

WHAT'S ON

**Amar Ekushey Book Fair**  
Venue: Bangla Academy Premises, Dhaka  
Date: Feb 1-28  
Time: 3-8pm (Sun-Thu) & 11am-8pm (Fri & Sat)

**Film Screening**  
Organiser: Seneraj Masud Memorial Trust  
Venue: Shawakti Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shaahbagh  
Date: Feb 20-22  
Time: 3pm onwards (Feb 21: 10am)

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Long Awaited Freedom  
Artist: Razial Akbar  
Venue: Drk Gallery, H-58, R-15/A (New), Dharmadhi  
Date: Feb 17-23

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Portraits of Ambiguity  
Artist: Rabul Karim Sumar  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali  
Date: Feb 16-25  
Time: 11:30am-7pm

**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Tapan Chowdhury  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: February 22  
Time: 6:30pm

**Group Exhibition**  
Title: Love is in the Air  
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, Al Heights, Das-7/21/10, Progoti Shorani, Uttar Bakda  
Date: Feb 9-26

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Re-enacting Actuality  
Artist: Mahmudul Haque  
Venue: Bengali Shilpila, H-42, R-16(New), Dharmadhi  
Date: Feb 8-21

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Go  
Artist: Joya Shahin Haq  
Venue: Bengal Art Gallery, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle  
Date: Feb 15-March 3

BOI MELA CORNER  
**Mohon Khan**  
A prolific writer



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular playwright and director Mohon Khan has been writing short stories and novels since the 1980s. His previous career in journalism inspired him to expand his work with the pen, and has resulted in the publication of 15 books so far.

This Ekushey Boi Mela has seen three novels by Khan being published; two of which, "Jokhon Bhalobasha" and "Bhalobasha Bhalo Achhe", came out from Kali Kolom Prokashoni.

Mizan Publishers printed the other one, titled "Ohornish Bhalobasha Ekjon".

Talking about his latest works, Khan said, "All of the new novels are unique. I tried to offer something new in each book. It's a great feeling to see that the readers are interested in buying my books."

Mohon Khan visits the book fair everyday, signing autographs for readers at the stall or outside. "With the arrival of February, I forget all other projects of drama and direction. My attention is then diverted towards writing."

On this year's fair Khan said "It has been organised very well. It's a good feeling to see that only publishers were allowed stalls. This is the kind of Boi Mela we prefer."

The Lost Glamour of Old Cinema

SYED MAQSUJ JAMIL

I was passing through the older part of the city. Nishat or today's Manashi cinema hall was on my way. It was difficult for me to make out whether the people in the Manashi corridor were cine-goers because I could not associate them with the cross-section of cine-goers that used to throng it in my time. There was no large banner, a handful of garishly printed posters displayed the name of the movie "Torture".

Later, I talked to one of my relatives who owned a theatre that represents the last vestige of the past elegance of cinema halls of the country. He informed me that the cinema halls of Dhaka have formed a combine to release two movies each week. I found out that the name of the other movie is "Khude Jodhda" (The little warrior). It was apparent that moviegoers do not have much of a choice. The obituary of movie going is being scripted from quite a long time with a succession of movies having weird names like "Gunda", "Dashyu Shaitan", "Kasai", "Lalu Mastan" etc.



Faruk and Babita in Nayan Moni.



Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in Gone with the Wind.

Movie going is no longer the favourite past time of our countrymen. We no longer see a cross-section of people frequenting cinema halls. Cinema halls wear a deserted look with even 'Modhumita' expressing a sense of gloom. It is a pity that a country with over 120 million people is witnessing the decline of one of its most popular entertainment outlets without any sign of revival.

A remedy would involve a major awakening in the film industry and of forcing it to raise its standards in order to compete with imported Hindi and English films. The city of Dhaka never backed away from the local film industry in the '60s when it was competing against films from Lahore. It always patronised well-made films like "Sutorang" (Therefore), "Nil Akasher Nichey" (Under the blue sky), "Abirbhav" (The Arrival) and the celebrated "Jibon Theke Ney" (Scripted from Life). The movies ran to full houses and viewers came from all social strata.

