

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushy Book Fair '12
Venue: Bangla Academy
Premises Date: February 1-29
Time: 9am onwards

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Texture and Colour in Landscape
Artist: Moksuda Iqbal Nipa
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan-1
Date: Feb 19-Mar 1

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Feeling Nature
Artist: Alamgir Haque
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmond
Date: Feb 24-Mar 6
Time: 12pm-8pm

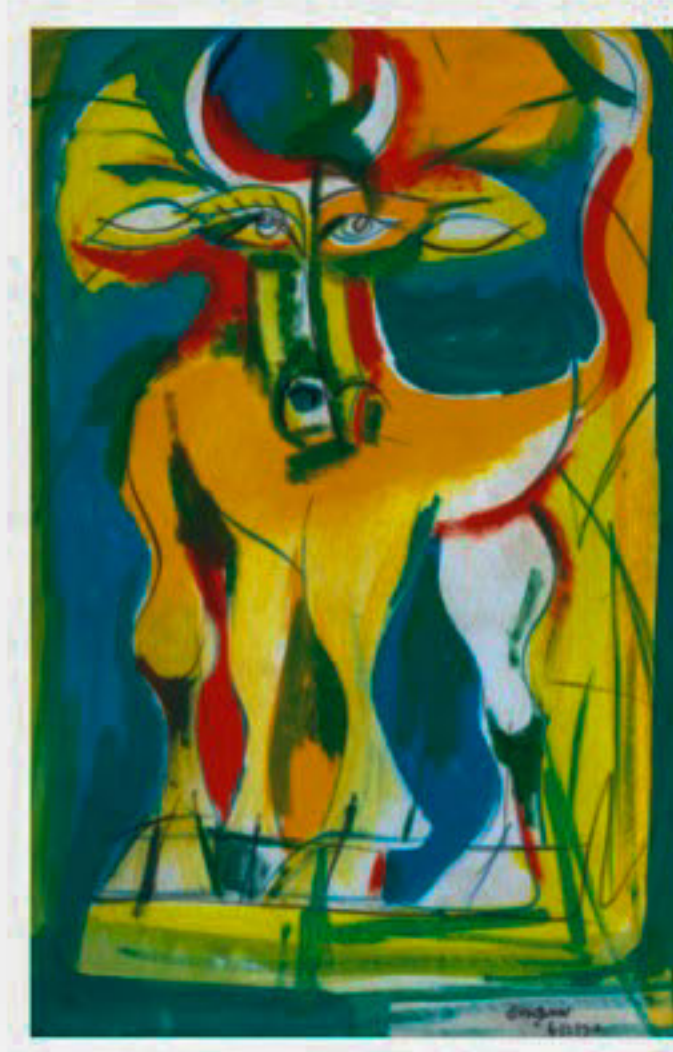
Group Art Exhibition
Title: Renewal in Serenity
Venue: Galleries Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara
Date: Feb 18-28
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Glorious Pixels
Photographer: Sayeed Siddiqui
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H 60, Rd 7/A, Dharmond
Date: February 28

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Quamrul Hassan
Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: Feb 10-27
Time: 10am-8pm

Album Launch
Artist: Akhter Jahan
Venue: Conference Lounge, Nilson Pres. Club
Date: March 1
Time: 6pm

Dance-Drama
Chandalika
Organiser: Nityashobli, Syhet
Venue: Syhet Auditorium, Rabbanara Syhet
Date: March 1



BRILLIANCE OF A MASTER PAINTER ON DISPLAY

Quamrul Hassan exhibition at National Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 90th birth anniversary of Potua Quamrul Hassan, Quamrul Ujjapan Parishad has organised a ten-day art exhibition, titled "Shatabdir Quamrul" at Nalini Kanta Bhattasali Gallery, National Museum in Dhaka. Quamrul Hassan (1921-1988) was one of the most significant painters of Bangladesh, recognised for reintroducing Bengali folk and traditional elements through his art. He was one of the founders of Dacca Art College.

