

THEATRE FESTIVAL SCHEDULES  
(JULY 12-JULY 16)

**July 12**  
Play: *Nagor Alir Kissa*  
Playwright: M A Salam  
Director: M A Salam  
Group: Dristipat Natyagoshthi

**July 13**  
Play: *Bouder Pathshala*  
Playwright & director: Aashish Khondakar  
Group: Space and Acting Research Centre

**July 14**  
Play: *Kalshondhyay*  
Playwright: Buddhadev Basu  
Director: Khaled Khan  
Group: Nagrik Natyasampradaya

**July 15**  
Play: *Bhaddornok*  
Playwright: Golam Sarwar  
Director: Golam Sarwar  
Group: Natyachakra

**July 16**  
Play: *Golapjan*  
Playwright: SM Solaiman  
Director: SM Solaiman  
Group: Theatre Art Unit

**Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage at Shilpakala Academy; Time: 7 pm**  
Tickets are available at Sagar Publishers, Bailey Road and at the venue before shows.  
Prices: Tk. 30, Tk. 50 and Tk. 100.  
Schedules, provided by BGTF, are subject to change without any prior notice.

## Aamar Bahanno: Reinventing the roots

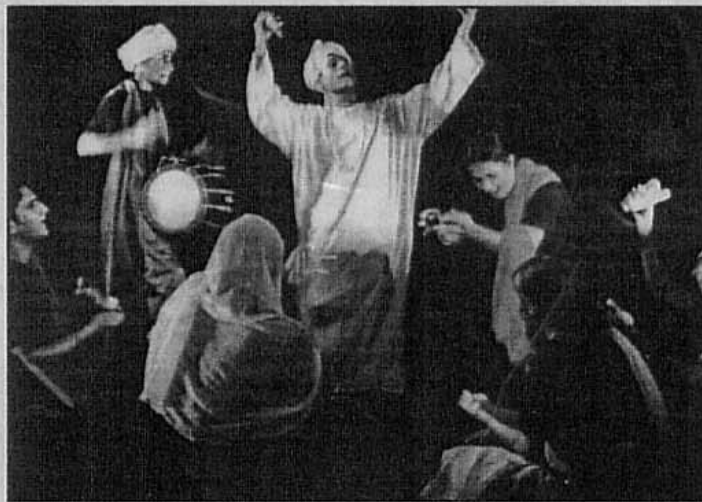
Young theatre group presents mind blowing performance at British Council

HARUN UR RASHID

WITH the techno-savvy young generation enthusiasts the theatre practice seems to be gaining novelty. Ideas and innovations have become more globally oriented rather than being confined within the cultural boundary, thanks to the advent of Internet-based activities such as online correspondence. Tarunya, a group comprising young theatre lovers, recently staged two shows of a drama titled *Aamar Bahanno* at the British Council. The play is the product of such reciprocated research in partnership with Contact Theatre, Manchester, UK, under an exciting drama project called *Contact the World*.

Conducted through e-mail and online chatting, the *Contact the World* project involves six youth theatre groups from six countries. These groups have their twin groups each in the UK. The Bangladeshi group Tarunya is thus paired with the Chickenshed Theatre Company in Manchester. The two groups exchanged their views, interests and cultures online in order to develop their own plays.

Directed by Sydur Rahman Lipon, *Aamar Bahanno* depicts the historical events of the Language Move-



Folk music and Kobigaan bring out the connection between the rural Bangladesh and the Language Movement in the play

ment of 1952. The most striking feature of the play is that it consciously keeps aside the 'street-based characteristics' of the Movement in the then Dhaka and concentrates on identifying a close connection between different cultural elements of rural Bangladesh and the Language Movement. And this effort essentially contributes to the main theme of the play that Ekushey February was not only a political

consequence of the tyrannical oppression by the then Pakistan government; that it was also a cultural protest against that oppression.

The play presents a young lad named Nitai who takes pleasure in sports, folk theatre and *Kobigaan*, a poetic song performance. His father having been killed during the riots of 1947, Nitai is lovingly raised by his mother. When the Language Move-

ment erupts across the country, Nitai and his friends also get involved in the task of protecting the rights of the mother tongue. They voice their protest through folk songs and poetic lyrics.