Dhaka was all along a city that loved cinema. It was at Manashi, at that time Nishat that the Mehboob Khan technicolour extravaganza "Aan" was released in 1952. The Baliadi Siddiki family who owned the cinema hall made its release a mega event of the time. Elephants were used for distributing leaflets and for spraying colour water. "Aan" ran to packed houses all over the country. I grew up to see the movie in its rerun. It was a time of Indian Hindi and Bangla movies. Star Corporation led by Iftekharul Alam Kichlu and Sher Ali Ramzi played an important role in the distribution of many of these films. Kichlu is also widely known for his eminence in the spread of Rotary Club activities in this country.

I started visiting local cinema houses in the mid-'50s. Before that, my mother and her sisters used to take me along with them to see movies. I remember visiting Picture House, today's Shabistan in early fifties to see Bimal Roy's "Maa" with Leela Chitnis in the title role and Bharat Bhushan as her son. Picture House was a pretty old theatre in those times and it was renovated into 'Shabistan' in

the late fifties. Shabistan was opened with Guru Dutt's "Baazi" (The Bet), a vintage Dev Anand film.

I heard of two other cinema halls, 'Paradise' and 'Britannia' that perished early before I became a keen cine-goer. 'Paradise' was Ali Naqi's Dewry of Satrowza. It was at 'Paradise' that Victor Mature's "Samson and Delilah" was shown. The cinema hall caught fire several times and ultimately closed down. 'Britannia' was near Rex Restaurant in Ramna. Rex survived even when its white owner left but 'Britannia' closed down.

Soon 'Gulistan', the first landmark of modernity in Dhaka, came up. It started with the Raj Kapoor-Nargis duo's film "Amber" in 1952. 'Gulistan' was indeed Cinema Paradiso with its imposing architectural built and looking down on the square. It survived for several decades as a landmark of Dhaka till its abasement over the last two decades made it a rich prize for demolition.

In comparison, Calcutta has fared better with 'Metro' surviving and 'Nandan' coming up. In the '60s 'Gulistan' stood up as a model institution nourishing the roots of cultural modernity and reflecting a lifestyle led by an educated middle class. 'Naz' or pride was a chic addition to the entertainment provided by the cinema halls of the city.

I had just finished reading Margaret Mitchell's American Civil War epic "Gone With The Wind" and Indo-Pak war was just a few days away. To my profound joy, "Gone With The Wind" was released at 'Naz'. Clark Gable as Rhett Butler was incomparable. It further deepened my love for films after I watched King Vidor's 'War and Peace' at 'Gulistan'. Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace" was a four-hour movie and there were two intervals.

'Lion' was Mirza Abdul Kader's cinema hall. It was not dear to family viewers because disreputable characters were the dominant cine goers there. Even 'Lion' redeemed itself by screening "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" with a memorable performance from Anthony Quinn as the Hunchback.

'Star', formerly 'Maya' mostly showed Hindi movies to a capacity crowd. 'Mukul' later 'Azad' showed Calcutta Bengali movies and among them Suchitra-Uttam's "Shilpi" and "Pathe Holo Deri" glorified love.

'Nagar Mahal', which is today's 'Chitra Mahal' and still is a cramped cinema hall. It did not deter cine-goers from all sections of the society crowding it for weeks to see "Sagorika".

Modern theatres like 'Balaka', 'Modhumita' and 'Avishar' represented a crowning of the growing love for Bangla language and culture. It also highlighted the need for modern entertainment among the enlightened Bangali middle class. These movie houses projected a vibrant lifestyle eager for absorbing modern thoughts and taste.

I grew up in the fifties and sixties. Movies and sports were the two major sources of entertainment of the

period. Popular movies of our time mostly dealt with idealistic love and the trials of a family. The idealism dealt with goodness in love. It was treated as a lifelong commitment that remained constant in all trials and dared not to perish in death. A villain was a ubiquitous presence but the treatment was different. It was the machinations of the villain that was projected with the help of dialogues and articulation perfecting villainy to an art. Kung Fu and Karate were not on display.

