

exhibition

Untouched Beauty

A month-long exhibition showcases contemporary traditional art of Bangladesh

By Saima Islam

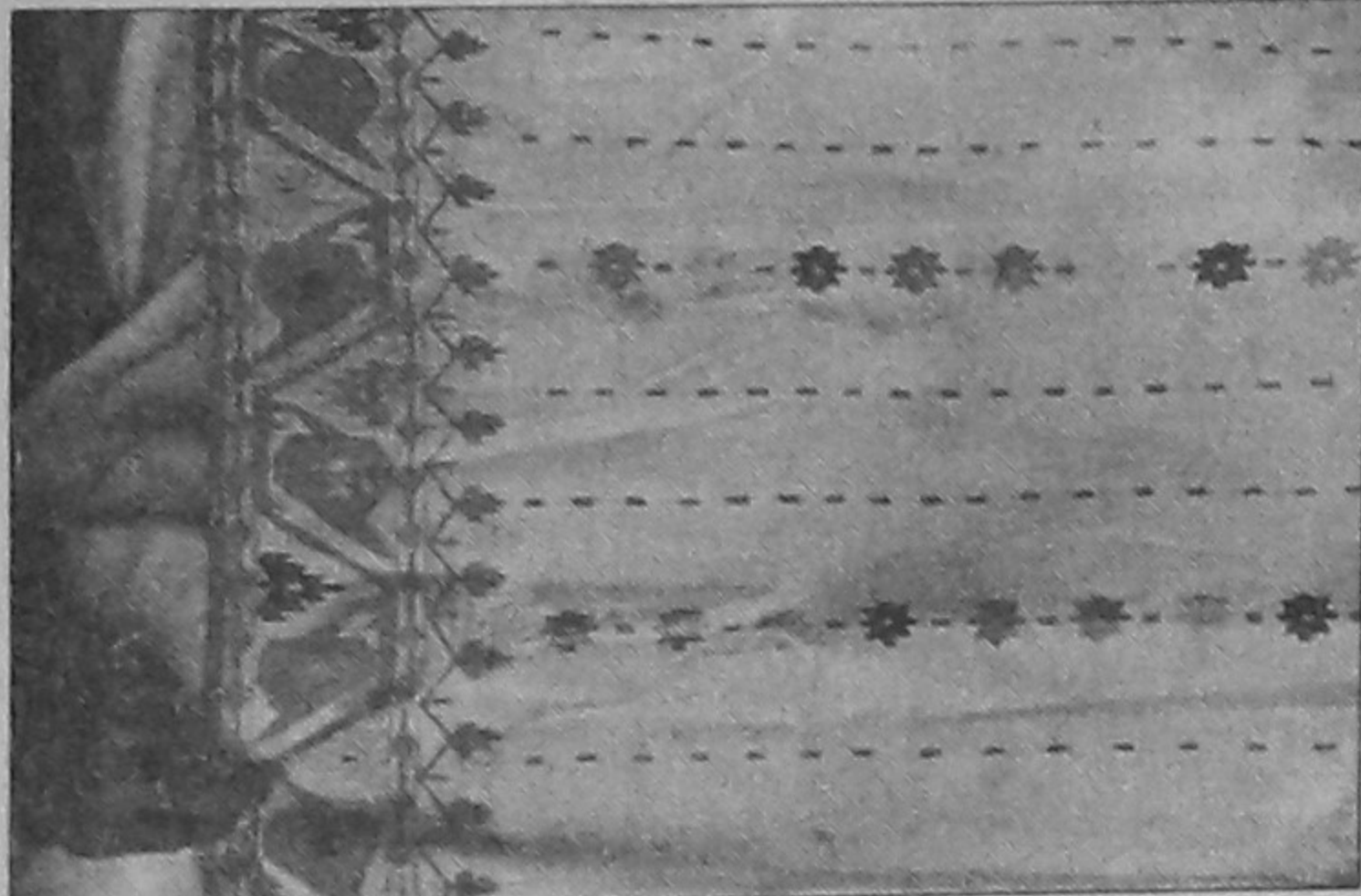
THE main auditorium of the National Museum is gleaming with the array of colourful traditional artefacts that has been collected from all over Bangladesh for a month-long exhibition.