Meanwhile, Nitai's mother falls ill. While Nitai becomes active in the rebellion, he comes to know that his mother is on her deathbed. Finally, his mother's death makes Nitai more firmly committed to the Movement. Eventually, the rights of the mother tongue are restored but Nitai has to sacrifice his own life.

The play wonderfully incorporates secularism, folk music of the country as well as an anti-war outlook through a blend of Euro-Asian outfits. The performers—Delwar Hossain, Mostafiz Shahin, Sweet Hasan, Sudip Chakraborty, Taskin Binte Siddique, Sydur Rahman Lipon and Nayar Amin Lopa—all tried their best to make the production a success.

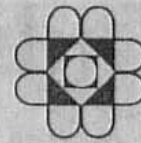
Besides the shows at British Council, *Aamar Bahanno* will also be staged at the IEB auditorium in Chittagong on July 17 and in Manchester on July 29.

Supported by British Council, Tarunya's effort is exemplary and praiseworthy.



## Dhaka Drama Festival 2004

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation  
(June 17-July 23)



## REVIEW

## See-Morag

A microscopic view of rural society

**A**SADULLAH Farazi's play *See-Morag* does not deal with the legendary bird See-Morag which depicts a lover, crossing the oceans as in Bangla fable, rather it deals with the structure of the rural society where the feudal lords act according to their whims.

Bangladesh Theatre staged their current production *See-Morag* on July 10, as part of the drama festival arranged by BGTF.

The play *See-Morag* represents a village named Baghabari, where feudal lord Bazal Shikdar imposes his will on the villagers. Once he collects a rooster from Sylhet and claims that it is the legendary See-Morag of the fable. One day his so-called See-Morag is lost and he accuses everyone of stealing his rooster. At last, he takes it as an opportunity to forcibly occupy the house of a Hindu family making them a scapegoat.

As the sub-plot of the play, Farazi has tried to focus on the characterless typical village leaders who believe in supernatural power like *pirs*.

Farazi's play is not well constructed and contains slang. He failed to show the racial issue which is the main theme of the play.



A hard-hitting story

Humayun Kabir's directorial works need to be improved. Unnecessarily a narrator unfolds the story at the beginning of the play rather than presenting the story from myth or well-noted story. It would have been appropriate if the script was based on the legendary See-Morag. He has tried to handle the play realistically.

The haphazardly done set designs by Mezbaur Rahman's neither had any aesthetic value nor could represent the theme of the play. Light design was very simple; it did not co-ordinate well with the acting cues.

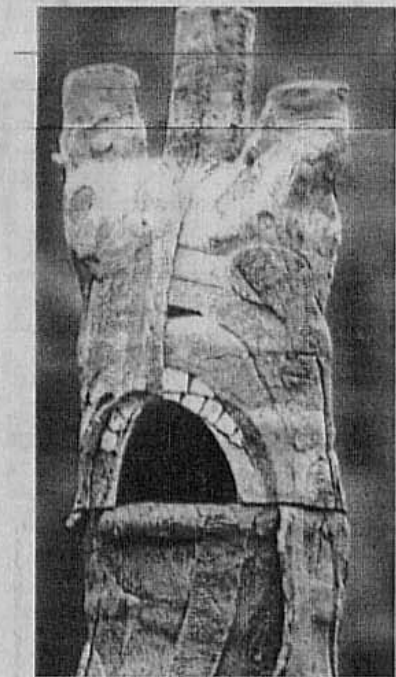
Performers need to strengthen their acting skills.

