

WHAT'S ON

Group Drawing Exhibition
Title: His Light, His Shadow
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-42, Rd 16 (new), Dharmondi

Tagore Dance-Drama
Title: 'Mayar Khela'
Organiser: Shadhona
Venue: National Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 23

Launching Ceremony
Album of songs a DVD of "Narosundar" by Tanque Masud
Venue: Seventh Restaurant, Dk Tower, Level 7, 7A, Sonargang Road, Bangla Motor

Remembering Soovas Dutt
Film Screening
Venue: Dance and Music Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Dec 22-27

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Serene Dream and Reality
Artist: Avi Shankar Ain
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dharmondi
Date: Dec 18-31

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Kazi Anirban
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7A, Dharmondi
Date: December 19-29
Time: 3pm-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Pentagon - An Exploration of the Five Senses
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, A/ Heights, Ch-72/1/0, 2nd Floor, Progoti Shorani, Uttar Badda
Date: Dec 22-Jan 22

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

NEW RELEASES

OPORAJITA
Mixed album
Source: G-Series

Bhorer Shuktara
Solo album by Masud Khan
Source: Agniaveena

A Lesson in Thrash
Stuio album of the band Thrash
Source: Incursion Music

Ke Tumi Kar
Solo album by Nirjhor
Source: G-Series



PHOTO: ATILAKASH

UDAY SANKAR DAS, from Chittagong

For a moment, I had to pinch myself to make myself believe that I was really where I was; sitting in Enclosure A with thousands of other music lovers in the first ever classical extravaganza in Bangladesh. It was the Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Festival 2012 held in Dhaka from November 29-December 2, dedicated to the memory of the legendary Ustad Allauddin Khan and participated by who's who of the classical music world of the South Asian sub-continent. It was a magnificent parade of gems of the highest quality for four continuous nights enthralling music aficionados in Bangladesh who have never seen anything like this before. The performances were mindboggling and I, for one, can put my hands on my heart and say it was a treat of a lifetime.

For the first time ever, a four-day classical music festival was organised by Bengal Foundation and ITC-SRA in the Army Stadium in Dhaka where, only with a few exceptions, all the famous stalwarts and maestros of the Indian classical music world were present at this epic event to showcase their talents. The most appreciable aspect in this huge gathering of music maestros is that alongside the veterans like Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain (shehnai), Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty(vocal), Ustad Rashid Khan(vocal), Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta(sarod), Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma[santoor], Vidushi Girija Devi(vocal), Pandit Birju Maharaj[kathak], Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia[flute], Vidushi Aruna Sayeeram(vocal), Pandit Rajan and Pandit Sajjan Misra(vocal), Pandit Kumar Bose[tabla] and Vidushi Subhra Guha(vocal), the organisers chose to invite the next generation of classical music artists from India including Omkar Dadarkar(vocal), Pandit Uday Bhawalkar(vocal), Adnan Khan[sitar], Kaushiki Desikan(vocal), Purbayan Chatterjee[sitar], Adnan Khan [sitar] and Vaseem Ahmed Khan(vocal), to name a few.

This blend of youth and experience gave an extra flavour to the festival. It has demonstrated how the young generation has taken up classical music in the neighbouring country and this would encourage young musicians of Bangladesh to this dimension of our rich music heritage. The presence of Vidushi Sujata Mohapatra(Odissi) and Vidushi Alamel Valli [Bharatanatyam] added grace to the festival. The organisers need special mention for also putting on stage, with these maestros, Ustad Shahadat Hussain [sarod] together with a number of young emerging artists of Bangladesh including Alif Laila[sitar], Priyanka Gope(vocal) and Murtuza Kabir[flute]. Never before in the annals of the music world of Bangladesh have so many stalwarts and maestros been brought 'under one roof' for such a unique event.

