

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 1-28
Time: 9am onwards

Classical Vocal Music Recital
Artist: Vidya Shah
Venue: National Theatre Hall, RSA
Date: March 4
Time: 6:30pm

Solo Art exhibition
Title: Art Echo of Composed Emotions
Artist: Zenaat Wahid
Venue: Art Club, Garden Gallery, H-34, R-11/A, Dharmadam
Date: Feb 25-Mar 3, Time: 3pm-7pm

Workshop & Art Exhibition
Organiser: Gallery Cosmos
Artist: Fudezuka Toshihisa
Venue: Cosmos Centre, 69/1, New Circular Road, Malibagh
Date: Feb-25-March 5

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Proshanto Karmakar
Venue: Nordic Club, Gulshan-2
Date: February 5-28
Time: 2pm-8pm

Solo Photo Exhibition
Photographer: Babu Ahmed
Venue: Bengali Gallery of Fine Arts, 6/27/28 Rd 16/16 road, Dharmadam
Date: Feb-27-March 5
Time: 12-8pm

Film Festival
Organiser: DUPS
Venue: TSC Auditorium, DU
Date: February 24-28
Time: 10am onwards

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Ramananda Bandopadhyay
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7/A, H-60, Dharmadam
Date: February 18-27
Time: 3pm-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: 60 Shots-Season 2
Venue: Dhaka Gallery, H-58, R-15/A, Dharmadam
Date: Feb 25-Mar 1
Time: 3pm-8pm

A steep climb

Heart to Heart with Brindabon and Khushi



SHAH ALOM SHAZU

Brindabon Das is one of the busiest and most popular TV playwrights in present times. Though at the beginning of his career he acted on stage, Brindabon eventually chose writing as his profession. His wife Shahnaz Khushi is a popular actress on the mini screen. Here they talk about how their relationship blossomed.

The Daily Star (TDS): Both of you belong to the world of theatre. How did you meet in the first place?

Brindabon Das: That's a long story. Khushi's brother is a good friend of mine and I frequented their house when I was in college. I met Khushi when she was in school.

Shahnaz Khushi: I knew Brindabon as my brother's friend. We lived in the same neighbourhood in Pabna's Chaat-mohor.

TDS: How long have you been married?

Das: It has been sixteen years since we first began living under the same roof. I often jokingly say that we are travelers on the path made of sixteen years of love.

Khushi: I still remember everything about the day. It was January 19, 1994.

TDS: What cemented your relationship?

Das: At one point, we both realized

that we were madly in love. Some years flew by as we courted each other. Then I had to come to Dhaka for my studies. But Khushi kept my heart with her back home.

Khushi: After I was admitted into college, our love was suddenly revealed to my family. Pressure to get married soon followed, prompting us to tie our wedding knots.

TDS: What happened after your family found out?

Khushi: My family was determined to marry me off somewhere else. But I was adamant that Brindabon was the person I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. In the end, one day I had to flee to Dhaka to be with Brindabon. That was the same day we got married.

TDS: How did you get married?

Das: The day Khushi came to Dhaka, our theatre group Aranyak was staging the play 'Aadim' at the German Cultural Center. Khushi arrived in the afternoon and Mamunur Rashid arranged for us to exchange nuptial vows at the Aranyak office.

Khushi: Although our married life began that day, none of our families accepted the wedding. Initially both our families were at daggers' drawn and so things were not so smooth.

TDS: How hard were those times?

Khushi: Extremely hard. At times I thought I would lose life's battles but

Street Theatre Festivals get underway

AMINUL ISLAM, REPORTS FROM Mymensingh

A four day 'Patha Natya Utsah' will begin at local Shaheed Minar premises from today. Organised by Mymensingh Theatre Association, the festival will conclude on March 2.

A total of 12 theater groups of the town will perform at the festival; Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, Jhlik Natya Sangstha, Bidrohi Natya Goshthi, Mymensingh Lokkrishthi Sangstha, Natyalok Sampradaya, Ensemble Theatre, Sareng Natya Goshthi, Angina Sahitya and Sangskritik Goshthi, Chhayanaut Sahitya, Jagoroni Natya Goshthi and Sangskritik Dal, Campus Natya Sampradaya of Bangladesh Agricultural university (BAU) and Shapla Theatre.

