

WHAT'S ON

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Monirul Islam  
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, Dhammond  
Date: May 27-June 15  
Time: 10am-8pm

**Nazrul Festival**  
Organisers: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad & Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Music & Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 5-9; Time: 6:30pm

**Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 3-17  
Time: 7pm everyday

**19th National Art Exhibition**  
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 26-June 17  
Time: 11am-8pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Essence of Mystery  
Artist: Tarak Mahadi  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhammond  
Date: June 3-9pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Faleh  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, B-7 A, H-60, Dhammond  
Date: June 17-July 1  
Time: 11am-8pm

**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Title: In Search 2  
Photographer: Naymuzzaman Prince  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhammond  
Date: June 3-14; Time: 12-8pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Bay of Bengal in Focus-1  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, Rd-15/A, Dhammond  
Date: June 5-8  
Time: 3-8pm

National Theatre Festival '11

Tagore's Bisharjan In a New Light



"Nishimon Bisharjan" is a statement against religious extremism in a contemporary setting.

JAMIL MAHMUD

As part of the ongoing National Theatre Festival by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Mahakal Natyasampraday premiered its 27th production "Nishimon Bisharjan"-- based on Rabindranath Tagore's "Bisharjan". The play was staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on June 6.

Written and directed by Anan Zaman and Ashiq Rahman respectively, the play is a statement against religious extremism in a contemporary setting.

The stage was designed to resemble an arena. The set had four backdrops. One of those backdrops was designed to look like a temple.

Tagore wrote "Bisharjan" in 1890. It's regarded as one of his finest plays. Through this play, Tagore took a stand against religious extremism and bigotry in the then society. Both the playwright and director of "Nishimon Bisharjan" have tried to keep that essence intact.

The play unfurls in the pala (indigenous performing art) form. The actors started with bandana (homage to Divinity) as done in pala performances.

Nishimon, a girl from north Bangladesh, narrates her tragic story to the river Gomti. She has lost her beloved, Tarataj, who was killed during a suicide bomb attack. Later, it is revealed that Tarataj was a member of an extremist group, and he was carrying the bomb.

As the current day story of Nishimon and Tarataj unravels, two characters from the original "Bisharjan" -- King Govindamanikya and Raghupati -- are also introduced. Though initially these characters from two different times get their individual stage space, at one point they meet at a crossroad. Nishimon shares her woes with the king and asks him about his.

Both the playwright and the director have tried to draw a simile between the leader of the extremist group and Raghupati (from the original Tagore play). The same way, Nishimon has been likened to Aparna, and Tarataj conveys the message of sacrifice that Jai Singha did in "Bisharjan". Identities of these characters mingle through montage.

Poly Biswas as Nishimon delivered the strongest performance. Mir Zahid Hasan as Raghupati was credible. Hasan Al Mamun, Bithun Ahmed and Arif Hossain as King Govindamanikya, Jai Singha and Tarataj respectively, were the other lead actors. The cast also included Md. Shahnewaz, Kaniz Fatema and Bahar Rahman.

Apart from direction, Ashiq Rahman also designed the set, light and props. At times, it seemed that there were more performers than the stage could accommodate. The space was not seemingly adequate for free movement during some chorus performances.

As the play was staged in the traditional pala form, the actors were louder when delivering dialogues. This loudness, however, was excess at times.

Mahakal Natyasampraday received a grant from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs for the production.

"Rabi Bichitra" launched by IGCC

As part of the year-long joint celebration by Bangladesh and India, marking 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, a book titled "Rabi Bichitra" was launched at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) auditorium, High Commission of India in Dhaka, on June 4, according to a press release.

The book published by the High Commission of India is a tribute to Tagore. It contains excerpts from a Tagore essay, titled "Manusher Dharma" (religion of man), as well as Tagore's photographs and some of his paintings. The publication also contains 20 articles and two poems by authors from Bangladesh and India.

Professor A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique, vice-chancellor of University of Dhaka, was the chief guest at the event. Sitaram Yechury, member of Indian Parliament, was the special guest.

The programme commenced with the screening of a short film on Tagore's life. The audience included eminent scholars, writers and cultural activists of Bangladesh.

The chief guest with the special guest and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Rajet Mitter, formally unveiled the book "Rabi Bichitra". The IGCC also felicitated the Bangladeshi writers who have contributed



(From left) Sitaram Yechury, A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique and Indian High Commissioner Rajet Mitter at the event.

articles for the compilation.

