

WHAT'S ON

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

150th Birth Anniversary of Tagore
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy
Venues: BSA, TSC, Rabindra Sarobar and two others
Date: June 11-17
Time: 7pm everyday

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 28-June 17
Time: 11am-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Tagore, the Universal Message
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: June 20-25
Time: 3-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A, Jh-60, Dhanmondi
Date: June 17-July 1
Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: In Search 2
Photographer: Raymazzaman Prince
Venue: Bengali Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi
Date: June 3-14; Time: 12-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Essence of Secret
Artist: Tarek Mahdi
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: June 3-16; Time: 3-9pm

Homage to Nazrul through music and dance



Artists of Sur Sadhona perform at the programme.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Moulvibazar unit of the Nazrul Academy held a discussion and cultural programme last Friday to mark the 112th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. The event was held at the Saifur Rahman auditorium. The discussion was presided over by president of Nazrul Academy's local unit Abdul Kadir Mahmud. Nazrul researcher and joint secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Aziz Hasan, attended the programme as chief guest. Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar, Md. Mostafizur Rahman, was the special guest. Among others, Abdul Awal Talukdar, divisional coordinator of Nazrul Academy, and Mintu Rahman, general secretary of Nazrul Academy, spoke on the occasion. Noted Nazrul Sangeet artiste Khalid Hussain sang and Mostafizur Rahman Badal, trainer of the dance section of Rajshahi Shilpakala Academy, choreographed a group dance. Artists of Sur Sadhona, Moulvibazar performed Nazrul's songs. Syed Monsur Ahmed conducted the programme.

54TH VENICE BIENNALE

Diversity, Reality and Interconnectivity



Ahmed Basiony's "30 Days of Running in Place" (Egypt)

TAKIR HOSSAIN writes from Venice

The 54th International Art Exhibition, titled "Illuminations", directed by Bice Curiger and organised by la Biennale di Venezia (under the presidency of Paolo Baratta), is generating much interest among artists, art collectors and enthusiasts from all over the world. The biennale is being held at the two main locations of Giardini and the Arsenale, as well as other venues around the city. This year's Biennale is particularly significant to us as Bangladesh is participating in it for the first time.

Venice Biennale plays an important role in the context of international art. Every two years, the biennale highlights new themes, trends and techniques in global art. This year, some countries have taken part in the biennale for the first time, while a few rejoined after a long recess. The artists have some similarities -- taking a bold stand against tyranny and cruelty. Their works focus on contemporary social, political and cultural issues. The collection of artworks indicates that the artists want to develop a language, which speaks to all nations. However, some installations and videos don't seem powerful enough when the overall presentation and technical aspects are considered. Countries with substantial budgets have their permanent pavilions at Giardini and Arsenale.

Among the participating countries, Venezuela, Uruguay,

Iceland, U.S, Hungary, Brazil, France, Georgia and Spain are generating a lot of interest at the biennale. Among Asian countries, Bangladesh, Iran, Saudi Arabia, China, Singapore and United Arab Emirates have also managed to draw art enthusiasts to their pavilions.

Artists Francisco Bassim, Yoshi and Clemencia Labin are representing Venezuela. Luis Hurtado is the curator of the Venezuelan project. Francisco Bassim's "Gran Interior" is a highly illustrative work, which portrays a man flying. Yoshi's "Wave", an installation, features folded paper in different shapes and forms. The hollows in the folded paper showcase interplay of light and shade.

Magela Ferrero and Alejandro Cesarco are two prolific Uruguayan artists. Their project, "A Common Ground", demonstrates the use of images and words engrossed with lyricism. Ferrero's photograph (small writings on fabric) refers to personal moments and memories. Cesarco's video is very precise and it features the dialogue between a young male and female. The dialogues are undoubtedly rich and help viewers comprehend life's decisive moments, loss and gain. The protagonists deliver dialogues intensely, demonstrating a bond and generating a lingo of highly symbolic content. Cilo E. Bugel is the curator of the Uruguay pavilion.