At the exhibition, his artworks highlight rural Bengal and its people. Human figures, village belles in their diverse dispositions, birds, cows, trees, fish as well as landscape are usual subjects. Line is the most significant aspect in his artworks. The painter mingled romanticism with figurative realism, focusing on coarse lines and contrasting colours.

The mediums include oil, gouache, watercolours, pastel, etching, woodcut, linocut, pen and pencil. On display at the exhibition, one of his paintings depicts a village bride on an ox-cart.

Several of Hassan's paintings feature familiar scenes -- women chatting and exchanging views in a tranquil atmosphere. The oval, semi-oval, rounded and bold strokes present the figures in varied dispositions.

An oil painting features female forms clad in yellow, red and purple saris, wearing silver waistbands; their visages covered with the end of the saris. In their hands are pitchers for carrying water from the river.

A watercolour shows nature's splendour with birds, blossoming flowers and tiny green leaves. The work also highlights flora and fauna embracing each other.

Some of his paintings represent his fascination with the Bengali female form. Curves and outlines of figure have enriched his works. An oil painting highlights female forms in golden hues. Bangles and beads decorate the women with flowing long hair.

At the exhibition, a number of his diaries, drawing books are also on display. In the 1970s, Hassan started maintaining a diary. He also kept several "rough khata" for drawing and writing. Artists, art enthusiasts, historians and critics will have an opportunity to study many undiscovered facets of Hassan from these records.

The exhibition ends today.



Artworks by Quamrul Hassan



Chittagong Arts Festival pulls in major turnout

ARUN BIKASH DEY AND SHAHENOOR AKHTER URMI, Chittagong

Audiences on Saturday evening enjoyed the second and final day's presentation at the Chittagong Arts Festival. The festival was held at the open stage on DC Hill.

The two-day Chittagong Arts Festival started on Friday, and pulled in enthusiastic crowd from all walks of life. Highlight of the programme was mystic singer Shimul Shil.

The programme also included presentation of a folk ballet, "Amina Shundori", that was staged the previous day.

Artists of the Byom community and Chakma communities presented their traditional songs in their respective languages. Shobdayan Abriti Academy of Cox's Bazar presented Hawla songs (local wedding songs), Hailla songs (songs of farmers) and Gachha Baidyer Pala.

Shimul Shil received a huge round of applause as he came on stage. He started with the Maizbandari classic, "Ishkul Khuilachhe Re Maula", written by Ramesh Shil. The audience cheered as his seven-year old daughter Srabanti Shil accompanied him.

This was followed by the staging of "Amina Shundori." Silence prevailed among the audience as popular singer Milan Chowdhury came on stage to sing the Bandana Geet (devotional song).

"Amina Shundori" was written by the late playwright Sucharit Chowdhury, based on the 17th century folk ballad, "Naser Malum". Eminent researcher Ashutosh Chowdhury compiled it from folk singers in the 1920s. It was directed by Milan Chowdhury and previously staged in 1976 and 1994.

The festival enabled the audience to savour the diverse



A scene from "Amina Shundori" (top). PHOTO: STAR

flavours of Chittagong's traditional and culture. The festival was funded by AK Khan Foundation.

On Thursday, the festival was inaugurated by veteran revolutionist Binod Bihari Chowdhury said, "We all practice our traditions but do not protect it. 'Shonkho Dyang' [the festival] reminds us again that we should be aware of preserving our traditions."

Journalist and poet Abul Momen said that Chittagong is rich in various customs and heritage, and people feel proud of that.

Latifa Siddique of AK Khan Foundation said, "Due to lack of awareness, we are losing our rich and diverse heritage. Our Foundation is trying to help and protect our culture."

Babul Jaladas and his troupe played drums with the beautiful tune of flutes played by the artists of Mrung community at the opening programme.

