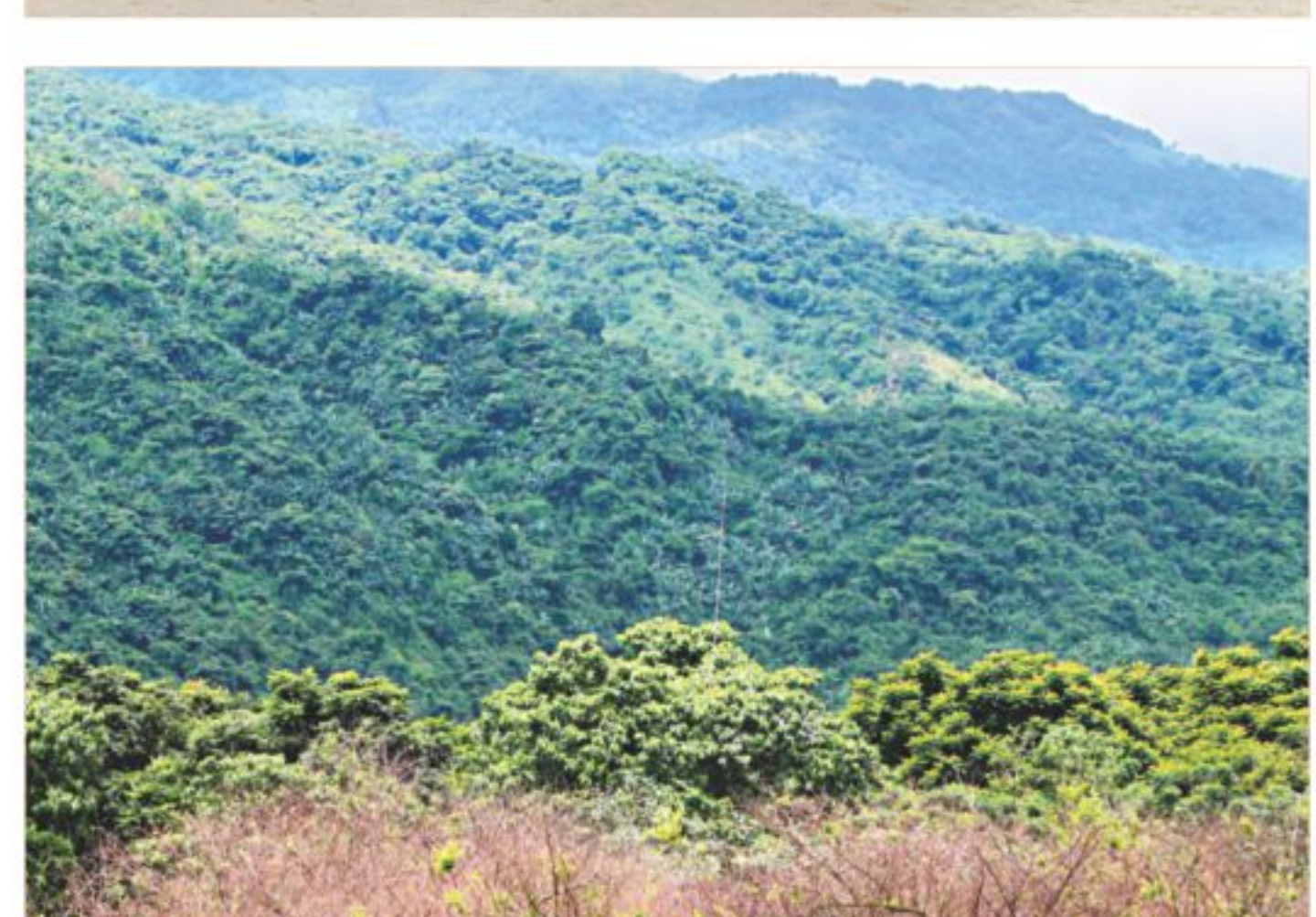