Among the Bangladeshi writers who have contributed to the compilation are: Dr. Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank;

Professor Anisuzzaman; Dr. Sanjida Khatun; Hayat Mamud. Indian contributors include Professor Amartya Sen; artist K.G. Subrahmanyam and Samarendra Sengupta.



Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged a five-day Nazrul Utshab (festival) at National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of BSA. Starting from June 5, the festival celebrates 112th birth anniversary of the National Poet. On the second day (June 6), artistes from different districts, alongside renowned singers, performed at the festival.

Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" banned in Lebanon



Lebanese officials have reportedly banned Lady Gaga's new album, deeming it "offensive to Christianity". Police have impounded copies of "Born This Way", currently No 1 from London to Tokyo. Its recent single, "Judas", has been criticised by Catholic groups and was banned from Lebanese radio in April.

Lebanon's office of general security impounded boxes of "Born This Way" as they arrived at Beirut international airport last week, according to the LA Times. Though officials first claimed to be "deciding what to do" with the albums, there are now reports of a ruling based on article 75 of Lebanon's law for distribution of print media: "Distributors are prohibited from circulating media that diverges from public decency and morality, or is at odds with nationalistic or religious beliefs." Lebanon has 18 officially recognised religions, which include five Catholic sects. Maronite Catholics make up more than 20 percent of the population.

As a song, "Judas" is scarcely filled with heresy: "I'm just a holy fool," Gaga sings, "but I'm still in love with Judas." The video is a little more controversial, borrowing the kind of imagery Madonna used in the 80s. Gaga flounces with biker-gang versions of the disciples, flirting with Judas, Jesus and, well, everybody else. Any government ban of the

song would apparently have to be requested by Lebanon's Catholic Information Centre. "If they are going to offend us we are going to cancel the album," explained Father Abdo Abu Kassam, director of the centre. "We will not accept that anyone insult the Virgin Mary or Jesus or Christianity ... Call us traditional, call us backward, call us whatever you want. We will not accept it."

Meanwhile, Lebanon's information ministry insisted that it "is, and always has been, against all forms of censorship." Information minister Tarek Mitri previously worked to lift a ban on animated film "Persepolis", which was accused of being "offensive to Iran and Islam".

"Lady Gaga has a huge fan base in Lebanon," said Fady Masoud, senior music supervisor at Beirut's Virgin Megastore. "We care that this CD be released because it will produce great revenue." In its first week, "Born This Way" sold more than 2 million copies worldwide.

In March, title track of the album was banned by Malaysian radio for its "offensive" references to homosexuality.