Writing for children

In conversation with Faridur Reza Sagar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faridur Reza Sagar received the Bangla Academy Award in 2005 for his contribution to children's literature. He is also the recipient of Agrani Bank Shishu Shahitya Award, Chander Haat Shishu Shahitya Award, Euro Shishu Shahitya Award, Bachsas Award, Cultural Reporters Award and a National Film Award.

Sagar wrote his first short story for the daily Ittefaq's Kochi Kachar Aashor page, while his first publication "Ek Boi Golpo" was published in 1974. The author says words cannot express the joys of publishing the first book.

Sagar says he started going to the Ekushey Book Fair when he was very young, accompanying his mother Rabeya Khatun -- an author herself.

Although the size of the fair was much smaller back then, it offered a different kind of excitement, Sagar recalls. He adds that his mother Rabeya Khatun also won the Bangla Academy Award in 1973.

Several children's books by Sagar have been published this year at the Ekushey Book Fair, including "Jadur Kathi", "Posha Bhooter Golpo", "Man of the Match", "Pabnar Bhabna", "Hollywood-er Hoichoi Shaheb", "Ordhek Putul", "Rabindranath O Shishu Bholanath", "Fectriker Guerrilla o Onyanyo Golpo" and "Khude Bir Parur". Two books on television by Faridur Reza Sagar were also published -- "Televi-

programme in the early days of BT. He also starred in the movie "President" when he was a child.

Faridur Reza Sagar bases his stories on adventure, mystery, travel, memoirs, ghosts, Liberation War and science fiction.

This year, Sagar could only go to the fair once. But he says it's a very decent arrangement, with a brilliant atmosphere for book lovers.

The author says he wishes to continue writing for the rest of his days and give children books that entertains and benefits them.

Faridur Reza Sagar, also the incumbent managing director of Channel i, believes that a lot of experience is needed to become a good writer. He traveled to many countries and penned down his experiences in several travelogues. He also wishes to continue writing similar books in the future.

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International Mother Language Day observed in Sweden

ANISUR RAHMAN

Poets separated by borders and languages celebrated International Mother Language Day on February 21 with a literary event -- Six Seasons International Poetry Festival at Theatre Blanca in Uppsala, Sweden.

Among the participants were Swedish Writers' Union president Mats Soderlund; John Y. Jones and Ingvild Burkeby from Norway; Heather Spears from Denmark-Canada; Dmitri Plax from Belarus-Sweden; Signe Westin from Swedish Arts Council; Zurab Rvlishvili from Georgia; Lars Hager, Jonas Modig, Magnus Dahlerus and Maria



Ripenberg from Sweden and Anisur Rahman from Bangladesh (now residing in Uppsala).

Mats' subject of discussion was "Poetry as an International Language", and John spoke about the state of mother languages in Africa.

Programmes included musical performance by Roland Keijser and

Jayant Backstrom. Uppsala Literature Centre in collaboration with Study Promotion Association, Theatre Blanca, Uppsala's Regional Cultural Office, Swedish Arts Council, Uppsala City and Swedish PEN arranged the event.

The writer, a poet from Bangladesh, lives in Uppsala, Sweden.

And the Oscar winner is ... white (mostly)

AFP, Hollywood

Black actresses Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer are Oscar frontrunners today, but the reality is that non-whites remain hugely under-represented at the Academy Awards, a new study says.

Halle Berry and Denzel Washington were famously lauded as having made a breakthrough for winning best actress and actor Oscars in 2002, but while there has been some progress in the decade since, it remains too little.

Also that year Will Smith was nominated for best actor, and Sidney Poitier received an honorary Oscar for lifetime achievement, said the study, "Not Quite a Breakthrough: The Oscars and Actors of Colour."

It cited Berry as saying in an emotional acceptance speech a decade ago: "This moment is for... every nameless, faceless woman of colour that now has a chance because this door tonight has been opened."

But the study asked: "Did 2002 truly herald a new era for actors of colour? ... Our study discovered some progress for actors of colour, but we also found considerable continuing racial/ethnic disparity."

This year has lined up as a relatively strong one for non-white performers.