Under the title "Gloria", Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla have jointly developed six works for the U.S.

pavilion. The works have received appreciation for their thematic monumental and performing art. At the biennale, the duo's interconnected works -- "Track and Field", "Armed Freedom Lying on a Sunbed", "Body in Flight (Delta)", "Body in Flight (American)", "Algorithm" and "Half-Mast \ Full Mast" -- have transformed the interior and exterior of the U.S. pavilion into a lively, interactive space. The works focus on contemporary politics.

Icelandic artists Libia Castro and Olafur Olafsson are displaying "Under Deconstruction". The work explores current economic and political issues in Iceland -- using video, performance, sound and music.

Dark memorials to the deceased Libyans and banners displayed at the Romanian pavilion criticise the Western domination in global politics and culture.

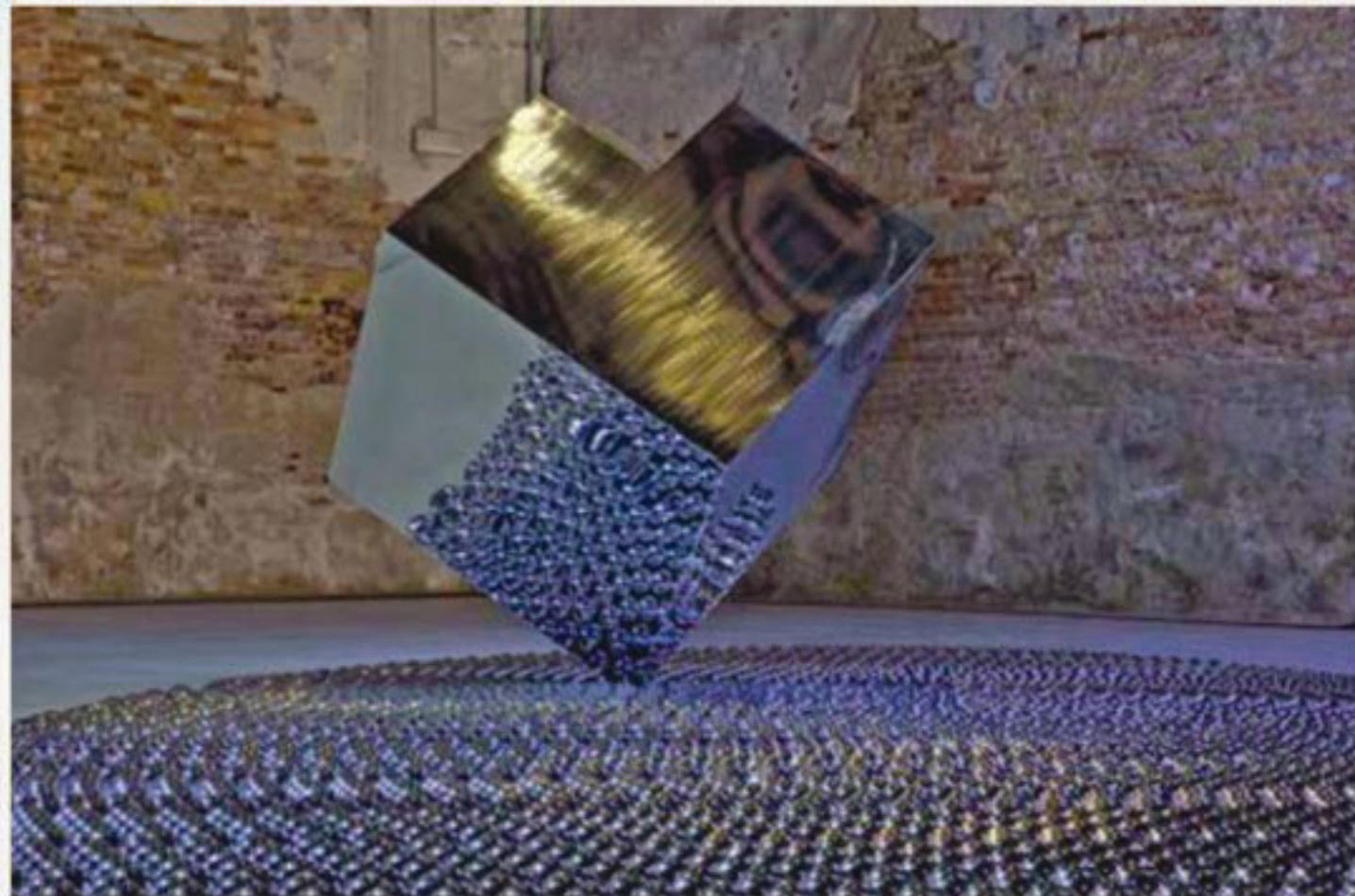
Hungarian artist Hajnal Nemeth's installation and video touch upon a number of themes. His "Crash-Passive Interview", featuring a wrecked red car, reminds the viewer of the fatalities of accidents. Beside the installation, a video highlights a musical composition. Walking around, visitors are free to discover various layers of sound and meaning, lyrics and voices, as well as the noises.