## Experimental and enigmatic

## 15th Young Artists' Art Exhibition 2004

FAYZA HAQ

**E**XPERIMENTING and coming up with new ideas and notions is the 15th Young Artists' Art Exhibition at the Shilpakala Academy. It is definitely a progress in style and theme. Around 186 art works of 169 artists have been exhibited. The art works extend from class-work pen sketches to skilled experimental works, with some of the participating artists being fairly well-known. With art institutions encouraging new ideas and with the



Change of Time-2, Nurul Amin; Best Award (Sculpture)

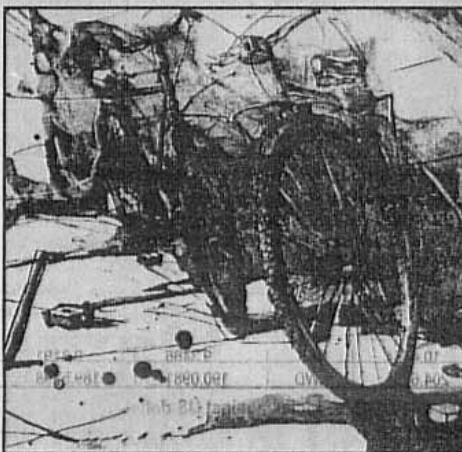
mushrooming of art galleries, the young artists are not stopping at oil, water colour and sculpture but going on to acrylic, print making and craft.

Uttam Kumar Roy won the Young Artists' Award 2004 with his *Target: me and mine*. In this was an electric blue figure comprising of spider nets and he was surrounded by enigmatic blue blobs of forms in a blue black background. The Best Award in Painting went to Ashrafur Hasan for his *Burn-8* which brought in twining root forms, which could also be taken for clasping hands. Layer upon layer of blue and burnt sienna clay strips clinging on to each other formed a totem pole shaped creation. *Bicycle*, by Sheikh Mohammad Rokonzaman in black and white, got the Best Award in Graphics. This brought in the image of three old rusted bicycles, leaning on each other.

One of the Honourable Mentions was won by Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash's *Last Supper*, which brought in the image of political leaders such as George Bush, Tony Blair and Fidel Castro, along with the well-known scene of Christ's last formal meeting with his disciples. This was obviously a clarion call for peace. Ahmed Sadrul Hasan Rafi's *Cosmic life and its past dream* brought in extra terrestrial figures in gray and blue bubbles, set on a background of green and yellow floating islands. This too won a similar award. Equally thought provoking and highly imaginative was the sixth prize winner, Sabira Shahinur with her *Continuity from the primitive*. This had cavorting and dancing figures in gray, green, ochre and burnt sienna, seen against a pale emerald background.

The jury committee included Mokur Islam, Mahmudul Haque, Abdus Shakor, Alak Roy and Moituddin Khaled.

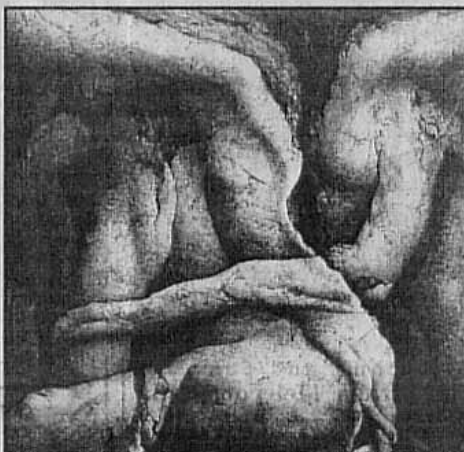
The rest of the exhibition had a lot to offer for the eye and mind to feast on. Md. Nurul Islam's *Composition-19*, a woven wall-



Bicycle (Imagination), Sheikh Mohammad Rokonzaman; Best Award (Graphics); Dahan, Ashrafur Hasan; Best Award (Painting)

hanging piece, had an intriguing interwoven motif in it, with tassels hanging from three sides. Rajaul Islam Lovelu's carved piece *Image-2* had twirling and gliding human and animal figures along with elements from nature such as tree barks and leaves. Najmun Nahar's *Hunting-2* had exotic bird images with buoyant feathers, beaks, wings and tails. *Poet's dream* by Md. Refag Uddin was an idyllic creation with dots, curls, lines and swirls. Yasmin Jahan Nupur's *Valueless crown* was a surrealistic piece that dealt with crowns, thrones and subjects. *Broken image* by Sarkar Nahid Niaz (Nipu) was a subtle presentation of windows and doors with a 3-D effect.