Bangladesh Utshob

Ramna Park rocks with Banglalink



The daylong programme included songs, dramas, dances, poetry recitals and more.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Rather than the warm summer breeze of Pabeha Baishakh welcoming them at the Ramna Park, Dhaka residents braved a chilly winter morning yesterday to visit the Bangladesh Utshob, organised by telecom operator Banglalink at the park. Thousands of people, caught up in the festive spirit, set out to enjoy the Utshob, which offered a wide variety of entertainment to people of all ages.

The venue experienced an unusual winter day, with the festive mood warming up the entire Ramna Park. The Bangladesh Utshob began at 10 am and wrapped up around 10 pm.

It goes without saying that it takes a lot of planning, hard work, tenacity, organisation and execution to hold an event of this stature and magnitude. It must have taken months since the inception of the idea to the actual holding of the festival and one can easily appreciate the number of man hours that have been put into this gigantic effort. Every minute detail had to be looked into and worked out meticulously and the organisers have been very successful in almost all respects. Bengal Foundation, it must be said, has won the hearts and minds of many people in the country for such a laudable effort. The organisers have promised to hold such festivals in the future and must have started evaluating the work they have done in this event to make future festivals more successful.

Enjoying this mega event for four consecutive evenings till the following dawn, a few things became apparent in the overall organisation in this event. Without taking away an iota of credit from the organisers and their huge band of workers and volunteers, it was apparent that there was lack of guidance from people who have organised cultural events. Some of the decisions, it appeared, were not taken in advance, but were taken on an ad-hoc basis. Stage organisation, comping and sound system failed to live up to the expectations of some of the performers. In order to transform such events into international events these matters would have to be looked into. The fact remains that we also have to be at par with the world at holding this gigantic events. Barring these small pitfalls which can be easily overcome in the future events, this was a near-perfect classical feast.

The attendance at this four day festival has surprised not only the organisers but also the music world in the country. Nobody in their wildest of dreams could imagine that thousands of people would throng the festival arena and enjoy this 'feast' of extraordinary music. What was even more pleasing and encouraging was the presence of young people throughout this festival. They were seen to be enjoying the variety of music on offer from early evening till dawn. I think this was one of the greatest achievements of this festival: reviving interest and enthusiasm among this group of music lovers in our traditional classical music. If only the organisers were a bit more thoughtful about timing, there would be a few thousand more people in the audience to be mesmerised by tabla maestro Pandit Kumar Bose and captivated by the vocal rendition of Vidushi Subhra Guha on the third day of the festival. Sadly there were only a small number of die-hard music lovers till the end of the 3rd day's programme. But the attendance on the last day broke all records and I estimate that at least 12,000 people assembled at the venue to be enthralled by all the performances, be those

of the young artistes or the veterans. One just had to see it to believe it.

Bangladesh has a rich history of organising classical music festivals although they were not comparable to the scale seen in India. When I was a young boy I have seen such events being organised in the '50s under the auspices of Arya Shongee, a music Institution of Chittagong, where stalwarts like Radhika Mohon Maitro[sarod], Nikhil Banerjee[sitar], Prashun Banerjee(vocal), Anjali Sur(vocal) and Manabendra Mukherjee(vocal), to name a few, participated. On another occasion, I remember Aparesh Lahiri and his wife Banshori Lahiri, both acclaimed classical singers came to Chittagong with their son, Bapji Lahiri, who played the tabla, sitting on his father's lap. The Engineering Institute in Dhaka had witnessed quite few of these musical soires in the '60s. Unfortunately, after the liberation of Bangladesh, not many events have been organised. Bengal Foundation is now playing a pioneering role in reviving classical music in Bangladesh and they deserve all the support from various quarters in their laudable endeavour.