None could overlook the Egyptian pavilion, screening a video of Ahmed Basiony's last performance, "30 Days of Running in Place", in which the artist runs on the spot wearing a plastic bubble. The artist interjected the footage he shot at Tahrir Square during the pro-democracy demonstrations. That is where Basiony was shot and killed.

The Brazilian pavilion is crammed with the work of Artur Barrio. Barrio is considered one of the most influential artists of contemporary Brazilian art. Much of his work consists of installation pieces that interact with the public. He engages the viewers as participants, often without their knowledge. In his installation, he focuses on environment in diverse ways. He also uses salt, meat, wood, fish, bread, and coffee for dimension.

Chinese works at the exhibition have a touch of smoothness and subtlety. Most of their installations are technically rich. Among the five participating artists at the China pavilion in Arsenale, Yuan Gong, Yang Maoyuan and Liang Yuanwei's works are quite impressive. Yang Maoyuan's "All Things are Visible" features medicine pots (made of porcelain) of different sizes and colours. Some of them are egg shaped and others round, with nothing in them except for the smells of medicinal herbs. "Beauty is generally defined by light in Western aesthetics. But Chinese aesthetics reveal a closer relationship between beauty and smells," said Peng Fang, Professor of aesthetics, Peking University. Liang Yuanwei's installation underscores the flavour, colour and mystery of Chinese liquor.

The Saudi Arabian pavilion houses a conceptually intriguing installation. Raja, a writer, and Shadia Alem, a visual artist, have jointly developed the project. The structure includes smooth chrome marbles, carefully arranged in concentric arcs, representing marine traffic moving in circular motion. The marbles have created a certain glow in the dark room. Raja said, "I am always aware of the physical presence of black all around us -- the black outlines of Saudi women, the black cloth of the Al Ka'ba, and the black stone that is said to have enhanced our knowledge."



Raja and Shadia Alem's "The Black Arch" (Saudi Arabia)



Hajnal Nemeth's "Crash-Passive Interview" (Hungary)



Artur Barrio's Installation (Brazil)

Three-day cultural fest wraps up in Satkhira

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

A three-day District Cultural Fair ended at Satkhira Shilpakala Academy premises on June 8. The festival was organised by Satkhira District Administration.

Khulna divisional commissioner Md. Mashur Rahman was present as chief guest at the concluding ceremony of the fair. Satkhira deputy commissioner (DC) Md. Abdus Samad presided over the programme. Satkhira Police superintendent Habibur Rahman Khan; Zilla Parishad chief executive officer Delwar Haidar and additional deputy commissioner (general) Sheikh Hamim Hasan, among others, made brief speeches highlighting the importance of such fairs in the country.

Poetry recitation; *lathi khela*; dance-drama; *Jari*, *Shari*, *Lalon*, *Baul* songs as well as Rabindra and Nazrul Sangeet were featured at the event.

Khulna divisional commissioner said that lack of cultural activities is alienating the youngsters. "This kind of cultural events," he hoped, "would help the youth go back to their roots and traditions."