Bangladesh has a rich tradition of various traditional or folk art that needs to be explored and this kind of unique exhibition focuses on the opacity of our folk art as well as

ment. On the second day, I was in Rayer Bazar, watching the potters work," writes Dr. Glassie, Professor of the Indiana University, USA, about his experience of working on Bangladeshi traditional art.

The exhibition features, pottery, metal works, wood works, rickshaws, cane mats, jamdani, nakshi kantha and many such beautiful artefacts.

Bengal has been renowned for fine muslins since ancient days. The rich tradition of



Jamdani

bringing to public notice, some of the country's fine artists.

In 1998 under the coordination of Shamsuddin Khan, the Director of the National Museum, Dr. Henry Glassie, Dr. Firoz Mahmud, Dr. Zinat Mahrukh Banu and Mohammad Mohsin started a collection based on field works. "I was excited by the expressive wealth I found around me in Bangladesh. On my first day in Dhaka, my notebook tells me, I was beginning to formulate a typology of rickshaw orna-

muslin has been transferred to Jamdani. A deep blue Jamdani with small motifs in white sprinkled neatly onto an overall pattern is an exquisite piece of art on display. There are also some Jamdanis on display; those with heavy designs have larger interconnected motifs. The beauty of the Jamdani lies in the balance of the design and the background; the patterns leave space to highlight the astonishing transparency of the ground, the woven air on which brocaded motifs float and all



A portrait of Kazi Nazrul

have rich, running borders of various geometric and flowery patterns.

According to Shawkat Ali, a weaver from Rupshi, Kazi Para, the weavers of the village know some one hundred and sixty designs. New designs are also being supplied by the agencies for development in Dhaka, but the weavers don't feel comfortable with them. They prefer the designs that have been passed onto them through the ages.

Pottery is very common on the vast delta of Bengal. There

are six hundred and eighty villages dedicated to pottery making in Bangladesh. Useful vessels dominate the potters' labour, but some potters specialize in images. The *Shakher Hari*, painted by Hindu women in Rajshahi, is famed in Bangladesh for its intricate designs are on display in the exhibition. The colour and the designs give these simple earthen vessels an exquisite appeal.

Decorative images on clay can be subdivided into four main classes: animals, village life, heroes and religious icons. The exhibition showcases almost all the categories mentioned above, mother and child, portraits of Rabindranath, Kazi Nazrul Islam, statues of horses, elephant and many more.

"A rural scene of Bangladesh", is a portrayal of Bengal on clay by Santos Chandra Pal and Govinda Pal of Kazi Para catches one's attention for its depiction of details. Almost all the aspect of a village life has been captured in this piece; the farmers working on their fields, the women are preparing the paddy, snake charmers, the game of monkeys, a bride going on a palaki, the elder of the house smoking hukka and many such details of our village life come alive into their work and shows the versatility of this art.

Partition, made of bamboo cane, from Gilond village, Manikganj that are on display at the exhibition are not very big in size but nonetheless bears an appeal for the art lovers.