Another important element was family that idealised a spirit of sharing and sacrifice. However, cinema explored other subjects as well, like mythology, tales and fantasies. Movies of these genres excelled in heroism, sword fight and magical feats. Besides action packed English movies in gun slinging western thrillers, medieval contests and wartime woes and heroism also drew viewers to the theatres. Gary Cooper, John Wayne, Burt Lancaster, Victor Mature, Kirk Douglas were the icons of their time. Movies like "High Noon", "Apache", "Samson and Delilah" and "Vikings" are fondly remembered. But they did not represent the taste of the time. The moviegoers always stayed with movies that dealt with the interplay of human life. It can even be said that the perceptions of those times were different and rather simplistic because the world was yet to see the inventions that made the pace of life faster and demanding instant stimulation.

Perceptions indeed are an important factor in changing the tastes of the time. Perceptions do matter for all societies. It is a fact that perception in our society has also changed with the growing popularity of electronic entertainment. The messianic hero is not compatible with the times we live in. It is no longer a social scenario where a male medical student Uttam bumps into a female student Suchitra as in "Sanchayita" and that develops into love in "Sagorika".

The boys and girls of today are unhindered by social taboos in their interaction. The courtship is now a more matter of choice than chance happening. It is a pity that our movies take note neither of the perceptions of the times gone nor of the time that we live in. The underlying malaise is in the fact that the enlightened are almost an extinct species in our tinsel world. Our cinema no longer has the likes of Zahir Raihan, Soovas Dutta, Khan Ata, Kazi Zahir and Mita.

It is an impoverished world declining in intellect, taste and commitment to the trade. Cinema after all is a form of art where the intellect, flights of imagination, gifted display of performing abilities and technical skill meet and blend into another art form that can be seen, heard, felt and enjoyed. Our cinema today is a parched land. It needs talented and committed men of arts and letters to cultivate it back to a green pasture of adoration where cine goers will return to the cinema halls again.

Jibanananda Das, the foremost figure of surrealism

In the latter half of the 20th century, Jibanananda Das emerged as the most popular poet of modern Bengali literature. His unfamiliar poetic articulation, choice of words and thematic preferences took time to reach readers' hearts. He was also known as a surrealist poet because of his spontaneous, frenzied overflow of the subconscious in poetry and especially in diction. The poetry of Jibanananda has become the defining essence of modernism in twentieth century Bengali poetry.

February 17 marked the 114th birth anniversary of the poet.

Jibanananda was born on February 17, 1899 in Barisal, then East Bengal. His ancestors came from the Bikrampur region of Dhaka district. Jibanananda's father Satyananda Das was a schoolteacher, essayist and a publisher. His mother Kusumkumari Das was a poet. Jibanananda was the eldest son of his parents, and was called by the nickname Milu.

His school life passed by relatively uneventfully. In 1915, he successfully completed his Matriculation exams from Brajamohon School and two years later, completed Intermediate from Brajamohon College.

Later, he enrolled in Presidency College, Calcutta and graduated with a BA (Honours) in English Literature in 1919. The same year, his first poem appeared in print in the Baishikha issue of Brahmoabadi journal.

When Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das died in June 1925, Jibanananda wrote a poem called "Deshbandhu'r Prayan-e", which was published in Bangabani magazine. This poem would later take a place in the collection called "Jhora Palok" (1927). His poetry began to be



widely published in various literary journals and little magazines in Calcutta (now Kolkata), Dhaka and elsewhere. These included Kallol, perhaps the most famous literary magazine of the era, Kalikalam, Protigi and others. At this time, he occasionally used the surname

Dasgupta as opposed to Das.

In 1935, Jibanananda, by now familiar with professional disappointment and poverty, returned to his alma mater Brajamohon College. He joined as a lecturer in the English department. In Calcutta, Buddhadeb Bose, Premendra Mitra and Samar Sen were starting a brand new poetry magazine called Kobita. Jibanananda's poem featured in the first issue of the magazine, a poem called "Mrittur Agey".