Davis and Spencer, who play black maids in Mississippi in the civil rights era movie "The Help", are tipped to take home Oscars for best actress and best supporting actress, respectively, today.

And Mexican Demian Bichir was a surprise best actor nominee for "A Better Life" -- which he hopes will raise awareness about the 11 million undocumented migrants in the US. He is up against George Clooney and Brad Pitt.

But the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) study went through all the Oscar nominees and winners since 2002, and compared them with the previous decade and a string of other data including impact on performers' careers.

They notably found that: - all best actress winners since 2002 have been white.

- no winner in any acting category during the last 10 years has been Latino, Asian American, or Native American.

- Oscar winners and nominees of colour make fewer movies per year after their nominations than their white peers do.

- Oscar winners and nominees of colour are more likely to work in television, which is "considered lower-status work."

- Oscar winners and nominees of colour are less likely to receive subsequent nominations.

There has been progress: overall the percentage of non-white nominees in the top Oscar categories has increased from nine percent in 1992-2002, to nearly 20 percent since Berry and Washington's famous dual "breakthrough."

The study came after the Los Angeles Times reported earlier this month that the overwhelming majority of the 5,765 voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences are older white men.

Oscar voters are nearly 94 percent Caucasian and 77 percent male, with blacks at only two percent and Latinos at less than two percent, according to research by the newspaper.

The median age is 62, and only 14 percent are aged less than 50.

India's Resul Pookutty, who won an Oscar in 2009 for sound mixing on "Slumdog Millionaire", was invited to join the Academy a year later, flying in from Mumbai to attend a new member dinner.

"It means a great deal. More than the pride of it, I feel that my whole fraternity in India has been recognised and honoured," he said. Academy President Tom Sherak said the organisation, which has its headquarters in Beverly Hills, wants to increase diversity.

"We've been trying to reach out to the constituency and we're looking for help... Come to us, we'll get you in. We want you in. That would help us a lot," he said.

Folk Music Festival 2012 ends at Shilpakala Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day long Folk Music Festival 2012 ended at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) premises on February 25, says a press release. Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui inaugurated the festival as chief guest on February 23.

Suraiya Begum, NDC, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs was a special guest in the inaugural session.

Music and Dance Department of BSA arranged the festival. Director of the department, RA Mahmud Selim, delivered the welcome address. BSA director general Liaquat Ali Lucky presided over the programme.

A vibrant cultural event was held on the inaugural day. Artists of Ranota Shilpi Goshthi and Kanaail Shilpi Goshthi performed folk songs while Manjila Dewan and her troupe rendered

Baul songs at the festival. Artists of Nriyam and Spondon staged a dance choreographed by Tamanna Rahman and Anik Bose. A number of noted and emerging folk singers including Akramul Islam, Dilruba Khan, Biman Chandra Biswas, Shafiq Alam Raza, Anima Mukti Gomes and Rinku performed solo at the festival.

Kuddus Boyati and his troupe also performed Baul songs at the event. A troupe from Lalmonirhat presented Pala Gaan.

Artists from Sathkira performed folk music and Kobi Gaan on the second day, while a troupe from Faridpur presented Shari Gaan and a Rajshahi troupe performed wedding songs on the concluding day (February 25) of the festival.

Classical Music Music Fest by BAFA ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) arranged a two day (February 24-25) Classical Music Festival at the institution's premises in Waizhat, Dhaka. Several Bangladeshi artists performed both vocal and instrumental music on the opening day.

Tauhidul Islam rendered khayal set on Raga Shudh Sarang, while Dipu Roy performed an evening Raga, Yaman, at the festival. Suparna Saha performed a romantic Raga Behag. Sabuj Ahmed accompanied her on tabla. Rendition of a khayal based on Raga Bahar by Hasan Ikramullah followed.