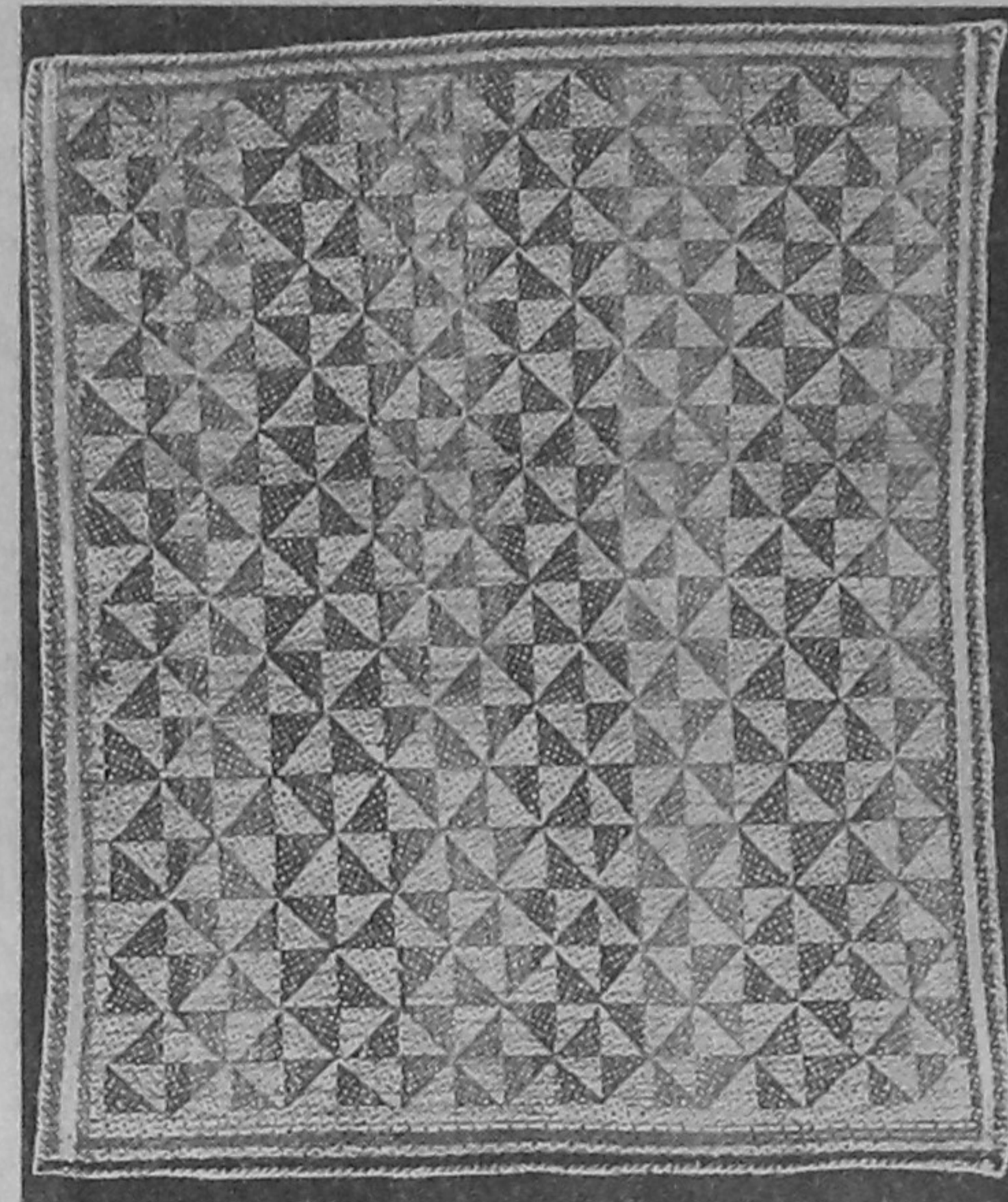
With their simple patterns of flowers and geometric shapes, the pieces show how simple things like bamboo can be transformed into a delicate.

Sylhet and Chittagong grows a lot of cane and the artists of these areas, split cane and weave it into mats. The mats on display are at the same time, useful and attractive. One of the mats is woven with superline splints to achieve a pale, supple fabric and some are dyed green and red and then woven across undyed splints to create patterns and pictures.

In recent years, Rickshaw painting is being recognised as potential art form. As Dr. Glassie puts it, "The thick, turbulent traffic of Dhaka city is



Radha and Krishna by Babu Lal



Cane Prayer Mat

brightened by a mobile exhibition of art". Building, repairing, and decorating rickshaws are jobs for poor men who are mechanically or artistically inclined. For Tapati Rani and Doly Gosh rickshaw painting is a work of love. A young woman taking water at the dusk or a newly wed couple is seen going home on a bullock cart, boats on rivers and many more images comes in their works.

The exhibition also features some of the remarkable art pieces made of metal especially brass metals. The soft, luminous surface, reflecting the world's shifting light, makes the bell-metal work a thing of beauty, a blessing to the eye. Amidst the exhibition hall an 'Aaftaba', a big decorative pot made of brass metal is catching everyone's attraction. The light inside the aaftaba come

through the numerous holes on the body of the piece and creates an intricate beauty of light and shade. Muktar Hussain of Faridpur made this piece.

