for the continuous support from all parties, especially the government, as one of the organisation's bigger projects is to set up libraries at government primary schools. On the books, he said extensive groundwork goes into the publications, with the manuscripts first sought from writers, orientation of the selected writers, seeking refined manuscripts from them, keeping in mind the reader-base of beginner-level readers from rural areas. The manuscripts are then field-tested with children, and their feedback plays a major role in editing of the manuscripts before the final book is written and illustrated. Zaki Hasan said the number of books that the programme has published has increased from 5 to 25 this year; there are plans of publishing an aggregate of 80 books by 2014. These books will go into the libraries in each classroom in 369 schools that the organisation has established all over the country, and the libraries that the Room to Read are going to establish in coming days.

Concert to mark Magura Free Day

HOSSAIN SERAI, Magura

An open-air concert was held at Noman Maidan (ground) in Magura town on December 7 to mark 'Magura Free Day'. Young artistes Mehrah and Badhon - of "Close Up 1" fame - performed at the concert. The concert began with the popular patriotic song "Je Matir Porey Ghumিয়ে Achhey Lokkho Muktishena". Both singers rendered 12 inspirational and patriotic songs. At the flag end of the Liberation War, Sreepur Bahini led by valiant freedom fighters Akbar Hossain Mian and Molla Nabuat Ali attacked Pakistani soldiers at the then sub-divisional headquarters on December 7, while at the same time Allied Forces made a fierce air attack forcing them to flee, much to the relief of pro-Liberation people of

Magura. Thousands of music enthusiasts from different areas attended the concert. A discussion, organised by the district unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad (MS), was held at the venue prior to the concert. The day's programme also included playing wreaths at the martyrs' memorial, and a rally. With district unit MS commander Molla Nabuat Ali in the chair, the discussion was addressed amongst others by Dr. Mohammad Serajul Akbar MP; freedom fighter Sub-sector Commander Major General (ret.) ATM Abdul Wahab; and Akbar Hossain Mian. Earlier, the same evening, hundreds of people from different walks of life took up position besides the roads of Magura town, holding a candlelight vigil to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War.

Souls participates in South Asian Band Fest



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular rock act Souls is participating in the 6th South Asian Band Festival in New Delhi and Jaipur. The festival started on December 6 and will continue till December 11, according to Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) sources. The band is taking part in the festival after receiving an invitation from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). The festival has been organised jointly by IGCC and Indian NGO, SEHER. Souls came to spotlight in 1972, almost immediately after the Liberation War. A group of young musicians, inspired by Western rock music, decided to form a band called 'Shurela'. A year later the band was renamed as 'Souls'. The 1980s were the eventful years for Souls when the band became hugely popular. Its

debut album "Super Souls" was released in 1980 and became a milestone in modern urban music in Bangladesh. The 1980s saw Souls releasing four successful hit albums. In 1988, Partho Barua joined the band. After his initiation, the band released its 5th album, "E Emon Porichoy", and followed it soon with the album "Aaj Din Katuk Ganey". Current line-up of the band is: Naseem Ali Khan (vocals); Partho Barua (vocals and guitar); SK. Ahasanur Rahman (drums); Mohammad Maruf Hasan Talukder (bass guitar); Meer Shahriar Hossain (keyboard); and Tushar Ranjan Datta (percussion). The festival features several prominent bands from India and other South Asian countries like Nasya (India); E-SA (Maldives); The Likens (Bhutan); District Unknown (Afghanistan); Thiloka (Sri Lanka); Blaze (Myanmar); Jindabad (Nepal); and Noori (Pakistan).

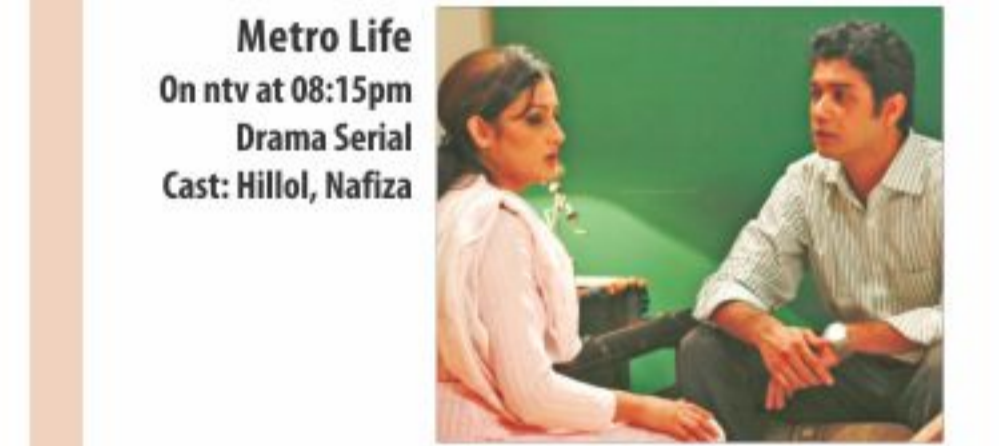
How well do you know 007?

Test your knowledge to win FREE PREMIUM TICKETS to SKYFALL with The Daily Star STAR JAMES BOND QUIZ.

- QUIZ: 10 1) In which James Bond movie Eva Green starred as Bond girl? 2) What is the name of M's secretary in the James Bond movies? 3) In which James Bond movies has Sean Connery starred as James Bond? Answer of QUIZ 09: 1. DOLLY. 2. AURIC GOLDFINGER. 3-4. Winners of QUIZ 09: 01. Sheila Alam - Lalmatia, Dhaka 02. Rahat Eshan - University of Chittagong, Chittagong 03. Moimul Aziz - Mirpur, Dhaka

Table with columns for TV channels (ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 9, CHANNEL 24, ntv) and their respective programmes.

Table titled 'RADIO' listing radio stations like abr radio FM 89.2 and various music/entertainment programmes.



Metro Life On ntv at 08:15pm Drama Serial Cast: Hiloi, Nazifa



College On Maasranga Television at 09:20pm Drama Serial Cast: Shohk, Nafa

ETV 11:30 Ekshrey-er Business 11:35 Probahar Bangladesh 11:40 Drama Serial: Shaakhi Durbal

Boishakhi TV 09:15 Bangla Feature Film 09:30 Shorashon Doctor 09:45 Drama Serial: Boro Barir Chhoto Boe

BANGLAVISION 01:05 Bangla Feature Film 06:25 Front Line 08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First 11:25 Probahar Mukh

Desh TV 01:00 Gaan R Gaan 06:00 Kalyanker Galpokattha 08:15 Drama Serial: Chhayanautkosh

ATN BANGLA 08:40pm Jhalanta Babura 08:55pm Metro Life 09:00pm Utas 69 09:20pm Ognipath

BTV News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 10pm. News (English) at 10am, 10pm, 4pm.

NEWS BULLETIN BTV News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 10pm. News (English) at 10am, 10pm, 4pm.