*Shakuntala with friends* by Malay Bala brought in abstract forms of women who appeared like old tree roots, suggesting humans caught in a stifling web. Md. Anisuzzaman's *Complexity-30* had a geometric depiction of the mushrooming of high-rise buildings. A realistic change was seen in Subash Chandra Nath's *Study-2* which



brought in a pile of old bottles and cans. Similarly, Roosevelt Benjamin D'Rozario's *Untitled-1* presented a steam boat, keeping to realism in his elegant and confident depiction of a riverside scene.

*God's blessing* by Debashis Pal had stylised presentation of deities in discs and rectangles, placed one on top of another. *Night* by Nasima Akter had a moving depiction of a cat, seen along with an apple and a flower. *Flower* by Pongkum Kumar Roy was a lyrical depiction of lily buds standing tall in a garden. Fahamida Akther's *Nightmare-45* brought in the horror of crimes in modern city life.

The exhibition showcased many young talents with the play of ideas, forms and styles. The artists appeared more politically conscious than they had been about a decade back and no longer appeared to be self-satisfied romanticists. They were more exposed to the contemporary art scene, as seen in the various international exhibitions.

## Samina Lutfi Nitra

The only female playwright at the festival

Nitra's play *Tirthankar* has been well appreciated by the audience. A regular member of Shubochon Natya Shongshod, Samina Lutfi Nitra is one of the very few female stage playwrights in Bangladesh whose plays have been staged. At present, her popular play *Tirthankar* is being staged on a regular basis. Talking about her play at the on going drama festival, Nitra said, 'I have adapted the Persian epic *Shahanama*. I created *Tirthankar* based on the epic, adding contemporary socio-political crisis. In that sense it is a crisis play.'

A lecturer of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Nitra added, 'I am not yet satisfied with the work in *Tirthankar*. Some critics pointed



out certain areas where there is scope for improvement.' Nitra has now almost finished another script for her own group. It

is on Khana, the proverbial wizard who has narrated all the secrets of the nature in a verse form. I have introduced Khana in a different way. I think her verses are a collective work. Khana's father-in-law was hostile towards her because she was from a disadvantaged background and her in-laws did not take her popularity in a positive way either. That is why Khana is my protagonist. I have not tried to represent her as a foretelling genius. In this play, I have tried to deal with class conflict as well as the gender issue.

Besides writing, she also plays the role of Tahmina in *Tirthankar*. However, Nitra is keen to establish her name as a playwright.

ERSHAD KAMOL

## Banderas gets behind camera!

Spanish actor Antonio Banderas is gearing to get into directorial shoes. He gets behind the camera for the movie *The Englishman's Tale*. The story is a film version of Antonio Soler's book *El Camino de los Ingleses*, which narrates the tale of a group of boys on the brink of adulthood, according to the *hollywoodreporter.com*. The *Desperado* star is yet to decide the star cast of the movie, shooting for which begins in 2006. 'It will be a Spanish production with new unknown actors,' Banderas was quoted as saying.



## TV GUIDE

## PICK OF THE DAY



**Crime Watch**  
On ntv at 6:50 pm  
Reporting based programme  
Hosted by Supon Roy



**Frequency**  
On HBO at 7:00 pm  
Genre: Drama/Thriller/Sci-Fi  
Dennis Quaid, James Caviezel, Shawn Doyle

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

## News Bulletin

**BTV**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**CHANNEL-I**  
Breakfast News 7:15 am, 9:00 am.  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.  
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**ntv**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 5:00 pm, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.  
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**TARA BANGLA**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.  
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.  
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.  
**BBC WORLD**  
Every hour on the hour