The fair kicked off with *lathi khela* (an indigenous martial art form involving bamboo sticks) at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park adjacent to the local Shilpakala Academy premises. Artists from Shyamnagar, Debhata and Kaliganj upazilas danced, sang and recited poetry at the opening programme.

The group of *lathi* (lathi khela performers) from Assassuni upazila seemed to enthral the audience with their fascinating skills. Children from Shyamnagar impressed the audience with their dance to the song "Hey Natun Dekha Dik Aar Bar".

Artists from Assassuni, Kalaroa and Tala upazilas performed on the second day of the fair. Sanjoy Mondal's rendition of "Shono Ekti Mujiber Kantho Thekey" was followed by a performance of the Tagore song "Ektuku Chhwoa Lage" by Amrita Chakraborty. Other well-known compositions of Nazrul and Lalon were also performed by local artists.

On the third day, artists from Sadar and Satkhira municipality presented dances, songs and recitation. A chorus, "Sabuj Shyamol Aar Shal Seguney Bhora", narrating the nature and landscape of Satkhira, was



Lathi khela at the festival.

performed by Anna, Tumpa, Ratna, Shahidul Islam and Kabir Uddin.

Poems titled, "Sonar Medal" and "Keu Kotha Rakheni" were recited by Sumona and Syed Ektedar Ali. Renditions of Rabindra and Nazrul Sangeet were also part of the ending programme.

New film questions Shakespeare authorship



In "Anonymous", Roland Emmerich (left) examines the theory that someone else wrote Shakespeare's plays.

German film director Roland Emmerich has admitted courting controversy with his film that questions the authorship of Shakespeare's plays.

His film "Anonymous" portrays the bard as an inarticulate buffoon, making nobleman Edward de Vere the true author.

Speaking at a debate, Emmerich said: "I know it is controversial, as I was going for the controversy." Emmerich is best known for effects-laden blockbusters like "Independence Day", "Godzilla" and disaster movie "2012".

"Anonymous" stars Rhys Ifans as de Vere -- the 17th Earl of Oxford, Rafe Spall as Shakespeare and Vanessa Redgrave as Queen Elizabeth I.

"It has to provoke," Emmerich told the audience at the English-Speaking Union in Mayfair.

"That Shakespeare didn't write the plays is only one of the many scandals that this movie will unearth."

Having thrown down the gauntlet, Emmerich watched as academics from both sides of the argument engaged in a lively debate, broadcast live on the internet.

The debate was part-organised by Sony Pictures, who are releasing the film on September 30.

The motion was that William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon was the author of the plays and poems attributed to him.

Supporting the motion, Shakespeare scholar Professor Michael Dobson of Birbeck College, said: "I am very grateful to Roland Emmerich for perfectly underlining the very genre and character of what's called the Oxfordian case."

"It is no less and certainly no more than an absolutely terrific plot for a B-movie."

However, Dr. William Leahy, head of the School of Arts at Brunel University, painted a portrait of Shakespeare as an "opportunistic" who stole the work of those around him and passed it off as his own.

He added: "The six signatures he left... are written in a hand unlike someone who has made their living by writing. They look like they were written by a chimpanzee wearing oven gloves."

Charles Beaulcler, president of the De Vere Society, said that "Hamlet" was "an expose of the Elizabethan Court" written by the Earl of Oxford.

The play was highly political, he said, so authorship was credited to Shakespeare to depoliticise it in the public arena.

"With Shakespeare as author, 'Hamlet' becomes a harmless tale about an ancient Danish Prince," he said. But Rev Dr. Paul Edmondson, head of learning at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, put the anti-Shakespeare arguments down to snobbery.

"Nearly all of the alternative candidates are aristocratic, university-educated or both," he said. "Their proponents look down on Shakespeare as an uneducated commoner."

He went on: "William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon wrote the plays and poems attributed to him. His authorship was not even questioned until 1856..."

"If he didn't write them, then we have to believe that thousands of people during his lifetime... were in on a terrible conspiracy. I think not."

