

WHAT'S ON

**Theatre**  
Play: Banglar Mati Banglar Jai  
Troupe: Palakar  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 16  
Time: 7pm

**Film Screening**  
Title: European Short Film  
Venue: Institute of Modern Language, University of Dhaka  
Date: May 13-17  
Time: 7pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Debashis Pal  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sec-4, Uttara  
Date: May 4-15  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Sheher Kabira  
Troupe: Theatre Art Unit  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 13; Time: 7pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Organiser: Shako  
Venue: Radia Centre, 57, Gulshan Avenue  
Date: May 4-8  
Time: 10pm-8pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: World Press Photo 12  
Venue: Zink Gallery, H-38, R-15A(New), Dharmoadi  
Date: April 26-May 18  
Time: 3pm-9pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Intiaz Shabbag  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dharmoadi  
Date: May 10-22  
Time: 2pm-9pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Onitilashik  
Troupe: Trandaji Nayakdal  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 14  
Time: 7pm

# Aamir's new TV show -- a potential social movement

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

When it comes to fighting a grave social evil, few Bollywood superstars move from reel to real life with such consummate ease as Aamir Khan.

Just days after Aamir made his much-awaited debut on the television with a reality show "Satyamev Jayate" (Truth Alone Prevails) raising the issue of speedy trial of those guilty of female foeticide, the actor travelled to Jaipur, the capital city of desert state of Rajasthan, met Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on May 9, and pressed for speedy trial of female foeticide cases.

"The Chief Minister has assured me that he will take it forward with the Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice so that a fast track court (to try the cases) is formed," the actor told reporters emerging from the meeting with Gehlot.

In the first episode of the reality show that opened to a stupendous audience response, Aamir had invited two journalists from Rajasthan who spoke about their sting operation to expose doctors involved in female foeticide and how no action was taken against them.

The 47-year-old actor had promised to meet Gehlot with his request to expedite trial in the cases by bringing them under a fast track court. Gehlot said Aamir's show was true to its name and he had started a movement, taking up an issue that concerned the entire country.

"The sting operation happened seven to eight

# Deshikottom Dr. Sanjida Khatun felicitated

## Cultural Programme held at Chhayanaaut



Clockwise (From top-left): Fahmida Khatun sings; Dr. Sanjida Khatun (centre) with other eminent personalities and Sharmila Bandyopadhyay dances at the reception. PHOTO: MUMIT M.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate Dr. Sanjida Khatun receiving Deshikottom from Visva Bharati University (India), Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad (JRSSP) in association with cultural organisations Bratachari Samiti Bangladesh and Chhayanaaut hosted a felicitation and cultural programme at Chhayanaaut Shangkriti Bhaban in Dhaka on May 11.

The event began with a presentation of talbadya (percussion recital) featuring tabla, mridangam, pakhawaj, khol and dhol. Dashrath Das, Enamul Haque Omar, Gautam Sarkar, Subir Ghosh, Swarup Hossain, Iftekhar Alam Prodhan and Sushen Kumar Roy played their respective instruments.

Felicitating 'Deshikottom' Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, president of JRSSP, spoke at the event. Eminent personalities -- Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy and Dr. Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, were also present at the event.

A choral song and group dance presentation by the artistes of Chhayanaaut followed. Several dancers performed to a live rendition of the song "Anandadhvani

Jagao Gagoney". Renowned Tagore singer Mita Haque directed the choral rendition while noted dancer Sharmila Bandyopadhyay choreographed the dance piece.

Noted elocutionists -- Bhashwar Bandyopadhyay, Asaduzzaman Noor and Syed Hasan Imam -- recited at the event.

Celebrated singers -- Fahmida Khatun, Bulbul Islam, Mita Haque, Shaheen Samad, Papiya Sarwar, Ifrat Ara Dewan, Lili Islam, Aditi Mohsin, Laisha Ahmed Lisa, Chandana Majumdar, Roquaiya Hasina Neely and others -- performed "Aaji E Nirala Kunjey", "Ami Chanchal Hey", "Debota Jeney Roi Durey", "Esho Hey Shajal", "Jiboney Amar Jato Anando", "Tomar Tulona Tumi Pran", "Gahon Kushum Kunja Majhey", "Kee Dhvani Bajey", "Ke Boshiley Aaji Hridoyashoney", "Manush Guru Nishtha Jaar", "Din Shesh-er Ranga Mukul" and more at the programme.