Nakshi Kantha is integrally



Taj Mahal in Cycle Rickshaws

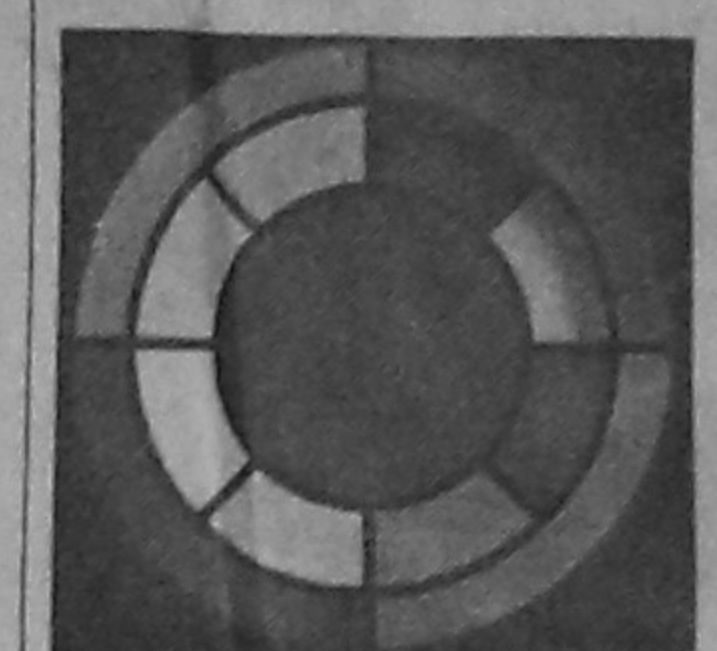
associated with the tradition and culture of Bengal. In a *Nakshi Kantha* a woman puts down her memories, experiences in traditional motifs. Each stitch traps time. A huge *Nakshi Kantha* by Aleya Begum of Kushtia, tells the stories of the village women, the musical meetings of the *Bauls*, shepherd's joy in playing flute, a mother and a child and many such images on her work make her *Nakshi Kantha* a masterpiece of memories.

"I did not know that so much beauty lies in the simple things that we most of the time ignore. I came to see the Museum but the tour of this exhibition will remain fresh in my mind for a long time," said Rahela Begum a visitor to the exhibition.

The exhibition showcases works of 25 artists of traditional art. The Museum also organised a five-day long fair of folk art from May 22 and a video documentary recorded during the fieldwork is being shown at the exhibition, which adds more appeal. The exhibition will remain open every day till June 21, from Saturday to Wednesday from 10.00am to 5.30pm and on Fridays from 3.30pm to 7.00pm.

A visit to this exhibition will open up a world of wonder and beauty that many of us have exists but never experienced before.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Thirteenth Young Artists' Art Exhibition 2000

The inaugural ceremony of the three week long Thirteenth Young Artists' Art Exhibition 2000, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will be held at the premises of the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka on June 1 at 5.30 pm.

Latifur Rahman, Chief Justice of Bangladesh will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest and will distribute prizes among the award winning artist. Professor Qayyum Chowdhury will also be present as special guest.

Geeto Shudha

Centre giving lessons in Rabindra Sangeet

Geeto Shudha, a organized a 15-day workshop on Atulprashad, Rajanikanta Sen and Djendra Lal's songs. The workshop was conducted by Indian singer Maetry Daam.

Under the direction of Maetry Daam Geeto Shudha has organized a musical evening of its students on June 1, at 7.00 pm at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium. Rupak Daam and Maetry Daam will also perform in the programme.



Solo Exhibition

A solo exhibition by Rashid Amin is being held at the Goethe Institut. Exhibition hall from May 19 to June 1, 2000. Every day from 2 pm till 8 pm (Friday and Saturday closed).

Vocal classical recital at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

To discover up and coming artists, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka is launching a series of cultural evenings from 2nd till 30th June 2000. The programme includes Rabindra Sangeet by Ilma & folk songs by Kanak on 2nd June. Then on 16th June 2000 classical songs by Kohli Islam & folk songs by Liza and on 30th June 2000 Nazrul Geeti by Mofizul Islam & Rabindra Sangeet by Pijush.