Young Jibanananda fell in love with Shobhona, daughter of his uncle Atulchandra Das, who lived in his neighbourhood. He dedicated his first anthology of poems to Shobhona without mentioning her name explicitly. The poet, however, married Labanyaprabha Das in 1930. A clash of personalities erupted and Jibanananda gave up all hope of a happy married life. The estrangement with his wife never ended.

Das' notable poetic works are "Jhora Palok", "Dhushor Pandulipi", "Bonolota Sen", "Mohaprihibiti", "Shaat-i Tara", "Timir", "Shrestho Kobita" and "Ruposhi Bangla".

On October 14, 1954, he was unmindfully crossing a street near Calcutta's Deshapriya Park, when he was hit by a tram. Jibanananda was returning home after his routine evening walk. Seriously injured, he was taken to Shambhunath Punind Hospital. Nonetheless, the injury was too fatal to redress. Jibanananda died in hospital on October 22, 1954 after eight days of struggle with death. He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter, and an ever-growing band of readers.

Compiled by Correspondent.

8th Citycell-Channel i Music Awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The gala eighth Citycell-Channel i Music Awards (CCMA) will be held on February 24 at M. A. Aziz Stadium in Chittagong, Sri Lanka. This endeavour was partnered with CCMA to recognise the talents of various genres of culture in Sri Lanka.

The Daily Star, Anando Alo and Saptahik are the media partners and www.bdnnews24.com is the online partner of the 8th CCMA. The radio partners are Radio Today, Radio Aamar, ABC Radio, Dhaka FM, Peoples Radio, and Radio Bhumi. The supporting partners are Chittagong Jela Krira Sangstha, Idea Management, Event Master International, Cogito, Mattra, Ardent, NOVAIR, Versatile Tour and Travel and Farzana Shakils.

In addition to the lifetime achievement awards, the 8th Citycell-Channel i Music Awards will be given in 15 categories.

Five categories in the 8th Citycell-Channel i Music Award will be judged by Popular Choice. This year for the first time the judgement of the songs in CCMA Popular Choice category has been done through five Radio Stations (Radio Today, Radio Aamar, ABC Radio, Dhaka FM and Peoples Radio).

Dance Sri Lanka has become a sister component of the 8th CCMA. Dance Sri Lanka, the first international mega dance competition was organised in October, 2012 by Ergo Solutions in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This endeavour was partnered with CCMA to recognise the talents of various genres of culture in Sri Lanka.

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(From left): Taslim Ahmed, Faridur Reza Sagar, Mehboob Chowdhury and Shahidul Islam Sachhu at the press conference.



A scene from "Lincoln".

REUTERS, Los Angeles

History is alive and kicking at this year's Oscars in an unusually rich year for movies that plumb the distant and recent American past and have resonated with both audiences and voters.

Four of the nine Best Picture nominees at Sunday's (February 24) Academy Awards ceremony-- Iran hostage drama "Argo", Osama bin Laden thriller "Zero Dark Thirty", slavery revenge fantasy "Django Unchained" and U.S. presidential drama "Lincoln"-- are the most discussed films of the awards season, with their very different takes on historical events.

"It's an interesting year for thought-provoking movies that have a semblance of reality. Some look where we come from and where we are going, and they get people thinking," said Pete Hammond, awards columnist for entertainment industry website Deadline.com.

It's a sharp contrast with 2012 when the silent film comedy "The Artist" was embraced by the 6,000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as a love letter to old Hollywood.

This time, terrorism, slavery, war, politics and the CIA take centre stage in films that try to make sense of calamitous times for the United States and draw lessons for the future.