Seasoned dancers Tamanna Rahman and Shukla Sarkar performed solo, while artistes of Barachari performed dhali dance at the event. Young artistes of Nalanda, a school operated by Chhayanaut, staged a srutinatok at the programme. The event wrapped up with a choral rendition of the national anthem.



# The spiritual aspect of Tagore

## "Rabindra Abhivyakti" staged

KAVITA, New Delhi

Many years after his death, Rabindranath Tagore's works are still being explored. A recent production "Rabindra Abhivyakti" used the idiom of music and dance to focus on the less-known spiritual philosophy of the bard. Explains Odissi exponent, "yogi" and "spiritualist" Reela Hota, who conceptualised the presentation along with her mother Bijoylaxmi Hota, "While the aesthetic value of Tagore's works has been highlighted, not enough importance has been given to explain the spiritual and yogic significance of his poems through different art forms. We at Rays of Wisdom Society have made an attempt to present this aspect of his through a never-before multi-art presentation of Odissi, Kathak, Gaudiya Nritya, Pung Chalom and creative dance."

Rays of Wisdom Society, of which Reela is secretary, is slanted at reviving the spiritual aspect of the arts -- whether music, dance, drama or painting. The aim of "Rabindra Abhivyakti" was in Reela's words, "To establish Tagore as an enlightened man and role model for artists of today. Art is meant to accelerate human evolution. However, if the focus is on the material in art, one evolves accordingly."

The recent production comprised of "Mangalacharan", an invocation to Goddess Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge and arts, which went on to describe the experience of a Nada Yogi devotee. The Tagore works were "Dui Pakhi", "Nirharer Swapnabhanga", "Rath Jatra" and "Mokshya", which traced the progress of an individual soul from bondage to liberation or the transcendental state.

Reela excelled in the opening Odissi "Mangalacharan", while the other pieces lacked an edge. If Reela was the bright spark in the production, the viewer's attention flagged as the other



dancers went through their Kathak, Gaudiya Nritya, Pung Chalom and creative dance moves. The recorded music composed by renowned classical vocalists Pandit Rajan and Sajjan Mishra, redeemed the evening.

If the execution of "Rabindra Abhivyakti" went haywire at times, it is impossible to fault the concept and design by Reela and her mother, a yoga and meditation guru with several books on yoga to her credit. A lot of hard work went in to the production, says Reela since she is neither a Tagore scholar nor a Bengali. Extensive research was therefore needed towards which end the mother-daughter duo sat across the table with Tagore scholars. "Many people said that there is much more to Tagore than beautiful poetry," says Reela.

One only wishes that the other dancers had done justice to a fine idea.

# Cannes film festival puts spotlight on rising stars

publicity campaigns on Wednesday is the glitzy world premiere of Wes Anderson's children's fantasy "Moonrise Kingdom", starring Bill Murray, Bruce Willis and Tilda Swinton.

For Anderson, the walk down the famous red carpet-cum-fashion catwalk, flanked by showbiz media from around the globe, may be as daunting as for the debutant child actors in his cast.

"I've never been before, so for me just going to Cannes at all is exciting," the director told Reuters in an interview.

"What I know about Cannes is from still photographs of people walking up those steps and paparazzi images, so I don't really have any expectations."

Asked whether he would be busy on the crowded party circuit, he replied: "I haven't received any invitations yet."

SOURCE: REUTERS



Apart from other issues, the Forum focused on how to create a space for the civil society groups to play active roles for development.

PHOTO COURTESY: MAHABUBUL KABIR

# Vow to protect and promote cultural diversity of the Asia-Pacific

## Cultural Ministerial Forum of the region ends with Dhaka Declaration

JAMIL MAHMUD

The three-day Cultural Diversity Ministerial Forum of the Asia-Pacific Region ended on May 11 with the "Dhaka Declaration on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions". Organised jointly by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and UNESCO, the Forum saw the declaration at the concluding ceremony held at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla. Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad read out the paper in presence of the delegates and journalists. The paper contains a vow to protect and promote cultural diversity of the Asia-Pacific.