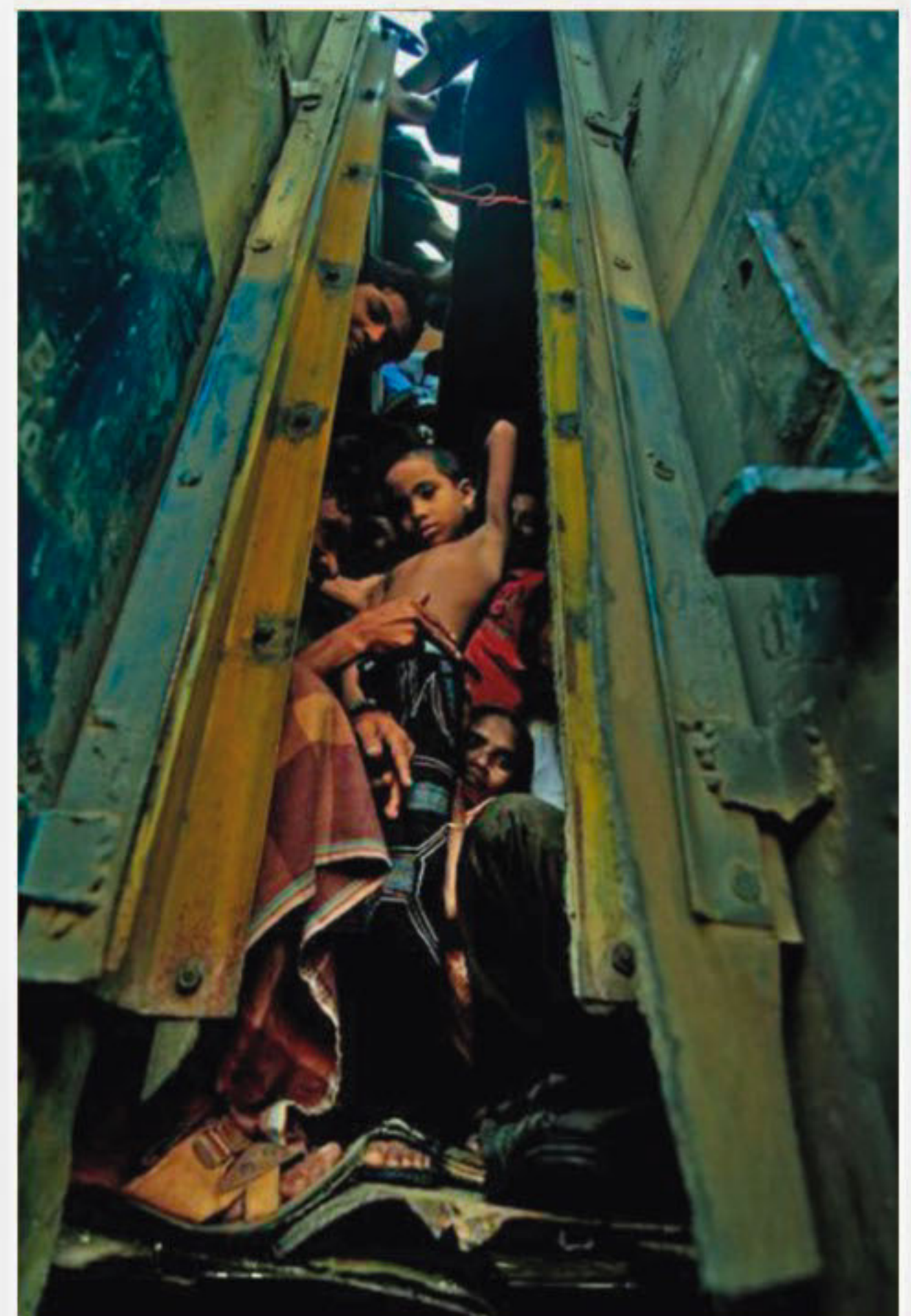
Source: **Internet**

Lifescape: Photography exhibition at North South University

North South University Photography Club (NSUPC) has organised a solo photography exhibition featuring one its founder members, Saud Al Faisal. Titled "Lifescape", the five-day exhibition opened on June 6 at NSU's Bashundhara Campus, according to a press release.

"Lifescape" is a visual insight into the lives the photographer came across while travelling around with his camera. He has tried to highlight lives of the people who amazed him.

Faisal inspired NSUPC to organise the International Inter-University Photography Exhibition, a major photo event in south-east Asia.



Rekha: A Timeless Enigma, Full of Grace

At 50 plus, like a prime time soap opera, Rekha still gets viewers in a tizzy. In short, she has kept her audience hooked, both on and off the screen, even before it became fashionable to be 'divasque'.

While acres of newsprint have been written about her legendary beauty; turn to her performances, and the critics have been floored each time she out-does their expectations. Rekha has been Bollywood's first real superstar in the times when women played only the mandatory love interest of the heroes. How does she stay in-tune with the times? She admits it is the consistency and originality, and maintaining a balance between the two equations that keeps her going. Personifying existential wisdom... that's Rekha. She's still big... It's the movies that got smaller...

**How did her journey with the movies begin?**

Rekha: I never planned on being an actress. My parents were actors and travelled the world. I too wanted to travel and explore new facets of myself, so I thought I would be an air-hostess. I grew up in Chennai, studied in a convent school with Irish nuns. I was completely fascinated by them and even wanted to become one. I was a loner. My mother wanted me to become a great star and to reach out to everyone in India. Little did she know, with her blessings, I've managed to touch the heart of every Indian across the globe.

**Dream role...**

Rekha: I've had the good fortune of playing almost all the typical Hindi-film-heroine types of roles. A village belle in "Sawan Bhadon", a mischievous girl-next-door in "Khoobsoorat", an abuse victim in "Ghar", a courtesan in "Umrao Jaan", a devoted wife in "Sada Suhagan", a dotting mother in "Judaai", an eternal romantic in "Silсила", a wronged woman seeking revenge in "Khoon Bhari Maang", a vamp in "Khilladiyon Ke Khilladi", a misguided and gullible simpleton in "Aastha", and now my latest film, which is aptly titled "Aaj Phir Jeene Ki Tamanna Hai", where I play a woman of the world. My ultimate dream would be to play any role opposite Dilip Kumar.