"Lincoln," Steven Spielberg's

'Ekushey Book Fair' in Pabna  
In solidarity with Shahbagh protesters

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The 'Ekushey Book Fair' opened with 40 stalls in Pabna on February 12 at the Pabna town hall premises, marking the fifth consecutive book fair in the district. Vice chancellor of the Jahangirnagar University, Dr. Anwar Hossain inaugurated the month-long book fair. Expressing their solidarity with the spirit of Bangladesh's Liberation War, the organising committee of Pabna Ekushey Book Fair demanded the punishment of war criminals. The committee had also observed the announced programmes from Shahbagh, where the country-wide protests are centered.

Different cultural organisations of the district performed patriotic songs with dance and recited poems at the fair. The artists of Shangkshkritik Oikko Jote, Pabna Drama Circle, AFA Institute Prothom Alo Bondhushobha and different organisations of the district also performed music, dance, and poems based on the Liberation War.

Md. Zakir Hossain, Secretary of Ekushey Book fair organising committee said the book fair had created an opportunity to introduce new books among the readers, adding that the book fair had successfully spread beyond Dhaka, across the country.

Cultural activists in Magura protest Rajib's killing

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Since the protesters in Magura took to the streets demanding the immediate arrest of killers of Ahmed Rajib Haider, a blogger and activist of Shahbagh movement, local cultural activists joined hands in protest and also to raise awareness against Jamaat-Shibir politics.

Chanting slogans to protest Rajib's killing and demanding capital punishment to all the war criminals, they also held a number of cultural programme including recitation of poems on Liberation War and rendition of inspirational and patriotic songs at different points of Magura district town.

Members of Magura district unit Udichi Shilpi Goshthi and Kanthabithi an organisation of elocutionists in Magura also performed inspirational, patriotic songs and recited poems on Liberation War at Chourongi Square in Magura town on Saturday protesting the killing of Rajib and demanding death penalty to all the war criminals.

Handwriting competition marking Int'l Mother Language Day

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking International Mother Language Day and centenary of Bangladesh National Museum, a competition of 'best handwriting' for students was held at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin art gallery premises in the town on Friday.

Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik, deputy keeper of the art gallery inaugurated the competition, organised by the art gallery.

Twelve children were selected for their best performances in the competition from a total of 91 participants from different educational institutions of the town.

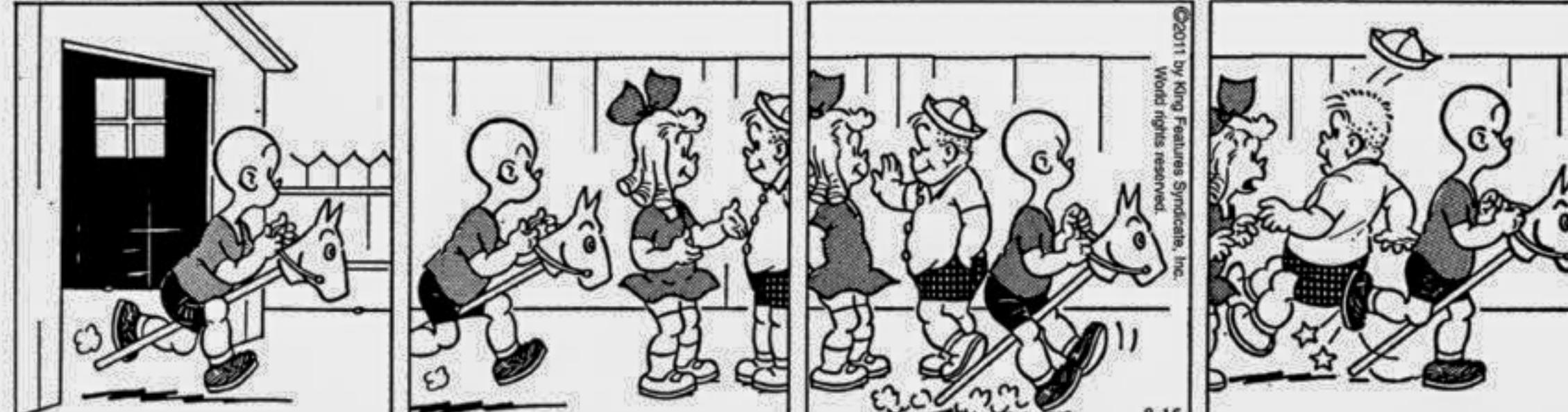
Artiste Poritosh Majumder and Md. Shah Alam Sarker, both assistant experts at National Academy for Primary Education were the judges of the competition.