Appreciating the initiative undertaken by Bangladesh for promoting the diversity of cultural expressions in the Asia-Pacific region, the ministers and representatives from 33 regional nations unanimously agreed with the tenets of the declaration that recognised the growing economic contribution of cultural and creative industries in the region.

The declaration highlighted some policies for the Asia-Pacific region: "integrating culture into sustainable development programmes", "promoting participatory governance for culture", "collecting and sharing information to promote the diversity of cultural expressions" and "strengthening cultural and creative industries".

The three-day forum, inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, on May 9, encompassed six Plenary Sessions. Apart from other issues, the sessions discussed on how to create a space for the civil society groups to play active roles for development. The primary focus was to uphold basic human



PHOTO COURTESY: MAHABUBUL KABIR

Apart from other issues, the Forum focused on how to create a space for the civil society groups to play active roles for development.

rights through cultural expressions.

Irina Bokova, director general, UNESCO was in Dhaka to attend the forum. Emphasising on the cooperation of the governments, civil societies, cultural actors, and others concerned to create a fresh momentum for operation of the forum, the DG of UNESCO said, "Turning the forum into a success is the responsibility of all. We will urge the government officials to disseminate our message at home and at the international level."

Charles Vallerand, executive director, International Federation of Coalition for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD) saw the forum as a platform for artists and societies to promote cultural expressions in future.

# Renditions of Rabindra Sangeet mark the bard's birth anniversary celebration

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

A cultural programme, titled 'Rabindra Sandhya', was held at the District Sports Association Auditorium in Manikganj last Thursday evening to celebrate the 151st birth anniversary of Tagore.

Tagore enthusiasts Syed Nazmul Hasan and Basudeb Saha arranged the programme which included poetry recitation, dance and songs.

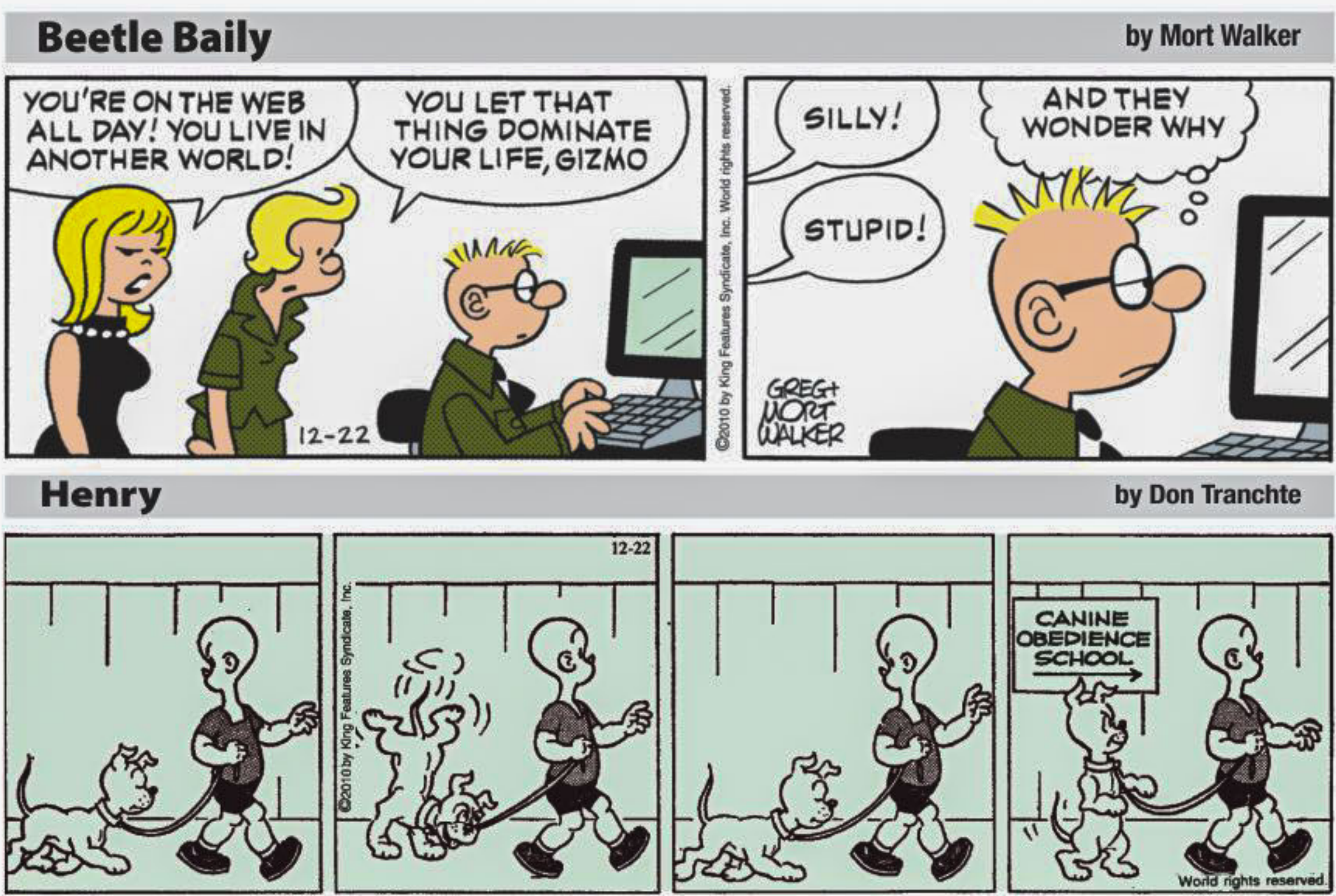
Artistes of Shilpakala Academy, Shishu Academy, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Sangskritik Biplobi Sangha and Shilparath took part in the event.