## CHANNEL-I

09:45 *Tritiya Matra*  
11:30 *Andhar Pariya*  
12:00 *Chithi Pelam*  
12:30 *Aj Dupurey*  
01:00 *Elong Cinema Gaan*  
01:30 *Sangbadpatrey Bangladesh and public reaction*  
02:00 *Bangla film: Ma-Bap* (Rozina, Mahmud Kali)  
04:00 *Banglar Gaan*  
05:00 *Sa Re Ga Ma*  
05:35 *Janapoder Khobor*  
05:45 *Ganatantra*  
06:10 *Music Plus*  
06:45 *Banijyo o Arthoniti*  
07:50 *Drama Serial: Ruposi*  
08:25 *Drama: Bijli Boarding*  
09:35 *Drama Serial: Beast Master*  
10:00 *Drama Serial: Amader Chhoto Nadi*  
**ntv**  
08:00 *Aajker Shakal Gombhira*  
08:30 *Khabor deshe deshe*  
09:30 *Agency of Lights*  
10:05 *Neel paharar gaan*  
10:30 *Dhaka Cinema*  
02:30 *Drama Serial: Teen purush*  
03:05 *Right Click*  
03:40 *Medhabi*  
04:25 *Putul Naach*  
05:20 *Apar Jigyasha*  
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*  
06:50 *Crime Watch*  
08:15 *Drama Serial: Sorsheer Bayra*  
08:50 *Sunsik Ophora*  
09:40 *Drama Serial: Khelaghor*  
11:20 *Dindarpan*  
**ATN BANGLA**  
10:30 *Annoadrishi*

11:15 *Drama Serial: Baba Chanchollakor Mania*  
11:50 *Bangla Film: Uddhar*  
12:30 *Uro Cola Saat Rang*  
03:45 *Children's Programme: Flying House*  
05:10 *Sonali Din*  
05:45 *Islami sawaal o jawab*  
06:20 *Poranor Gaan*  
08:00 *Musical Programme*  
08:30 *Drama Serial: Pishachini*  
09:00 *Live Health Care Programme: Sushtha thakun Live*  
10:35 *Talk show: Katha mala*  
12:20 *Bangla Feature Film: Mayer Ijait*  
**HBO**  
8:30 *Antony*  
10:30 *Big Fat Lie*  
12:00 *Black Mask 2*  
2:00 *True Blue*  
04:00 *Pay It Forward*  
6:30 *Cinema Secrets III Fp 7, Oscar Winning FX*  
7:00 *Frequency*  
9:30 *Batman Returns*  
12:00 *Backdraft*  
9:00 *Rescue*  
9:30 *Bestmaster*  
10:30 *Now See This*  
11:00 *Rescue*  
12:00 *Rescue*  
12:30 *Alias*  
1:30 *Worst-Case Scenario*  
2:30 *Now See This*  
3:30 *Bestmaster*  
4:30 *Rescue*  
5:30 *Rescue*  
6:00 *Congo*  
8:30 *24*  
9:30 *Fear Factor*  
11:00 *US Seals II: The*

**Ultimate Force**  
1:00 *Fear Factor*  
**HALLMARK**  
9:30 *Exiled*  
11:30 *Agency*  
12:30 *Bewitched*  
1:00 *Mad About You*  
1:30 *Torso*  
3:30 *Play with Me Sesame*  
4:00 *Sesame Street*  
5:00 *Bewitched*  
5:30 *The Guardian*  
6:30 *Agency*  
7:30 *Ann Rule's Stranger Beside Me*  
9:05 *Judging Amy*  
9:55 *The Guardian*  
10:45 *Ann Rule's Stranger Beside Me*  
12:30 *Bewitched*  
**STAR MOVIES**  
7:30 *Splash*

**E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial 20th Anniversary**  
11:30 *Slums Of Beverly Hills*  
1:00 *The Cowboy Way*  
2:45 *The Ticket*  
3:15 *For Hire*  
4:50 *The Rookie*  
7:00 *For Love/Of The Game*  
9:15 *Bull Durham*  
11:00 *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial 20th Anniversary*  
1:00 *A Woman Hunted*  
**STAR GOLD**  
9:30 *Ikke Pe Ikka*  
1:00 *Himalayputra*  
5:00 *Shapath*  
8:30 *Arjun Pandit*  
**STAR PLUS**  
12:00 *Tanha*