Coming back to the numbers, the attendance at this festival has surpassed all expectations and this is very heartening news for music lovers of Bangladesh. But, after this festival in Bangladesh, I have heard people making this erroneous comparison of attendance in the Dhaka event with that in places like Kolkata, Jaipur, Mumbai and Gwalior. What we tend to forget is the history and heritage of such festivals: 'Dover Lane' and 'All Bengal Music Conference' in Kolkata, the festivals organised by 'Sur Sangsad' in Mumbai and the one held near the tomb of Tansen come to mind. Music connoisseurs have been treated to this rich flavour of classical music for years and they have been frequenting these festivals on a regular basis. And it would be foolish to concentrate on the numbers and put the main purpose of this festival on the back burner. Bengal Foundation has the right to pat themselves on the back for holding such a magnificent event and their task has become even greater as they now have to deliver better festivals in the future. And, to this end they have to inculcate interest and enthusiasm in the young generation for achieving their goal of promoting and nurturing classical music in the Bangladesh. Let us not waste time in playing this number game but start concentrating on the noble task that Bengal Foundation has embarked upon. In this respect, I would suggest that Bengal Foundation should hold classical music festivals, albeit on a smaller scale, in all the divisional cities of the country. That, I am sure, would go a long way, in achieving this wonderful goal.

The writer is a freelance journalist.

Of Energy, Serenity and the Divine Alluvial Faces and Diary

ZIAUL KARIM

Towards the end of his life, the Irish poet WB Yeats remarked that man can embody the truth, but he cannot know it. In his mixed media, graphic art, installation, and performance, Kalidas Karmakar renders this distinction between physical and intuitive knowledge blurry, harnessing a mystic way of knowing through untrammelled insight to penetrate the unmediated experiential knowledge bound up in substances and artifacts.

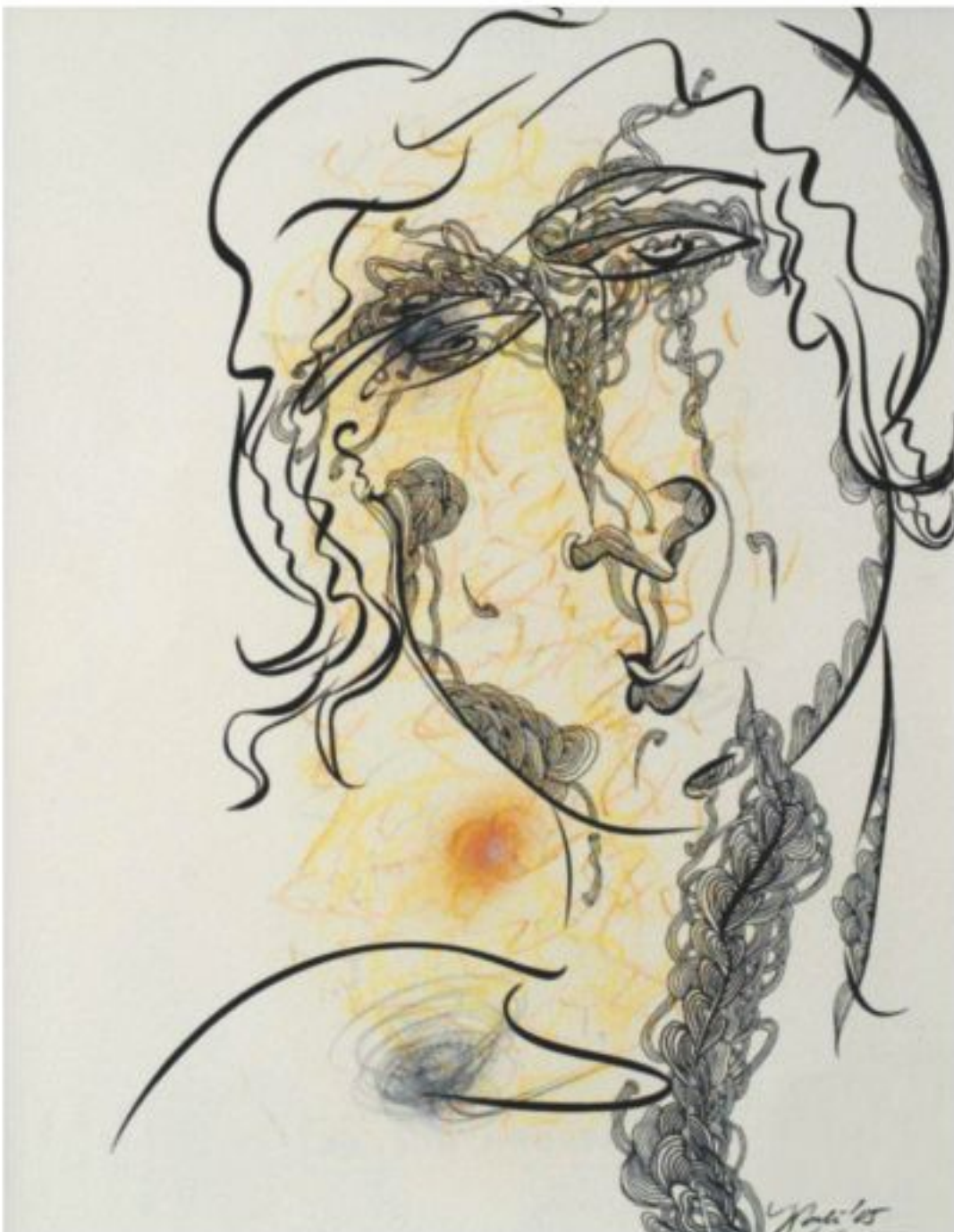
The 72nd solo exhibition by Kalidas Karmakar now being held at the Institute of Art and Culture (IAC) reiterates his predilection for metaphysical knowledge and gnostic experience.