Renowned Tagore researcher Professor Benimadhab Chakrabarty formally inaugurated the function. Munshi Shahabuddin Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Manikganj; Abul Islam Shikdar,

vice-principal of Manikganj Government Women's College; Abu Bakar Siddique Mollah, Assistant Professor of Manikganj Government Devendra College; AFM Sultanul Azam Khan, general secretary of Manikganj District Sports Association and journalist Saifuddin Ahmed were present at the programme.

The programmed began with a dance to the song "Aguner Poroshmoni" by the artistes of Shilparath. This was followed by renditions of songs by Sudhin Sarker, Antara Saha, Polash Bhowmik, Saima Azad Sami, and Nilkunjia Mitra. Farjana Hossain Khan recited from "Nirhorer Swapnabhanga"

Among the guests were government officials, politicians, cultural personalities, lawyers, journalists, teachers and students.



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<b>BTV</b>		<b>Rtv</b>	
10:05 Rumjhum		12:35 Bangla Feature Film	
11:30 Proktrti O Manush		08:20 Drama Serial: Chorkkabo	
03:05 Bangla Feature Film		09:50 Dhrupadi Kahini	
07:25 Masay Mojor Shobha		11:30 Drama Serial: Ural	
09:00 Drama: Tumi Ki Ashbey			Pongkhi
Na Phirey		12:05 Shimana Perley	
10:30 Praney Money Ontorey		<b>Desh TV</b>	
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>		03:02 Gaan R Gaan	
11:20 Business and Finance		05:02 Durpath	
01:25 Shurer Madhuri		07:45 Drama Serial: Mayer Doa	
05:35 Dhak Dhol		09:45 Poribahan	
08:00 Drama Serial: Palabar		11:45 Tribute to the Mother	
Poth Nai		Total Sports	
09:20 Drama Serial: Chhayanaaut Kayanari		<b>Maasranga Television</b>	
<b>CHANNEL i</b>		10:01 Bangla Feature Film	
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan		06:30 Binodin Sharadin	
02:40 Gurey Ghorey Gaaner Utsah		08:30 Drama Serial: Khonikaly	
06:00 Chhayaghankar		09:02 Tele-quiz	
09:35 Drama Serial: Longlakanda		11:00 World Music	
Proktrti O Jibon		<b>CHANNEL 9</b>	
		06:00 Bangla Feature Film	
		Maake Bhalobeshe	