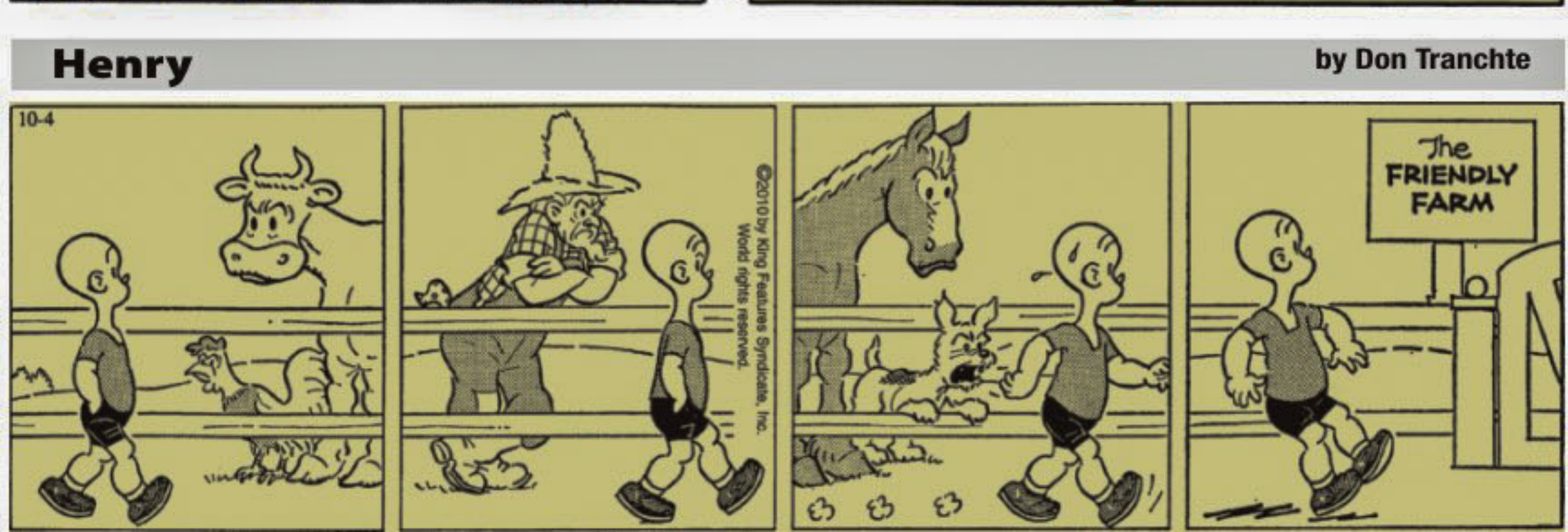
Veteran violinist Alauddin Mian

captured the audience by playing a dhun. Monir Hossain Khan accompanied the artiste on tabla.

Classical vocalist Alok Kumar Sen stood out in presenting both vilambit and drut khayal on Raga Marubehag at the festival. Singer Harun Ur Rashid performed Raga Madhukosh while Shahinur Reza sang Raga Bageshree at the festival.

Proshanto Kumar Das presented a tabla lahara on teen taal. Alok Kumar Sen assisted him on harmonium. Among others, Kajol Dey and Dr. Pradip Kumar Nandi rendered Raga Puria Dhaneshree and Gaur Kalyan at the event.

Both classical vocalists and instrumentalists performed music on the concluding day (February 25) of the festival.



Dove shampoo advertisement featuring a woman's hair and several bottles of Dove Hair Care products. Text includes: "Get a Conditioner FREE with Dove Shampoo*", "Dove Hair Care with Fiber Actives.", and "Repairs damage at the heart of hair." A note at the bottom states: "Now get 180ml Dove Conditioner FREE with purchase of a 375ml/400ml Dove Shampoo. Offer valid on all variants of Dove Shampoo and Conditioners till stock lasts."