The programme will begin at 7 pm every day & will be held in the auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. For further information, please contact the reception of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka from 9:00-12:00 & from 17:00-20:00.



Poetry Evening

Sudeep Sen, a front-ranking poet in the contemporary Indian and international poetry scene, will give a reading from his work at the launching of his first book of Bangla translations *A Blank Letter* or *Ekti Khali Chithi* on June 1 at the Indian High Commission Cultural Centre, 754 Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi at 6.45 pm. Asaduzzaman Noor, Kazi Arif, Pro Laboni and the transi Ammur Rahman will be the Bangla reading at bilingual poetry evening. The Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Deb Mukharji will be present as chief guest. Open to all.

TV Guide

Thursday 1st June

(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 3:15 Patriotic Song 3:20 Open University Prog. 4:00 Bangla News 4:05 Cartoon: *Barne And Friends* 4:30 Songs 5:00 National School Debate Competition 5:50 Dharma-O-Jiban 6:00 Bangla News 6:30 Transmission From Chittagong Center 7:00 News For Weather 7:05 Pramannoy 7:25 Sandhya Maloti (Nazrul Songs) 8:00 Bangla News At 8:30 Serial: *Raong* #9 ("K. S. Firoz, Afroza Banu, Nousher Alam, Tonima Hamid, Shirin Bakul, Mahub Salim) 9:00 Bahuroopi (Magazine) 10:00 News At Ten (English) 10:30 Banglar Mukh (Bangali Culture) 11:00 *The Light Wind-All Woman Police Squad* 11:30 Bangla News 11:35 English News 11:40 A) Programme Outline For Friday B) National Song 11:45 Clossing

Ekushey Television

7:00 Classic Cartoons 7:20 Bubuner Baba written by Md Zafar Iqbal, directed by: Moshedul Islam 7:45 Ekushey News 8:00 Bauliana 8:30 Punoshecho: Pouna Punik written by: Glasuddin Selim, directed by: Kawsar Chowdhury, starring: Ferdousi Mazumdar 9:30 Shofol Jara Kemon Tara hosted by Mehrin, guests: Partha, Shompa, Reza 10:00 BTV News 10:30 Road to Benelux 11:00 Supernatural: The Unseen Power of Animals

ATN

6:00 Islamic Program 6:32 Health Prog 7:10 Film Song 7:50 Drama Serial 8:25 Musical Prog 9:00 Drama Serial 9:35 Film Magazine Prog 10:10 Drama Serial 10:45 Bangla Film-Neel Atim 6:32 Islamic Prog 7:10 Child Prog 7:50 Musical Prog 8:25 Drama Serial 9:00 Musical Prog 9:35 Special Prog 10:10 Drama Serial 10:45 Bangla Film-Khamataban.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Ushuaia 7:30 Travelers 8:30 Lonely Planet 9:30 Eyewitness 10:30 Danger Zone-11:00 Outer Bounds 11:30 Shark Files 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives 2:30 Discover Magazine 3:30 Travelers 4:30 Ushuaia 5:30 Lonely Planet 6:30 Pop Sci 7:00 Split 7:30 Untamed Amazonia 8:30 Wild Discovery 9:30 Beyond 2000 10:00 Discover News 10:30 Portraits 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Beyond 2000

ALPHA TV

6:30 Alaap 7:00 Monihaar 8:00 Serial: Din Protidin 9:00 Serial: Plabon 9:30 Serial: Bhowani Purer Chattueja 10:00 Serial: Jhankar 10:30 Serial: Kono Ek Din 11:00 Serial: Samay Sur 11:30 Ek Akasher Niche 12:00 Serial: Shani Robi Majar Chobi 1:00 Amar Tumi 1:30 Bahari Aahar 2:00 Serial: Abishasya #12 2:30 Bangla Movie-5:00 Ek Akasher Niche 5:30 Asian