Eminent theatre personality Golam Rafiq will inaugurate the celebration at a function in the evening. Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, convener of Mymensingh Theatre Association will preside.

Mayor of Mymensingh municipality Ekramul Haque Titu will attend the function as chief guest.

Talking to this correspondent, Shahadat Hossain Khan said, the festival marking February 21st and International Mother Language Day is first of its kind in the town.

Three drama groups will perform each day during the four day festival, Khan said.

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, writes from Pabna

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote organised a week long programme, marking February 21st and International Mother Language Day. The programme was launched with the three day street theatre festival in Pabna Town Hall premise on February 22. The festival focused on the movement against oppression and injustice.

The festival concluded with the demand to strengthen democracy through the theatre movement. Noted cultural activist of the district and the driving force of Darpan Natto Goshthi, Pabna ANM Abdul Hai Al Hadi chaired the concluding programme.

Among others, secretary of the Sammilito Sangskritik, Jote, Pabna Abul Kashem; cultural activists advocate Sajedul Islam; Mohammad Mojibur Rahman and Dr. Aslam Hossain Bishwas Masud addressed the audience. Earlier veteran journalist and the Language Movement Veteran of Pabna, Ranaish Maitra inaugurated the theatre festival.

The theatre movement, added the speakers, spearheaded many social changes of the country. The Language movement is one of our best achievements and broadbased our cultural movement, they asserted.

Several theatre organisations of the district performed nine plays at the theatre festival.

Toshihisa Fudezuka in Town

Japanese Printmaking Workshop and Exhibition begins



Toshihisa Fudezuka(top right) conducting the workshop.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

An eight day printmaking workshop and an art exhibition titled "Heart" was inaugurated on February 25 at Cosmos Centre in Malibagh.

Internationally acclaimed Japanese artist Toshihisa Fudezuka is conducting the workshop where he mainly focuses on the water-based wood block printmaking technique. He will also demonstrate techniques of burin engraving at the workshop. The artist's other solo printmaking exhibition is now on at The Gallery in Gulshan. The exhibition was inaugurated on February 23 and will continue till March 8. His presentation will be held at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, the University of Development Alternative (UODA) and the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts.

Chief Information Commissioner Mohammad Zamir inaugurated the event as chief guest. Professor Nazrul Islam, chairman of University Grants Commission; Robert McDougall, High Commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh; Tassanawadee Miancharoen, Ambassador of Royal Thai Embassy in Dhaka; Enayetullah Khan, chairman of Gallery Cosmos and Cosmos-Atelier71 Printmaking Studio; Ylva Sorman Nath, Counselor of Embassy of Sweden, senior artists and cultural personalities attended the event.

The discussants talked about the workshop and its role in developing and supporting cultural and the artistic exchanges across geographic boundaries.

Mohammad Zamir said, "Printmaking is challenging and excit-



Participating artists learn the delicate methods and techniques.

ing. It gives an opportunity for rethinking, re-evaluation and reworking. The medium's outcome is marvellous and provides a pleasurable effect with multiple colours in prints. Such a workshop will certainly help our upcoming printmakers."

Enayetullah Khan said, "I feel this exhibition and workshop to be a cultural link between artists of Japan and Bangladesh. Japanese prints are technique-based, more sophisticated and detailed. Our printmakers are quite eager about Japanese artworks. At the workshop, Bangladeshi artists have learnt many delicate methods and techniques."

Toshihisa Fudezuka said, "Japanese art is known for its soft colours, minimal

expressions and meticulous lines and forms. Our painters always search for perfection and their works are more technique-based."

The participating printmakers are Anwar Hossain from Chittagong University, SM Ehsan, Khalequzzaman Shimul and Farzana Rahman from UODA, Fatematuj Johura Holy from Rajshahi University, Mokaddesur Tushil, Palash Baran Surjo and Shubho Shah from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.