Kalidas sees art as having a spiritual dimension: he draws his symbols and images largely from tantric as well as Sufi traditions. Nature also serves as a source of his inspiration. There is a tactile quality in many of his works, especially those done in handmade paper where images are sometimes embossed and embellished with objects used by the Indian sadhus or mystics. His images and symbols bristle with knowledge encoded in them; they also possess a more arcane knowledge acquired through their association with tradition and culture.

Kalidas deals with a variety of mediums with ease and dexterity. Whether he works in etching, oil and acrylic painting or mixed media, his artistic signature is unmistakably imprinted. In oil and acrylic he applies his paint with force in thick, sweeping strokes; in etching and mixed media he uses his palette as a source of fluid and cascading colours. For him the very act of applying paint is a liberating, almost sensual experience. He delights in combining raw energy, expressed through violent brushstrokes, dipped in tradition, myth, and folk belief.

Viewers of the current show will also see a number of his characteristic drawings: animating the surface of the work, the sketches are random scrawls and scribbles, recalling the freedom of expression of a child's drawing. The faces in the drawings appear completely unaware of the viewers' presence. Their gazes are fixed on the horizon, perhaps trying to decipher the meaning of our existence and our relation to the cosmos.

His compositions are intuitively organised, displaying spontaneous use of colour and sensuous arrangement of space. The highly interactive and multilayered surface of his paintings invite viewers to get involved with the forms and contents of the art



work and the elements of gnostic experience deposited in the images and symbols unfold through invisible meanderings of their meanings in the minds of his audience.

His works have a heroic confidence in their quietness and their echo. Essentially modest, they allow the viewer a wide focus of interpenetration, but with firm generosity direct the attention of our gaze to look through the condition of the human lens, its emotion, isolation, and thirst for the divine. The exhibits of the show do not have individual titles, but individual numbers and are part of the series called 'Alluvial Faces & Diary.' Each work is like a bead of a rosary, complementing each other to perform an artistic meditation.

Finally, for Kalidas art is a language of communication where images and symbols merge and mutate effectively to channel the light of the divine and the transcendent to the audience. But religious experience is not only ethereal; it has its cultural and geographical dimension as well.

The title of the exhibition 'Alluvial Faces & Diary' informs us that divinity has a cultural mooring and emanates from traditions of alluvial land, which is Bengal.

Ziaul Karim is an art critic.

Abdul Jabbar takes Magura by storm

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

With his popular patriotic song "Salam Salam Hajar Salam, Shokol Shaheed Shoroney", performed at Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra in the turbulent days of the Liberation War and popular modern songs including "Tara Bhora Raat-er", famed singer Abdul Jabbar kept the audience spellbound at the Nomani maidan, Magura on December 19.