Earlier, a discussion was held with Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik in the chair. The speakers said, the students of today will lead the nation in future and they should be inspired about the history of Language Movement and the language martyrs who laid down their lives for our Mother Tongue.

Beetle Baily



Henry



BTV	11:30 Amader Cinema	09:50 Look at Me
	05:05 Jatiya Television Bitarok	12:05 Business Talk
	09:05 Drama Serial: Dhusar	Desh TV
	10:25 Gaan Chiridin	02:30 Gaan R Gaan
		05:00 Duragpath
ATN BANGLA	07:25 Band View	07:45 Saatkahon
	08:00 Drama Serial: Progga	12:30 Total Sports
	08:40 Drama Serial: Chupi	10:02 Bangla Feature Film
	10:55 Bibeker Kache Proshno	08:00 Amar Babu
		09:20 Rupkatha
		11:30 Music Digest
CHANNEL 9	01:05 Ebong Cineram Gaan	09:00 Bangla Feature Film
	06:00 Ashalata	07:30 Gaan-er Kheya
	07:50 Dipshikha	09:00 Power Voice
	09:35 Drama Serial: Bonalata	11:00 Music Box
ntv	11:00 Biz Time	Gtv
	04:10 Janar Achhey Bolbar	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
		06:30 Purano Shel Diner
		06:30 Achhey
		09:05 Crime Fiction
08:15 Roshuigar		Fox Movies
11:30 Ekusher Probat Pheri		

RADIO		
abcradio FM 89.2	10:00	Morning Express
09:30	12:00	No Tension
05:30	04:00	Dhaka Calling
06:30	09:00	Knights Riders
07:20	06:00	0100 TODAY (Radio)
07:45	06:00	Green FM
08:10	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
09:30	12:00	Today's Alda
11:00	04:00	U Turn
Radio Footi	07:00	Rocky Eye Hit
07:30	10:00	Red Star Gaan

**Amar Baba On Maasranga Television at 08:00pm**  
Celebrity Talk Show  
Guest: Subarna Mustafa

**Tropic Thunder On HBO at 05:55pm**  
Genre: Action/Comedy  
Cast: Ben Stiller, Jack Black & Robert Downey Jr.

**Nacho Bangladesh On Banglavisn at 09:50pm**  
Dance Reality Show  
Judges: Shibli Mohammad, Farzana Rifa, Ferdous & Sumona Haq

**Etv**  
11:30 Ekushey-er Business  
07:50 Fashion and Tune  
09:30 Drama Serial: Sukhe  
10:10 Docu-Drama: Charge Sheet Report

**Boishakhi TV**  
10:45 Bangla Feature Film  
04:00 Shorashti Doctor  
08:00 Drama Serial: Borobari Chhoti Sou  
08:35 Glamour Guide

**BANGLAVISN**  
01:05 Bangla Feature Film  
06:25 Front Line  
09:05 Nacho Bangladesh  
11:25 Music Club

**Rtv**  
12:35 Bangla Feature Film  
09:05 Drama Serial: Run

**ATN BANGLA**  
09:20pm To To Company  
CHANNEL I  
11:30pm Roohi  
ntv  
09:45pm Shanno Shomikaran

**NEWS BULLETIN**  
BTV  
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 6pm,  
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm,  
ATN BANGLA  
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm,  
News (English) at 9am, 5pm,  
CHANNEL I  
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm,  
ntv  
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:20pm, 10:30pm,  
Etv  
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.

**TALK SHOW**  
ATN BANGLA  
01:00am Ono Distri  
CHANNEL I  
09:45am Inno Mitra  
12:35pm Tanika Khatun  
ntv  
12:20pm Ei Shomoy  
Maasranga Television  
12:02am Shampontik  
Gtv