The solo exhibition featuring the 30 prints of Fudezuka Toshihisa is on display at the Cosmos Gallery.

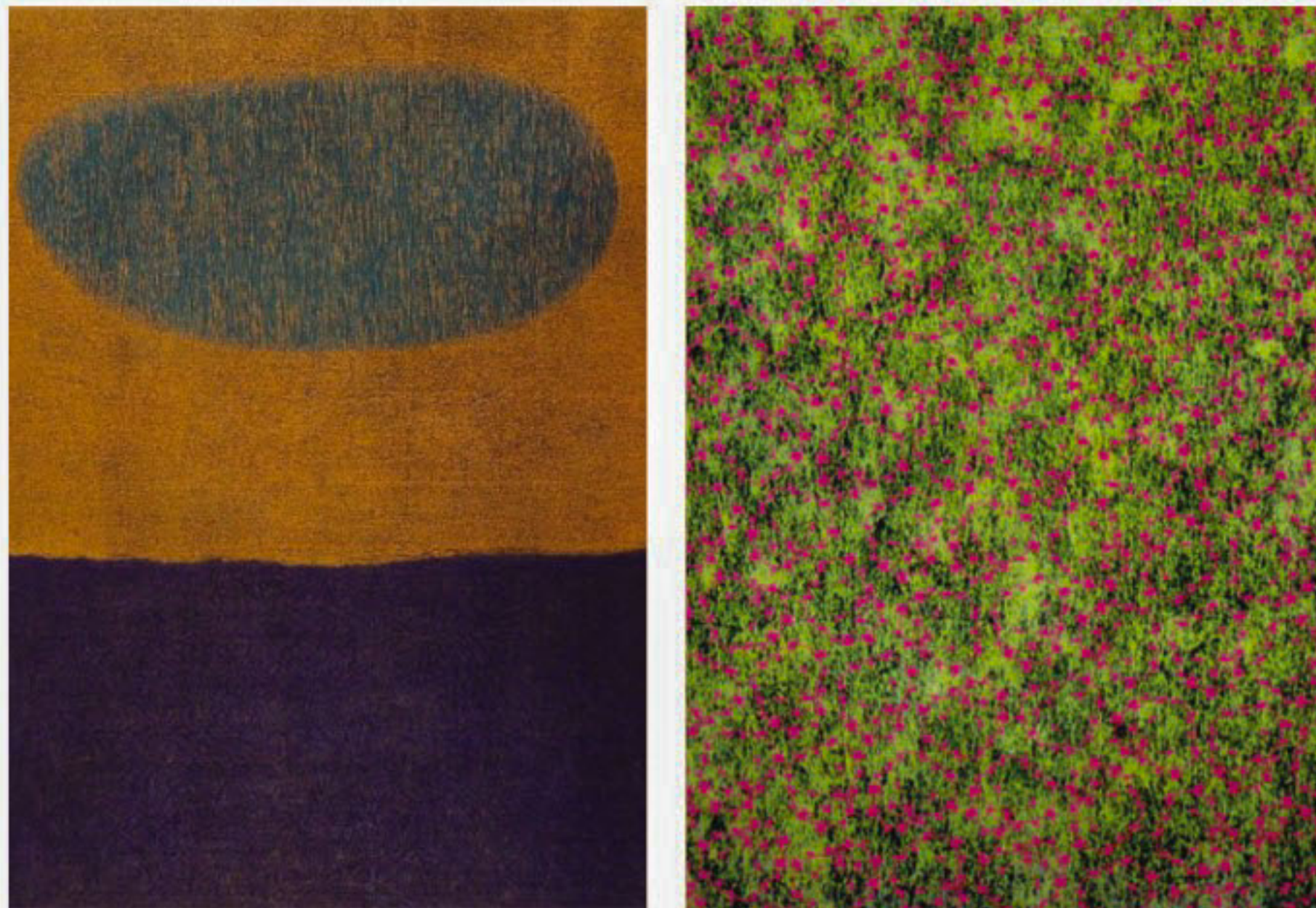
Fudezuka Toshihisa is a contemporary Japanese printmaker whose works

highlight the lush beauty of Japanese nature and physiological journey of human beings. His works feature very few subjects. His works are seemingly time consuming and give the viewers a detailed idea of his thought process. His works are engrossed with quiet colours, detailed lines, and varied dotted and tiny forms.