ATN BANGLA	07:45	Drama Serial: Mayer Dya	
11:20	Business and Finance	Poribahan	
12:15	Vision 2020	Celebrate Thirty Years of Miles	
07:25	Mati Shubash	12:30	Total Sports
05:20	Aamur Shamery	08:40	Shimana Chharye
08:40	Shimana Chharye	10:02	Bangla Feature Film
CHANEL i	05:30	Backyard Science	
01:05	Elong Cinemar Gaan	08:30	Drama Serial: Khonkhaloy
03:05	Alley Bhubon Ekhra	09:02	Mayerder Pathshala
05:30	Drama Serial: Aj Kichu	09:30	Kingkorobobimur
09:35	Hot Chalcheche	11:00	Ottor Bajao
11:30	Get Set Rock	10:25	Z Studio
11:30	Travel On	07:45	Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon
ntv	08:45	Bangla Feature Film	
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolaar	01:30	Catch Me If You Can
04:10	Achhey	04:30	The Sun of All Fears
06:10	Shabho Shondhya	07:10	Born yesterday
08:15	Drama Serial: Poth	09:30	Transformers
09:00	Gechhey Bekhey	HBO	
09:00	Maagi Test an Balance	02:35	Speedy Singhs
10:02	Desh Jury Oporath	04:50	Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story

Mayer Dya Poribahan
On Desh TV at 07:45pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Humayun Faridke, Tisha

Red
On HBO at 11:50pm
Genre: Action/Comedy
Cast: Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren

Patheror Kanna
On Boishakhi TV at 08:45pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Fazlur Rahman Babu, Alvi

05:25	Porikema	07:25	How to Train Your Dragon
07:50	Music Station	09:30	Ig Man
10:10	O Bondhu Amar	11:50	Red
10:10	Cine Hits	Star World	
12:05	Ekushey-er Raat	11:30	Desperate Housewives
Boishakhi TV	03:30	Charlie's Angels	
10:30	Bangla Feature Film	09:30	Supernatural
03:30	Shudhu Cinemar Gaan	10:30	The Shield
05:30	Battle of Cricket	11:30	The Big Bang Theory
11:00	Reporters Dairy	National Geographic Channel	
11:30	Praner Mela	02:30	Dangerous Encounters
BANGLAVISION	01:05	Bangla Feature Film	
05:20	Manusher Jonno	03:30	Prehistoric Park
08:15	Drama Serial: Ladies First	04:30	Animals Gone Crazy
11:25	Prebashi Mukh	10:00	Mega Cities
Rtv	09:50	Bridal Show	
12:10	Bangla Feature Film	10:30	Construction Zone
05:00	Cinema R Gaan	11:00	Big, Bigger, Biggest
06:00	Drama Serial: Tal Bahana	11:30	Discovery Channel
08:20	Drama Serial: College Road	11:30	Lin Feeding Wild
09:50	Bridal Show	02:30	Man vs. Wild
Desh TV	04:30	Dupath	
06:30	Desh Top Chat	03:30	My Naked Secret
		09:30	Description with Keith Barry
		10:30	One Man Army
		11:30	Walking the Amazon
		BBC World	

ATN BANGLA	08:00pm	Asha Toki	Boishakhi TV	08:45pm	Patheror Kanna
10:55pm	Uttarashar	09:30pm	Uttarashar	09:30pm	Uttarashar
CHANEL i	07:50pm	No Mans Land	09:55pm	Banglavision	09:55pm
ntv	09:45pm	Phyo	11:30pm	Long March	11:30pm
11:30pm	Terminal	11:30pm	Boya Paribar	11:30pm	House Number 138
ETV	09:30pm	Potonarai	08:15pm	Desh TV	08:15pm
			08:15pm	Sat Kahon	

ETV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 1:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:30 pm,
07:50pm	News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm,	12:00 am, 4:00 pm,
07:50pm	News (English) at 6:00 pm	(to be telecast on all Bangla channels),
ntv	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 pm,	
09:45pm	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	
11:30pm	ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla): 7:30 am, 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 1:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am,
11:30pm	01:30 pm, 3:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 6:00 pm,	
BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm,	
06:25pm	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm,	
06:25pm	News (English) at 6:00pm	
06:25pm	Rtv	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 pm,