Thousands of music lovers from remote areas of the district thronged the venue to enjoy his performance as well as to have a glance of the noted singer.

Earlier, local singers Bikash and Boidyanath Kanchan amongst others rendered modern songs to the delight of the audience.

The popular songs of Jabbar reverberated at the venue as a part of the day-long programme in observance of Victory Day organised by the district unit of Awami League (AL).



Abdul Jabbar sings at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR



A student from Oxford International School works on a potato field in Munshiganj as the mentor of "Phirey Chol Matir Taney" (Return to Roots) and the director, planner and host of "Hridoye Mati O Manush", Shykh Seraj watches intensely how the juniors perform this year. These Oxford International students will travel to Munshiganj during the upcoming February, 2013 to harvest the potatoes they sowed. This special episode of "Phirey Chol Matir Taney" will be telecast on December 22, at 9:35 pm on "Hridoye Mati O Manush", Channel i with a repeat telecast tomorrow at 11:30 am.

Rafiqul-Abida duo in Dubai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seasoned singer Rafiqul Alam with his wife noted singer Abida Sultana led an 11-member cultural troupe to concerts in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) marking the 41st Victory Day celebration programme. The Bangladesh Consulate General in Dubai, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign and Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh arranged the three day victory festival.

The programme featured performances of patriotic songs that represented Bangladesh, Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (SBBK) songs and catchy Bangladesh folk songs. Rafiqul Alam and Abida Sultana also rendered two Arabic songs, written by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, the founder of the UAE at the concerts.

"We try to represent Bangladesh while performing abroad. As cultural ambassadors we promote the country's rich literary and cultural legacy," said Alam.

The singer couple are avid performers of foreign songs. Abida Sultana can render songs in 32 languages while Rafiqul Alam can perform in 28 languages.

"While on a tour we generally try to perform songs of other nations. In this way the audience seem to enjoy and appreciate our efforts," said Rafiqul Alam.



Prosenjit returns as filmmaker

After walking out of John Abraham's next production "Jaffna" (now titled "Madrass Cafe") because of drastic changes in the script and his character, Prosenjit Chatterjee (last seen in a Hindi film as Dr Ahmadi, a social activist in "Shanghai") is all set to return to the Hindi film industry. This time as a filmmaker. The popular Bengali actor was in Mumbai to ink a deal with Sahara Screen, a film production arm of Sahara group that will be investing about Rs 10 crore in Prosenjit's productions. The actor has also been inducted as a board member of the institution.

And in the capacity of a Bollywood producer, Prosenjit will now lead a delegation of filmmakers to urge Bangladesh to end its 48-year-old ban on Indian movies. The talks will be held in the backdrop of FICCI-Frames, a congregation of industrialists, in Kolkata from December 21.

"Prosenjit intends to make bilingual Bollywood films and thus feels it is imperative to start a dialogue with Bangladesh to end the ban imposed on Indian films there," the actor's spokesperson told us.

To recap, it's been almost 48 years since Bangladesh has imposed a ban on Indian films, primarily to prevent them from eating into the revenue pie of the Bengali film industry there. Though exceptions have been made for certain Bollywood films due to their demand, till date no Indian production has had a simultaneous release in the country.

The ban was imposed post the 1971 war and had never been lifted since then for the sake of the country's ailing film industry that has been fighting the lack of funds and technical expertise. Incidentally, in 2010, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh had wanted to lift the ban but it was soon re-imposed because of stiff opposition from the film industry.

And Prosenjit has now decided to resolve this deadlock. "There is a meeting scheduled between Indian filmmakers and the Information and Broadcasting Minister of Bangladesh Hasanul Haq Inu. Prosenjit will be there at the meeting. The agenda is to discuss the possibility of lifting the ban on Indian films in the country," said the spokesperson.

After the talks, the actor may visit Mumbai to get more filmmakers to support him and try to get Bangladesh to lift the ban.

The report of this meeting will be submitted to the Bangladesh Prime Minister.