Fudezuka's works predominantly feature nature and subdued expressions of emotions. Forms and layer of colours are noticeable in his works. The images are contemplative and balanced. The artist has tried to grasp yearnings and personal perceptions through his art. Some of his images clearly express his preference towards minimalism. His forms are not formally arranged but articulate with a thoughtful approach.

Born at Kagawa region in Japan in 1957, artist Fudezuka completed his masters' in printmaking from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1983 and graduated in painting from Musashino Fine Arts University, Tokyo.

The artist has more than 100 solo exhibitions in Japan and abroad and more than 50 international participations. He already has received 10 awards nationally and internationally including Prize of Excellence Award in 4th Kochi International Triennial of Prints, 2nd Seibu Print Grand Prix and in Kagawa Prefecture Art Exhibition in Japan; Silver Prize Award, 6 times Purchase Prize Award and more. Currently Fudezuka is a visiting lecturer at Tokyo Zokei University and at Musashino Fine Arts University in Tokyo.



Images at the exhibition.

Concert in praise of the bard

150th birth anniversary Tagore observed

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

On Friday night Anandaloke, Sylhet organised a colourful function in observance of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. The venue was the Sylhet auditorium.

Veteran cultural personality Hemchandra Bhattacharya formally inaugurated the event by lighting the mangalprodip, while the child artists rendered "Antar momo bikoshito koro" in chorus. They also superbly presented "Bipodey morey rokha koro", "Anandir sagar hotoy", "Jogoi jurey udar surey" and "Aj dhaner khetey roudra chhaya".

"Anandaloke artists then presented

recitation, narratives, songs in chorus from Tagore for about an hour to a captivated audience. These included, "Amar matha noto korey dao hey", "Koto ojanarey janailey tumi", "Ami bohu bashonay pranoney chal", "Shimar majhey ashim tumi" and "Aaikorechho bhialo".

Rabiroshmi, Dhaka artists were also on the stage with several presentations on spring, conducted by Mohadev Ghosh.

Last of all, guest artist Tagore exponent Mitai Sengupta from Tripura took the stage with renditions from different stages of Tagore songs for over an hour.

Chief of Anandaloke, Rana Kumar Sinha and Sunirmal Kumar Dev and Shushmita Roy Kanta conducted the programme.



Artists perform to a captivated audience.

PHOTO: STAR



MUSTAFA ZAMAN

An artists' collective seems like an anomaly in this age of "individualism" which is a trope that promises independence to every living human in a modern society, but in reality, often effectuates an atomization of the individual leading to the weakening of his/her subjectivity.

Bangladesh is a country in transition; as such it is yet to mobilise its means to strive towards a "surveillance society" in line with Western-style capital-driven state mechanism. For artists living in such peripheral topography the struggle is not about standing against state coercion but against the collective position vis-à-vis certain trends or training, through which the causes of the institutions are by design served. The very fact that galleries in Dhaka have never done enough to nur-

ture the emerging artists actually has a bearing on how artists organise themselves in this crowded city, and "Studio 48, a group of visual artists", is only a strategy in the struggle for emancipation from the mainstream impasse -- an alternative to the apathy shown to individual talent.

Success or failure of the coming exhibition of Studio 48 is not the issue at stake. The show is in fact a test for the members not only towards a successful organisation of an exhibition. Add to that the fact that it is a testimony that an alternative space for work can be cobbled together by collective effort. The exhibition, for which there has been a framework formalised in the title Anubhobe Shoisab, is the very first attempt to make public what the artists of Studio 48 a 12-member collective -- have been meticulously working on for the last few months.