Sky Shop 6:30 Serial: Din Protidin 7:00 Bharat Bhroman 7:30 News In Bangali 8:00 Serial: Jiban Jeban 8:30 Serial: Ek Akasher Niche 9:00 Serial: Hiya Majhe 9:30 Serial: Daag 10:00 News In Bangali 10:30 Serial: Din Protidin 11:30 Serial: Bhowani Purer Chattueja 12:00 Serial: Samay Sur 10:12:30 Gugli 1:00 Grihasajha 1:30 Bangla Movie (Compiled: SATVIEW News Networks-404129)

Sony Max

6:30 Film Show: 9:30 Chartbusters 10:00 Music Mantra 10:30 Film Show: 1:30 Chartbusters 2:00 Music Mantra 2:30 Film Show: 5:30 Film Show: 8:30 Chartbusters 9:00 Music Mantra 9:30 Film Show: 12:30 Film Show: 3:30 Film Show.

Star Sport

7:30 Fm World Motorcycle Championship 2000 MotoGP/Mugello ITALY Highlights 9:00 World Wide Rugby (Super 12) Semifinal #2 11:30 Trans World Sport 12:30 Pepsi Asia Cup 2000 Dhaka BANGLADESH-India Vs Bangladesh 2nd Odi Highlights 1:30 Live- Pepsi Asia Cup 2000 Dhaka BANGLADESH-India Vs Sri Lanka 3rd Odi Preview 2:00 Live- Pepsi Asia Cup 2000 Dhaka BANGLADESH-India Vs Sri Lanka 3rd Odi - Lunchtime Show 6:15 Live- Pepsi Asia Cup 2000 Dhaka BANGLADESH-India Vs Sri Lanka 3rd Odi 1st Session 5:30 Live- Pepsi Asia Cup 2000 Dhaka BANGLADESH-India Vs Sri Lanka 3rd Odi 2nd Session 10:15 Cricket Up Close 10:30 Cricket Magazine 11:00 Inside Cricket 1st Session 11:30 Anz Sportsline

11:45 Pga Tour Highlights Memorial Tournament Dublin OH USA 12:30 Pepsi Asia Cup 2000 Dhaka BANGLADESH-India Vs Sri Lanka 3rd Odi Highlights

ZEE INDIA TV

7:30 Zee News: Hindi 8:00 Zee Morning Show 8:30 News In English 9:00 News Outlook 9:00 Business News 7:30 Zee News: Hindi 8:30 Business News 9:00 News In English 10:00 Zee Prime Time Show 11:30 News In English 12:00 Business News 12:30 Am to 6:30 AM Every Half Hour - Zee News: Hindi

MTV INDIA

8:00 MTV Classic 8:30 MTV Doriya 9:00 MTV Gita Chinta 9:30 Pop Indonesia 10:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 10:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Shehnaz 11:30 MTV Non-Stop Hits 12:00 MTV Top 2000 1:00 MTV Housefull VJ Nafisa 1:30 MTV Ek Do Teen 2:30 Non-Stop Hits 3:30 Love Line VJ Malika 4:00 MTV Bakra 4:15 Non-Stop Hits 4:30 MTV Select VJ Nikhil 5:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Shehnaz 6:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Cyrus/Asif/Nikhil 7:30 MTV Made In India VJ Cyrus 8:00 MTV Gaao Baby Gaao 8:30 MTV Full VJ Nafisa 10:30 Non-Stop Hits 11:00 MTV Lovelife 11:30 The Grind (Beach Show) 12:00 MTV Chill Out VJ Cyrus/Asif/Nikhil 1:00 MTV In Control 2:00 Non-Stop Hits

SONY TV

7:30 Aalma 8:00 Sant Asaram Wani 8:30 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 9:00 Ek Mahal Ho Sapna Ka (Daily Sope) 9:30 Aurat 10:00 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 10:30 Daily Soap- Ithaas 11:00