Source: Times of India

BTV	03:05 Bangla Feature Film 08:35 Drama: Jiboner Gaan 09:40 Unnayne Bangladesh 10:25 Prajomo Kotba	Desh TV	03:00 Bangla Feature Film 07:45 Music Dot Net 08:15 Pothey Jetey Jetey 11:45 Shojha Kotba
ATN BANGLA	12:30 Prosang 01:25 Prapok 03:05 Bangla Feature Film 08:40 Drama Serial: Shongshar Shukher Hoy Beonar Gun-e	Maasranga Television	09:00 Mina Cartoon 06:30 Puppet Show 08:00 Shera Pratibha 09:00 Housefull
CHANNEL i	01:30 Bangla Feature Film 06:20 The Traffic Signal 09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush	CHANNEL 24	09:30 Housewife 03:20 Drama Serial: Chhiti 08:30 Eito Ibon
ntv	08:45 Bangla Feature Film	Gtv	04:45 Mohajagatik 09:00 Life in Metro 11:00 Gano Phone

abc radio FM 89.2	12:20 Campus Campus 07:20 Kacha Lanka 07:45 GP Jomash 08:10 Meye Raata 08:10 Adda 09:30 Love Hour 11:10 Preming RADIO FOOTI 08:00 Adalabadi 02:00 Foorti Unlimited	RADIO	06:00 Bumper to Bumper 10:00 Back to Back Music 06:00 Green FM 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka 11:00 World Music 04:00 Urtom 02:00 Take Ta Hak 10:00 Raat Bhor Gaan 12:00 Hutum Pecha
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Bela Obela Sharabela
On Desh TV at 09:45pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Fahmida Khatun

The Muppets
On Fox Movies at 07:00pm
Genre: Comedy/
Family
Cast: Amy Adams, Jason Segel & Chris Cooper

Amar Ami
On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Hilol, Nawshin

06:40 Biz Time 09:00 Drama: Shesh Iksha 11:30 Drama Serial: 99, Shaheb Ali Lane	Fox Movies	01:35 I, Robot 03:30 The Son of No One 05:10 Click 07:00 The Muppets 08:45 Rio 11:30 The Grey
ETV	HBO	02:45 Final Destination 5 04:40 Fast Five 07:20 She's the Man 09:30 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 12:10 The Ides of March
Boishakhi TV	Star World	03:30 The Dewarists 04:30 Revenge 10:30 Alcatraz 11:30 Last Man Standing
10:30 Bangla Feature Film 03:00 Drama Serial: Ognipath 06:20 Amar Chhabe Ami 08:00 Drama: Jora Shalik	Discovery Channel	02:30 How Stuff Works 05:30 Man vs. Wild 09:30 Superhuman Showdown 10:30 Gator Boys
BANGLAVISION	Rtv	12:05 Bangla Feature Film 05:30 Rupkotha 11:30 Our Democracy 12:00 Musical Programme

ATN BANGLA	08:00pm Chena Mukh Ochna Manush 09:20pm DB CHANNEL 1 07:50pm Noorjahan 11:30pm Roshti ntv 08:15pm Oghoton Ghoton Potiyochi	ETV	09:30pm Dhol BANGLAVISION 08:15pm Harkiptey Rtv 09:50pm Aloshpor 09:50pm Eri Dulabbai CHANNEL 9 08:15pm Nagark 10:30pm Idiots
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BTV	12:30am News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm, News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm, ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm, News (English) at 9am, 6pm, CHANNEL 1 News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm, ntv News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, Desh TV News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm, 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,
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ATN BANGLA	12:30am Lead News CHANNEL 1 09:45am Tinto Matra 12:20pm Taraka Kothon ETV 10:10pm Golpo Sholpo Gaan Boishakhi TV 09:20pm Energy Talk 11:00pm Amader Shomaj	BANGLAVISION	09:05pm Amar Ami 11:25pm Lal Golap Rtv 10:40am Tarakalap Desh TV 09:45pm Bela Obela Sharabela Maasranga Television
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