Only ten out of twelve active

members of the collective, who have been sharing studio space for last twelve months, are set to showcase a body of work developed during the period of continued communion. The participants include Fahamida Enam Kakoli, S.M.Ehsan, Kuntal Barai, Md.Monjur Rashid, Rehnuma Taranuma Snigdha, Anika Tasnim Anup, Md. Kalequzzaman Shimul, Shihab Nurun Nabi, Md. Nayeemuzzaman Bhuyan and Aung Rakhine. They are not driven by a common aesthetic conviction, but what connects them is the idea of the alternative space where there is scope for the individual to thrive and the community to grow.

As this particular exhibition has a theme to base their works on, the painters, printmakers and an artist who works across media are united in drawing on

childhood memory. It is an area that they all wanted to return to and, for the benefit of viewers, excavate and come away with some interesting stimulations and visual elements to be used in the works.

Though the collages of Kakoli, who has been a practicing artist for the last 15 or so years and whose anchoring role in organising both the studio and the exhibition is of decisive import, stand out among the works of those who have just been out of the academies and are standing at the threshold of their careers, the exhibition seems to give off a youthful vigour. Kakoli's deliberately child-like imagery attempts to negate though to a measured degree -- the visual principles of the adult world, while other participants adopt a position that speaks of their allegiance to academic practices where organiza-



tional capabilities are grounded in norms connected to the normative gaze.

Yet, some of them truly display tendencies wanting to break free. The textual elements that Monjur Rashid incorporates in his composition, the kitchen implements that infest the landscape-like images of Shimul, or the idea of Aung Rakhine to make use of a video on a bioscopevalah, a profession in sharp decline, augers well as far as aesthetic striving towards a coming language is concerned.

Studio 48 has proven that artists can redirect their endeavours toward a common goal. The only challenge facing them is whether they are able to sustain their efforts in a climate inimical to such an endeavour.

The writer is an artist.



Hollywood's big night

Oscar embraces the bummer flick

CNN, New York

The annual Oscars telecast is a weird combination of fashion show, variety show and industry party. Since the vast majority of viewers around the world will not have seen most of the films nominated for awards, it's no wonder most of their interest lies in seeing what famous people are wearing.

But the show's writers have to find a way to describe all the nominated films so the stars presenting the awards will have something to say after they tell their jokes.

In years past -- last year, for instance -- the nominees have usually been disparate, reflecting various hopes and dreams, but still mostly the hopes and dreams of studio executives. "The Blind Side," "UP" and "Avatar" didn't have much in common.

This year, things have changed. In the absence of epic fantasy, superhero movies, feel-good drama and indie quirk, the academy has chosen to recognize a group of films that are complex and severe by Hollywood standards, films that show us dark things about society, the family and the individual's place in the world.

Picking these films shows that somehow Hollywood has gotten word that things are not what they were.

The 10 films nominated for Best Picture, along with the ones singled out for actors' performances, all deal with disintegrating or uncertain families, or with young men and women suddenly thrust into the world on their own once they've realized their families have become their captors.

On the slightly more well-adjusted end, we find "The Kids Are All Right," in which an unhappy lesbian couple with two teenagers is thrown into confusion when the women meet their sons' natural father.

Annette Bening plays a masculinized



Scenes from Black Swan (left) and Inception.



mother in that movie, scary at times, but a beacon of sanity compared with the mothers in "Black Swan," "The Fighter," "Animal Kingdom," "Winter's Bone," and "Inception," a gaggle of frightening haridans and depressives the likes of which have never been rounded up in cinematic year before this one.

Fathers are mostly absent or about to disappear, like Javier Bardem in "Biutiful."