Daily Soap- Nazdeekiyan 11:30 Daily Soap- Ghar Ek Mandir 12:00 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 12:30 Movers & Shekars 1:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 2:00 Boogi Woogi 2:30 Ek Mahal Ho Sapna Ka (Daily Sope) 3:00 Aurat (Daily Soap) 3:30 Daily Soap- Ghar Ek Mandir 4:00 Daily Soap- Ithaas 4:30 Daily Soap- Nazdeekiyan 5:00 Junoon 5:30 Jaane Bhi Do Paro 6:00 Love You #26 Ep- ("Anup Soni, Shruti Ulla) 6:30 Missing #48 Ep- Ramaben Bhatt Pt-1 7:00 Rang Birangee 7:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 8:00 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 8:25 Boogie Woogie 8:55 Dil Vil Pyar Vyar #48 Ep- Acid Test ("Rushali, PoojaGhai, Sonali, Karina, Rakash, Bishal, Ali Asgor) 9:35 Sparsh #47 ("Dibya Sheth, Mohash Tagore, Mrinal Kulkarni, Kunika, Irfan Khan) 10:10 Aahat #221 Ep- 10:45 Movers & Shekars 11:30 Ek Mahal Ho Sapna Ka (Daily Soap) 12:15 Cine Prime Nite Film: *Satta Pe Satta* ("Amitabh, Hema Malini, Ranjeeth, Arjad Khan, Sachin) 3:00 Daily Soap- Nazdeekiyan 3:30 Cine Nite show-Hindi Feature Film: *Zabab*

ZEE TV

6:00 Yeaddon Ki Pal (B/W Songs Show) 6:30 Zee News & Business 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:00 Guldasta 8:30 Zara Has Ke- Hai Zindagi 9:00 Zara Has Ke- Filmi Chakkar 9:30 Disney Hour Cartoons 10:30 Ek Nazar 11:00 Agnichakra 11:30 Alvida Darling 12:00 Basera #48 12:30 Naye Nazrane (Trailer) 1:00 Tata Sati Khanda Khazana 01:30 Mrityudand #Ep-46 (Serial "Paban Malhotra, Atul Agnihotry, Arif Zakaria, Irawati, Akshay Anand, Yateen) 2:00 Daily Sope: Hum Panch ("Amila, Rakhi Vijan)(Re-run) 2:30 Chingaree #56 3:00 Daily Sope: Karlayva 3:30 Cinema Hits

HF Film (B/W): 6:30 Ek Nazar (Film Trailer Show) 7:00 Disney Hour Cartoons 8:00 Bajaj Super 7 Mugabla (Countdown Show) 8:30 Professor Pearla #44 (Sitcom "Rakhi Tandon, Ashok Shroff) 9:00 Amaanat #Ep-146 (Serial "Pooja Madan, Sudhir Panday, Smita) 9:30 X-Zone #95 Ep- (Horror Serial) 10:30 Thriller At 10 Ep- 11:00 Daily Soap- Aangan #158 ("Neena Gupta, Farha, Sumeet Saigal, Arun Gavil, Rohit Kumar, KarliKara) 11:30 Daily Soap- Kartavya 11:55 Jhalak-Trailler 12:00 Action Movie: 2:30 Naye Nazrane (Trailer) 3:00 Hindi Feature Film(B/W):

DD METRO

7:00 Anhad 7:15 Bhakti Sagar 7:45 Subaha Aaj Tak 8:30 Centrestage 9:00 The First Edition 9:30 Telefilm 10:30 Tele Shopping 11:00 Nyay 11:30 Music Station 12:00 Tele Shopping 12:30 Geet Gata Chal 1:00 Serial: Baaje Payal 1:30 Serial: Khali Haath 2:00 Daawat: Cookery Show 2:30 Daily Sope- Bandhan 2:55 News In Urdu 3:05 United Tele Shopping 3:30 Hindi Feature Film: 6:00 Mummus Alive 6:30 Duck Tales 7:00 Mamre Gaurav 7:30 Series 7:55 Navarang 8:00 IBP Ustaad 8:30 Serial: Naya 9:00 Flop Show 9:30 Serial: Satya 10:00 Rang Birange Phool 10:30 Aaj Taak (News) 10:50 Manzilion 11:00 Serial: Ehsaas 11:30 Business Midweek 12:00 Series-Investigator 1:00 Hindi Films

DD Intl

7:00 Classical Music 7:15 Nishan 7:45 Subah Aaj Tak 8:30 Center Stage 9:00 The First Edition 9:32 Medicinal Alternative 10:00 India News 10:15 Light Music 10:32 Musical Programme On Basant Panchmi 11:00 Hit Show