**What does she think of this generation of actors?**

Rekha: All the new breed of actors from star families or otherwise are very skilled in their craft from their very first film. They are experts at multi-tasking, they are business savvy, they know how to market themselves and what's more, they really know how to handle the media. Personally, my favourites are -- Duggu (Hrithik Roshan), Ranbir Kapoor, Salman Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Rani Mukerji, Priyanka Chopra and Vidya Balan.

**"Rekha" has forever been wrapped in an aura of mystery, why?**

Rekha: What mystery? The media is the one that creates this image. It's just that I am basically shy by nature, an introvert and fiercely private. I live on my own terms and make my own rules. My principles of "Rekha-ism", if you please, don't feel the need to announce every incident that transpires in the course of the day. Sorry, but I am not that little birdie that "twitters". But of course I've lived many lifetimes in one and shall share the experiences in my own unique way, all in good time.

**Why did she decide to dub for other actors, like for Neetu Singh, Smita Patil and Sridevi?**

Rekha: As a child in school, I was called the "clown of the class", and my mimicry had my family and friends in splits. That's how I first discovered this talent to make people laugh. I was a podgey child. My friends used to tease me and called me "baby elephant". Though it hurt me, I chose not to take it personally. I later used my interest in mimicry to dub for my friends when they required me to, like when Neetu got married, I did the needful and thoroughly enjoyed it, and Smita Patil's "Waaris", I did as a tribute to her both as a fine person and a superb actor.

For actors doing commercial cinema, art films are usually a complete 'no'. What made her take the path less travelled and balance it well alongside the commercial cinema?

Rekha: I must confess that back then I barely knew the difference and wasn't familiar with the term "art house". All I can say is that I was the chosen one and I couldn't be more thrilled about it. Like a rose is a rose, a good role is a good role and it can become a great one... and "Umrao Jaan" is a testimony to this.

**What's the secret to her seemingly timeless beauty?**

Rekha: It's no secret, really! I am a spontaneous person. There is no end to the fruits of spontaneity. I've always believed that I



an old soul, captured in a timeless body -- not an ageless one. I don't give importance to physicality. Real beauty is what happens naturally, when you don't plan for it. The minute you have to make an effort, or are conscious about it, it vanishes. You are a product of your environment.

**On being a style icon...**

Rekha: I don't know about being a style icon. This generation doesn't have many personalities. Ours had tons. My strong role models include my mother, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Meena Kumari, Nargis Dutt, Gayatri Devi, Indira Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Jennifer Kapoor, Sophia Loren, Tina Turner and even a Bai (domestic worker), who works at 10 different homes, takes care of her kids and drunk husband, but always has a smile on her face, glowing skin and long hair. It's a question of character! These days it is virtually impossible to store all the clothes people buy. Most of what they wear is sourced from designers, who wear their clothes to be shown on stars. So, I guess it works both ways. But I only go out a few times a year, but too for formal functions. So I reinvent my existing sares with a new twist. I've always designed my own clothes and known exactly what suits me. Also, I am very fascinated by my South Indian roots, and am very proud of it. Hence, I'm seen in Kanjivarams on most occasions.

**The ideal man?**

Rekha: The ideal man is equally man and woman. I wish every man tapped into his feminine side to understand women. The reason we are attracted to the other side, is because we have it within us. We just have to acknowledge that part of us.

The one question I am often asked is: "why are you still single? To that I would say, if it is meant to be, it will. As long as there is life, there is hope. The truth is only I know how to woo me, so if and when I find someone who can read my mind, then... we shall see!"

COMPILED BY CORRESPONDENT

ATN BANGLA	Diganta TV
12:15 IT Zone	09:05 Shomoy-er Sanglap
07:25 Band View	03:05 Jibon Oneshuka
06:15 Special Talk Show	06:30 Public Parliament
08:00 Destination Unlimited	09:25 Diganta Onushandhan
10:45 Bihango Kotha	11:05 Shorol Poth
10:55 Bibeker Kache Proshno	12:30 Probashe Bangladesh
CHANNEL i	Z Studio
11:05 Sports Time (Live)	10:30 How to Lose Friends & Alienate People
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan	04:20 Meet Bill
04:30 Aponar Shushastha	06:20 Seabiscuit
06:20 Dosh Bideshhe Ranna	09:30 View from the Top
09:35 Hoho Gaane Nobo Praane	11:30 Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End
12:20 Ami Rabindranath-er Kotha Bolchhi	
Ntv	Star Movies
11:30 Glamour World	05:20 Jerk Theory
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	07:00 Net
05:30 Aponar Jaggasha	09:00 Marine 2
06:10 Shubho Shondhya	10:40 Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li
08:15 Siddika Kabir's Recipe	
	HBO
	02:00 Carriers