At the end, Emmerich observed with a smile: "I'm amazed -- you make a little costume B movie and you end up here at the English-Speaking Union."

Source: BBC

WHAT TO WATCH

Raising Hope

OSAMA RAHMAN

Greg Garcia knew he had the formula right when "My Name is Earl" began garnering wide acclaim. But four seasons later it was cancelled and Garcia found himself back at the drawing board. And a while later, he gave the world "Raising Hope", a show that treads a fine line between being something new and a rehashed version of "My Name is Earl". But, there are considerable differences and the clincher is the fact that "Raising Hope" is much removed from most of the other family shows on TV.

"Raising Hope" follows the life as led by those labeled "white trash". The story zooms in on Jimmy Chance (Lucas Neff), who has a one night stand with a criminal and ends up with her baby nine months later, owing to the fact that mommy is still in jail. Jimmy, himself a victim of being raised wrong as his parents too were too young when they had him, decides to take care of the baby. The 23-year old faces resistance from his parents, especially his mom Virginia Chance. Martha Pimpston essays the role of the chain-smoking, easily irritated Virginia effortlessly, while Garrett Dillahunt plays the usually confused Burt Chance, Jimmy's father.

For good measure, Jimmy's grandmother, played by Cloris Leachman, is tossed in the fray, perfectly blending into the role of a deranged, senile woman, suffering from Alzheimer's disease. The show focuses on the sufferings of unplanned parenthood that Jimmy goes through while tending to little Hope's every need. Clueless, as a 23-year old would be, Jimmy struggles to raise Hope while making ends meet. His parents remain clueless too and

Jimmy is exasperated with the explanations of how he was raised. The show is entertaining and endearing. The fact that it focuses on a blue-collar family who are down on their luck, makes it different from the myriad shows highlighting the lifestyle of the rich and stinking rich. The show is quirky and witty -- blending empathy with dark humour successfully, whilst keeping the plot moving with a line of oddball characters.

The foul-mouthed rants from the parents and Jimmy's own inadequacy borders between hilarious and frustrating. This contrast of emotions, though interesting, is also a dangerous one. Garcia invites the viewers to go to two extremes and that itself can lead to the show's downfall, as witnessed with "My Name is Earl".

Another flaw in the show presents itself in the form of being much too sentimental and addled with jokes that often hit and miss. As witnessed in the pilot episode, it does seem that the plot tends to lose direction because, in all honesty, you can only do so much with parenting lessons. And finally, as Burt Chance put it himself, "How long can you expect a show about a baby to last?"

Despite the flaws, there is still an odd and alluring charm about the show and its characters. In recent episodes, an improvement has also been observed, with the story branching out to involve different elements and aspects. All in all, the show is a breath of fresh air and hence Garcia deserves the benefit of the doubt, while the show itself promises that the viewers will not be disappointed.

"Raising Hope" is aired on Star World (on Saturdays at 11pm and Sundays at 7pm).



BTV	10:05 Bitarko	05:50 Sports Plus
	03:05 Cartoon	07:50 Tara Bhora Raatey
	04:30 Barchori	10:10 Cine Hits
	05:05 Jatiya Television School	
	08:40 Krishi Dibaniishi	04:00 Desh Janopad
	09:05 Drama	06:30 Durpath
		06:30 Bajarey Notun
ATN BANGLA	11:35 Chhobir Gaan	07:45 Hothat Ekdin
	12:10 Matamot	10:30 Drama Serial: Phirey
	01:25 Chalcitra-er Galpo	11:30 Phirey Adhi
	04:25 Matir Subash	12:30 Total Sports
	06:15 Aladin	
	10:45 Bihango Kotha	10:30 Bangla Feature Film
		04:15 Shorashori Doctor
		05:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaam
CHANNEL i	01:05 Ebhong Cinemar Gaan	06:20 Star Award Nominasi Adha
	03:10 Akhan	10:50 Reporters Diary
	05:15 Krishi Shongbad	11:30 Boichakhi Sanskriti O
	09:35 Veet Channel i Top	12:00 Binodon Sangbad
	Model T1	
	11:30 Travel On	10:30 Peter Pan
	12:20 Bangladesh-er Kotha	01:30 The Mask of Zorro
		04:45 Unbreakable