11:32 Geluvina (Serial In Kannada) 12:00 Bharat Samachar (News In Hindi) 12:15 Hindi Film Show 2:30 Samachar 2:40 The News 3:00 Classical Music 3:15 Nishan 3:45 Subah Aaj Tak 4:32 Center Stage 5:00 The First Edition 5:32 Medicinal Alternative 6:00 Musical Programme On Basant Panchmi 6:32 Hit Show 7:00 Geluvina (Serial In Kannada) 7:30 Hindi Film Show (Rpt)

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News 6:30 The Travel Show 7:00 BBC News / Asia Today inc. World Business Report 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today inc. World Business Report 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Top Gear 11:30 The Money Programme (Presenter- Maya Even) 12:00 World News 12:30 Face To Face India (Presenter- Karan Thapar) 1:00 World News 1:30 Talking Movies (Presenter- Tom Brook) 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 The Money Programme (Presenter- Maya Even) 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk (Presenter- Tim Sebastian) 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: The Travel Show 5:00 BBC The World Today 5:30 The Money Programme (Presenter- Maya Even) 6:30 Face To Face India (Presenter- Karan Thapar) 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 Top Gear 8:30 HARDtalk (Presenter- Tim Sebastian) 9:00 World News 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC World News 10:15 World Business Report 10:30 Moneywise (Presenter- Sucharita Ghosh) 11:00 BBC World News 11:35 World Business Report 11:45 World Sport 12:30 HARDtalk (Presenter- Tim Sebastian) 1:00 World News 1:30 Click Online (Presenter- Stephen Cole) 2:30 World Business Report 3:00 BBC World News

MUSIC ASIA

7:30 Alaap 8:00 Ta Ra Rum 9:00 Brake Fail 10:00 Music Mag 10:30 Hit Mix 11:00 Brake Fail 11:30 Ponds All Time Romantic Hits 12:00 Bajaj Music Box 12:30 Saare Ga Ma Classic 1:00 Himani Gold T Jharokha 2:00 Nexgen 2:30 Ta Ra Rum 3:30 Brake Fail 4:30 Bajaj Music Box 5:00 Just Jammin 5:30 Hit Mix 6:00 Saare Ga Ma Classic 7:00 Brake Fail 8:00 India Pop Ka Baap Kaun 8:30 Artist of The Fortnight 9:00 Music Quiz 9:30 Bajaj Music Box 10:00 Sizzlers 10:30 Himani Gold T Jharokha 11:00 Stars Day Out 11:30 Shabab 12:00 Music Zone 1:00: Brake Fail 1:30 Himani Gold T Jharokha 2:00 Bajaj Music Box 2:30 Stars Day Out 3:00 Ta Ra Rum 4:00 Music Zone 4:30 Brake Fail 6:00 Sizzlers

DD CHANNEL-1

5:55 Vande Mataram & Thought Of The Day 6:15 CIET Programme 6:30 UGC Programme 7:00 IGNOU 7:45 Samachar 8:30 Samachar 9:45 Suba Sabera 8:45 The News 9:32 Current Affairs Programme 10:00 Programme On Kashmir 10:32 Tarang- CIET Programme 11:00 ETV Programme 11:32 Serial: Ardhangini 12:00 Serial: Kamyabi 12:32 Serial: Intezar Aur Sahi 1:00 Serial: Tulsi 1:30 Serial: Agni 2:00 Serial: Deewar 2:30 News in Hindi 2:40 News in English 2:50 Series: Har Dil Laziz 3:00 Serial: Bol Basanto 3:32 Serial: Aparajita 4:00 Serial: Mili Ke Rang 4:32 Serial: Aur Kisan Jaag Utha 5:00 Series For Children: Prena Ke Prehi 7:00 Live Show 7:30 Samachar 8:32 Pakistan Reporter 9:00 Samachar 9:15 The News 9:30 Fugitive- The Most Wanted 10:05 Series: Noorjahan 11:00 Series: Sitaron Ke Sang 11:32 Series: Eminent Cartoonist 12:00 Special Feature 12:32 Serial: Ardhangini