"Normal" families are coming apart at the seams in "Rabbit Hole" and "Blue Valentine," while in certain extreme cases,

Nominees for Top Four Categories
Best Picture: Black Swan, The Fighter, Inception, The Kids Are All Right, The King's Speech, 127 Hours, The Social Network, Toy Story 3, True Grit, Winter's Bone
Actor in a Leading Role: Javier Bardem, Jeff Bridges, Jesse Eisenberg, Colin Firth, James Franco
Actress in a Leading Role: Annette Bening, Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Lawrence, Natalie Portman, Michelle Williams
Directing: Black Swan, The Fighter, The King's Speech, The Social Network, True Grit

ATN BANGLA	06:30	Alokit Path
01:25	Shurer Madhuri	Down the Wicket
03:15	Khelar Jagot	
05:00	Gram Gonjer Khabor	
05:35	Boshudha Dhak Dhol	
10:45	Bhongo Kotha	
CHANNEL 1		
12:30	Taroka Kathan	
05:30	Bot Mela (Live)	
11:30	Proketti O Jibon	
12:00	Gramphone Aker	
	Shangbadpotro	
Ntv		
10:05	Bangla Feature Film	
05:30	Apar Jiggesha	
07:20	Sholo Ana Bangali Ana	
09:00	Drama: Pita Mosaroff	
ETV		
04:30	Vobo Gure Dot Com	
05:50	Sports Plus	
06:30	Desh Jurey Operaadi	
	Porkirama	

abx Radio FM 89.2	04:00	Dhaka Calling
09:00	Mediashow Jibony	Full Volume
12:00	Duran Dupurey	Back to Back music
03:00	Duranta Boleky	
05:00	Shudhu Tara	
07:00	Shir-er Maja	
09:00	Raat-er Shakhey	
11:00	Golper Shesh Nei	
RADIO FOOTI		
18:00	Morning Express	
12:30	No Tension	

Pita Mosaroff
On ntv at 09:00pm
Single Episode TV
Play
Cast: Fardur Rahman Basha, Tushar

In the Line of Fire
On Star Movies at 10:55pm
Genre: Action/Drama
Cast: Clint Eastwood, John Malkovich

Down the Wicket
On Diganta TV at 11:05pm
Magazine Show (Live)
Host: Alfaz Uddin Ahmed

07:50	Ta Na Na	07:00	Jackie Chan's Drunken Master II
08:10	Media Gossip	09:30	Shorts
BANGLAVISION		11:45	Barb Wire
09:05	Shudhu Gaan		
01:05	Bangla Feature Film		
05:45	Googly	10:30	American Idol
06:05	Ebong Class-er Bairesh	01:30	The Simpsons
11:20	Rivers Swing	02:30	Friends
Rtv		07:30	The Good Guys
10:45	Tarokalap	09:30	Koffee With Karan
12:30	Robi Jege Acho Ki	11:30	White Collar
02:30	Bangla Feature Film		
05:40	Amader Bot Mela		
11:30	Diplomatic Zone		
Desh TV			
04:00	Desh Janopad	11:30	Super Factories
06:25	Phagun-er Mostat	03:30	True Stories
07:45	Amra Dujon Dekhite	08:30	Space Special
	Kemon	09:30	Jailed Abroad
12:30	Total Sports	11:30	True Stories
Boishakhi TV			
10:30	Bangla Feature Film	12:30	Discovery Channel
05:15	Boishakhi-CNN	09:30	Man vs. Wild
	Sharashchwa	11:30	Destroyed in Seconds
05:30	Shudhu Cinemar Gaan	09:30	Man vs. Wild
08:15	Priyo Mukh	11:30	Rampage
10:45	Rabindra Vibhon		
Diganta TV			
12:30	Score Cards	11:30	Working Lives: Hong Kong
05:30	Career Line	12:00	BBC World News

ATN BANGLA	ETV
08:00pm	Megher Onel Bari
08:40pm	Neel
CHANNEL 1	
07:50pm	Chota Papul
09:35pm	Maar Chhokha
ntv	
08:15pm	Chader Nijer Kon Alo Nei

RTV	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) 7:30am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm
News (English) at 6:00pm	News (English) at 6:00pm
on all Bangla channels	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
CHANNEL-1	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm

ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
11:05am	10:10am
12:30am	Lat Golap
	09:05pm
	Amar Ami
Rtv	
09:45am	08:30pm
Gramphone	Hour to Democracy
Tritismata	Zero Hour
Desh TV	
06:00pm	How's That
12:02pm	Shoja Kotha