abc radio FM 90.2	01:00 No Tension
09:00 Muktashobhi Jiboney	04:00 Dhaka Calling
12:00 Durun Dugurey	09:00 Night Rider
03:00 Duranto Bikley	01:00 Back to Back music
05:00 Shomohatra	04:00 RADIO 101
07:00 Shajer Maja	08:00 Goni Morning Dhaka
09:00 Raat-er Akashey	12:00 Today's Adda
11:00 Golper Shesh Nei	04:00 U Turn
Radio Foorti	07:00 Baby hai Hak
10:00 Morning Express	10:00 Raat Rait Gaan
12:00 My Time	12:00 Humum Pecha

Dur Paharer Batashera
On ntv at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Ahmed Rubel, Farzana Chobi

Enemy of the State
On 2 Studio at 09:30pm
Genre: Action/Drama
Cast: Will Smith, Gene Hackman

Tara Bhora Raatey
On ETV at 07:30pm
Musical Programme
Host: Aditi Mohsin

Balchhi	06:00 Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest
08:45 Bangla Feature Film	09:30 Star Movies
01:00 Shastha Protidin	04:05 Anwar
04:10 Jamar Achhey Balar	05:05 In the Line of Fire
05:30 Aponor Jigashsha	07:40 Over the Top
06:45 Agony	08:00 Damage
09:00 Maggi Test an Balance	10:30 Snake Eyes
Rtv	
12:35 Tawheed-en Marshid	02:45 Old School
01:10 Bangla Feature Film	05:15 Preacher's Kid
05:00 Protidin-er Gaan	07:30 17 Again
05:30 Amader Upazila	11:15 The Big Hit
09:50 Bridal Show	
11:30 Drama Serial: Bak Bakum Payra	03:30 Desperate Housewives
	07:30 India's Most Desirable
	08:30 Two And A Half Men
BANGLAVISION	09:00 The Simpson's
09:05 Shudhul Gaan	03:30 Discovery Channel
11:05 Ebhong Gass-er Bairoy	08:30 Monster Tracker
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	08:30 Build It Bigger
09:05 Moner Kotha	09:30 How Stuff Works
09:45 Drama Serial: All Rounder	11:30 Monster Bug Wars
11:25 Probashi Mukh	
ETV	
10:02 Desh Jurey Oporadh	11:00 BBC World News
	11:30 World Business Report
11:30 Ekushey-er Business	02:30 HARD talk
04:30 DW Today Tomorrow	11:45 Sport Today
	12:00 World News Today

ATN BANGLA	09:05pm Boyra Paribar
08:00pm Maqbul	BANGLAVISION
09:20pm Parapar	08:30pm No Problem
CHANNEL i	
07:50pm Shoppo Bazar	09:30pm Lolita
ntv	
08:15pm Dur Paharer Batashera	08:15pm Gohney
11:30pm Terminal	09:45pm Set Kalon
Rtv	
08:20pm Busy for Nothing	09:20pm Batpar

BTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 12:00 pm.	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
03:05	News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.		News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm
04:30	Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).		News (English) at 6:00pm
05:05	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am		ntv
06:15	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am		News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
07:15	ATN BANGLA		ETV
08:15	NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am, 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, 11:00pm
09:15	News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.		

BTV	10:25pm Digital Bangladesh	Rtv	10:40am Tarikhalap
ATN BANGLA	11:05am Vision 2020		07:00pm Our Democracy
CHANNEL i	11:30pm Je Kotha Keu Boleni		09:25pm Bayet Protidin
09:45am	Tritia Matra		09:30pm Front Line
12:30pm	Taroka Kothon		ETV
ntv			12:05am Ekushey-er Raat
			Desh TV
12:10pm	Ei Shomoy		11:45pm Shoja Kotha