**Nupur**  
On ntv at 09:00pm  
Single Episode TV  
Play  
Cast: Diti, Tarin

**Love and Other Impossible Pursuits**  
On Fox Movies at 08:50pm  
Genre: Drama  
Cast: Natalie Portman, Scott Cohen

**Maa Ebong Otpor**  
On Boishakhi TV at 08:00pm  
Single Episode TV  
Play  
Cast: Sharmili Ahmed, Dolly Zahur

<b>ntv</b>		<b>07:00</b>	Rong Shubhono Nao
08:45 Bangla Feature Film		10:20 Dhulo Khela	
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey		11:15 Hits & Bits	
		<b>Fox Movies</b>	
06:15 Shubho Shondhya		04:40 Once Upon A Time	
09:00 Drama: Nupur		07:00 Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son	
11:30 Music Jam		08:50 Love And Other Impossible Pursuits	
<b>ETV</b>		10:35 Homeland	
06:30 Desh Jurey Oporadh Porikroma		11:35 The Devil's Own	
07:50 Gaaner Oparey		<b>HBO</b>	
08:20 Drama Serial: Ohongkar		03:25 The Last Airbender	
12:05 Eashhey-er Raat		05:40 Touristas	
02:00 Sunday Live		07:25 Next	
<b>Boishakhi TV</b>		09:30 Around The World In 80 Days	
10:30 Business Hour		12:05 Speedy Singhs	
01:00 Buntayogkha Maa		<b>Star World</b>	
05:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan		03:30 The River	
08:00 Drama: Maa Ebong Otpor		09:30 Missing	
11:00 Reporters Dairy		10:30 Desperate Housewives	
<b>BANGLAVISION</b>		11:30 Supernatural	
11:05 Shokal Belar Roddur		<b>Discovery Channel</b>	
01:05 Bangla Feature Film		02:30 Man Vs. Wild	
06:05 Ebong Class-er Bailey		05:30 Squamish	
08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First		08:30 Revealed	
11:25 Business Vision		12:00 Factory Made	

<b>ATN BANGLA</b>		<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	
08:40pm Chora Goli		09:05pm Long March	
<b>CHANNEL i</b>		09:55pm Olchopur	
07:50pm Noorjahan		09:55pm Desh TV	
rtv		08:15pm Sat Kahon	
08:15pm Bondhu Amar		08:30pm Maasranga Television	
<b>ETV</b>		08:30pm Sat Sandogor	
09:30pm Titu Ghoru		<b>CHANNEL 9</b>	
Boishakhi TV		08:30pm Helicopter	
09:20pm Utsah			

<b>BTV</b>		<b>Boishakhi TV</b>	
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 6pm, 8pm, 9pm, 10pm, 11pm		News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm	
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm		News (English) at 9am, 5pm, 9pm, 11pm	
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>		<b>News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm</b>	
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm, 11pm		News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm	
<b>CHANNEL i</b>		<b>News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm</b>	
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm		News (Bangla) at 14:50pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm	
rtv		News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm	
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm		<b>Desh TV</b>	
<b>ETV</b>		News (Bangla) at 2pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm	
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm		<b>Maasranga Television</b>	
		News (Bangla) at 7pm, 9pm, 11pm	

<b>ATN BANGLA</b>		<b>Boishakhi TV</b>	
12:30am Lead News		12:00am Zero Hour	
<b>CHANNEL i</b>		<b>Rtv</b>	
09:45am Titu Ghoru		10:40am Tarakalap	
12:30pm Taraka Kothon		07:40pm Our Democracy	
rtv		08:40pm Desh TV	
12:00am Ei Shomoy		11:45pm Shuja Khatun	
<b>ETV</b>		<b>Maasranga Television</b>	
10:10pm Madhur Amar Mayer Hashi		12:00am Shamprotik	

### TALK SHOW