abc radio FM 89.2	10:00	Morning Express
06:00 Bhoore Sanalay	12:00	No Tension
09:00 Mukhonto Jiboney	04:00	Dhaka Calling
12:00 Daman Dugunary	09:00	Knight Riders
03:00 Dumato Boleyey	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6	
05:00 Shorolha Tara	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
07:00 Shaj-er Maya	12:00	Today's Adda
09:00 Raat-er Akashay	04:00	U Turn
11:00 Golper Shesh Nei	07:00	Ruby hai Hak
Radio Footi	10:00	Road River Gaan
07:30 Hello Dhaka	12:00	Hutum Pecha

**Dyrectaar**  
On BANGLAVISION at 08:15pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: KTM  
Shamsuzzaman, Bithi

**Shutter Island**  
On HBO at 09:30pm  
Genre: Drama/Thriller  
Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio

**Poush**  
Phagunera Pala  
On ATN BANGLA at 09:20pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Shohana Saba, Tropa Majumdar

09:00 Kichu kotha Kichu Gaan	03:45 Bollywood Hero
	07:30 Hashir: A Dog's Story
Rtv	09:30 Shutter Island
12:35 Tawheed-er Marshid	12:15 The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day
01:10 Bangla Feature Film	
05:00 Protidin-er Gaan	11:30 Two And A Half Men
06:00 Mohallar Bhal	02:30 Las Vegas
12:00 Protidin-er Potrika	09:00 The Simpson's
BANGLAVISION	10:30 Castle
09:05 Shudhui Gaan	11:30 How I Met Your Mother
10:10 Gaan O Fun	
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	
05:25 Budget Protidin	
09:05 Shondhorjo Kotha	
ETV	
11:30 Ekushey-er Business (Live)	
04:30 DW Global 3000	
05:50 Sports Plus	
06:30 Ride on the Top	
07:50 Fashion and Tune	
10:10 Trinamool Sanglap	
Desh TV	
04:00 Desh Janopad	
04:30 Durpath	
06:30 Dur-er Janala	
07:45 Ekai Binteer	
10:30 Ranna Ghar	
12:30 Total Sports	
	National Geographic Channel
	02:30 Caught in the Act
	07:30 I Didn't Know That
	09:30 Mega Factories Week
	11:30 Air Crash Investigation
	Discovery Channel
	02:30 A Haunting
	07:30 Time Warp
	09:30 Monster Bug Wars
	11:30 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud
	BBC World
	11:00 BBC World News
	11:30 World Business Report
	HARDtalk
	02:30 World News Today
	11:45 Sport Today
	12:00 World News Today

ATN BANGLA	11:30pm	Terminal
08:40pm Ogniroth	Rtv	
09:20pm Fresh Phagunera Pala	08:20pm	Buyer for Nothing
CHANNEL i	09:05pm	Boya Paribar
06:00pm Chhoy kubek-er Shongar	BANGLAVISION	
07:50pm Hridoy-er Kacher Bishey	08:15pm	Dyrectaar
ntv	09:30pm	ETV
09:45pm Shobuj Nakkhotro	08:15pm	Ghatik Baki Bhai
		Desh TV
		Gahney

NEWS BULLETIN	
RTV	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30pm.
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm.
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.	10:30pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
NEWS (English) at 6:00pm	News (English) at 6:00pm
CHANNEL-i	Rtv
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	04:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ntv	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	ETV
01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm
News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.	

ATN BANGLA	Rtv	Tamkhalap
10:30am Lead News	10:40am	
11:15am Vision 2020	07:40pm	Our Democracy
CHANNEL i		
09:45am Trita Matra	BANGLAVISION	
12:30pm Tanika Kothon	06:30pm	Front Line
11:30pm Alloy Bhubon Bhora		
ntv	Desh TV	
12:10pm Ei Shomoy	11:45pm	Shoja Kotha