1:00 *What not to Wear*  
Lucy  
1:30 *A Baby Story*  
2:00 *Kitchen Chemistry*  
Jellies  
2:30 *Medical Detectives*  
Broken Promises  
Medical Detectives  
Time Will Tell  
3:00 *Ferocious African Crocodiles*  
3:30 *The Prison Inn/Seeing Ghost Dogs*  
4:30 *Truth or Scare*  
5:00 *Bazaar Shopping in Los Angeles*  
6:00 *Great Castles of Europe*  
Forchtenstein  
6:30 *Ushuaia Nature*  
Lost Worlds  
7:30 *Moose-Spirit of the North Woods*  
8:30 *Amazing Baby Videos*  
9:30 *Monster House 70's Disco House*  
10:30 *Unsolved History*  
Who Killed JFK?  
11:30 *The New Detectives: Case Studies in Forensic Science Fatal Compulsion*  
**ANIMAL PLANET**  
12:30 *Snakes and the city*  
1:00 *Island of Giants*  
1:30 *Secret World of Gardens*  
2:00 *Secret World of Gardens*  
3:00 *Danger in Tiger Paradise*  
3:30 *Pet Nation*  
5:00 *Pomeranian*  
6:30 *Ooohound*  
7:00 *Pet Nation*  
7:30 *The Most Extreme*  
Dads

8:30 *British Gonillas*  
9:30 *A Brush with Death*  
10:00 *Feast of Snakes*  
10:30 *The Beauty of Snakes*  
11:30 *The Most Extreme*  
Venom  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
1:30 *Croc Chronicles*  
2:00 *Wildlife Diary*  
2:30 *Built For The Kill*  
3:30 *Spine Chillers*  
4:30 *Don't Say Goodbye*  
5:30 *Africa From The Ground Up*  
6:00 *Sea Stories*  
6:30 *Dogs With Jobs S3*  
7:00 *Toyota World Of Wildlife*  
7:30 *Horses' Empire: A History Of Conquest*  
8:30 *Croc Chronicles*  
9:00 *Wildlife Diary*  
9:30 *Built For The Kill*  
10:30 *Spine Chillers*  
11:30 *Marco Polo*  
12:00 *Through These Eyes*  
**ESPN**  
12:30 *Samsung Cricket Show (R)*  
1:00 *Tour De France 2004 Highlights Stage #7(S)*  
1:30 *Sportscenter Weekend (R)*  
1:35 *The Natwest Series Final 10th Odi Highlights(R)*  
3:00 *The Falk-Hall Of Fame*  
4:00 *Trick Shots (R)*  
5:55 *3rd Test Series Australia Vs Sri Lanka 2nd Test Day 4 (L)*  
1:00 *Pro Wakeboard Series Orlando Fl Us (T)*

1:30 *Tour De France 2004 Highlights Stage #8(S)*  
2:00 *Uefa Euro 2004 Portugal Vs Netherlands Semifinals*  
4:00 *Crickit Gold (R)*  
6:00 *Uda National Dance Team Championship Open Division (R)*  
6:30 *Reggie Miller On Larry Bird (R)*  
7:30 *Uefa Euro 2004 Tournament Review(T)*  
8:30 *Sportscenter India (L)*  
9:00 *3 Test Series Australia Vs Sri Lanka 2nd Test Day 4 Highlights(S)*  
**STAR SPORTS**  
12:15 *Formula One World Championships Foster's British Grand Prix(R)*  
2:30 *Chequered Flag: Formula One Foster's British Grand Prix*  
3:00 *World Pool Championships 2004 Taiwan Day 3 1st Session(L)*  
10:00 *Gillette World Sport 2004 (R)*  
10:30 *Sportstina (L)*  
11:00 *Road To Glory Swimming And Diving(T)*  
12:00 *Hitz (R)*  
**TEN SPORTS**  
12:30 *Tour De France*  
1:00 *Gamer TV*  
1:30 *Gillette World Sport*  
2:30 *Trans World Sports*  
3:30 *Legends: Murali*  
4:00 *ICC Cricket World's*  
5:30 *Copa America H/Ls*  
7:30 *Raw*  
9:30 *Airtels Greatest Games*  
11:00 *Copa America H/Ls*  
1:00 *Raw*