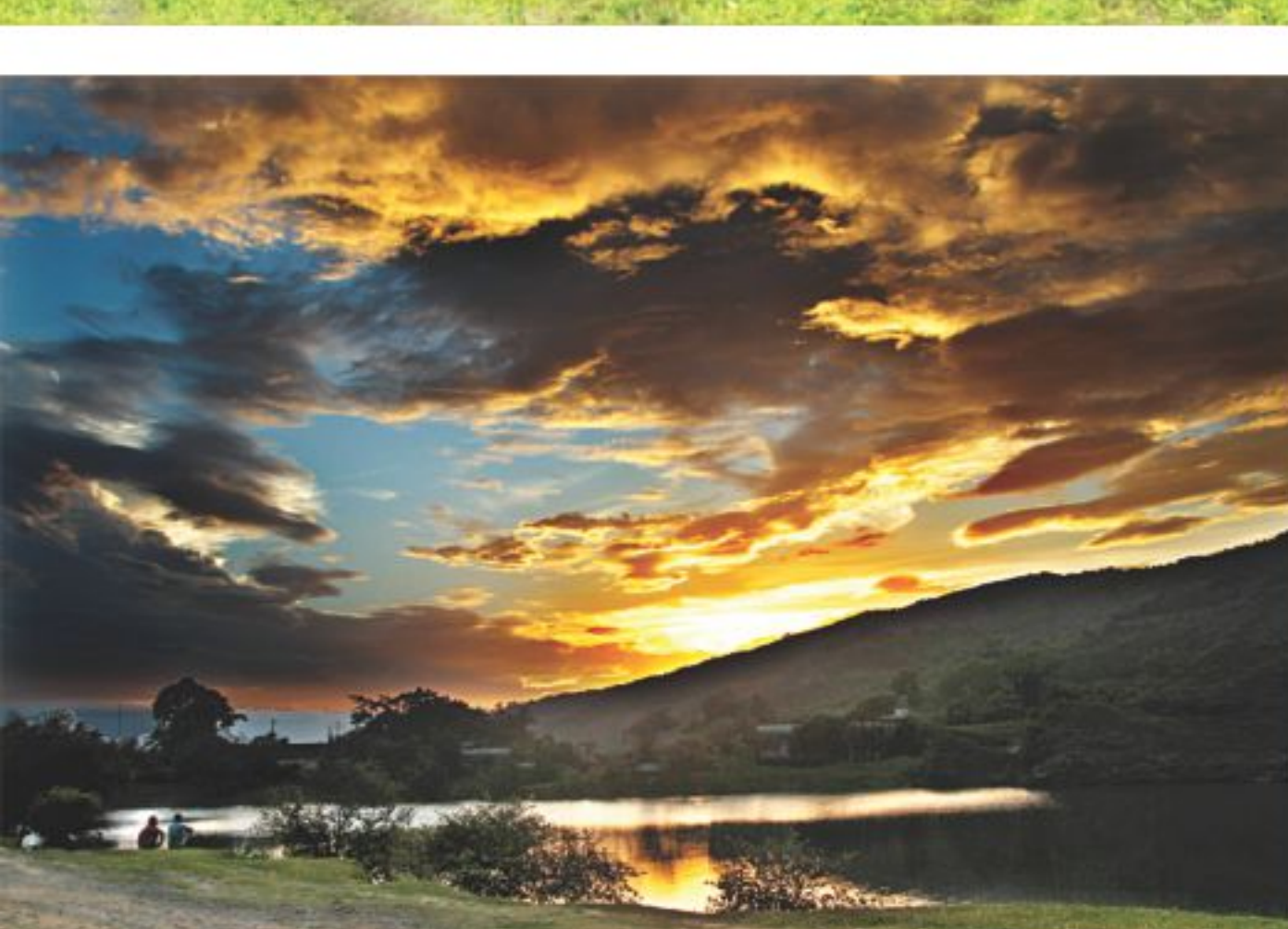
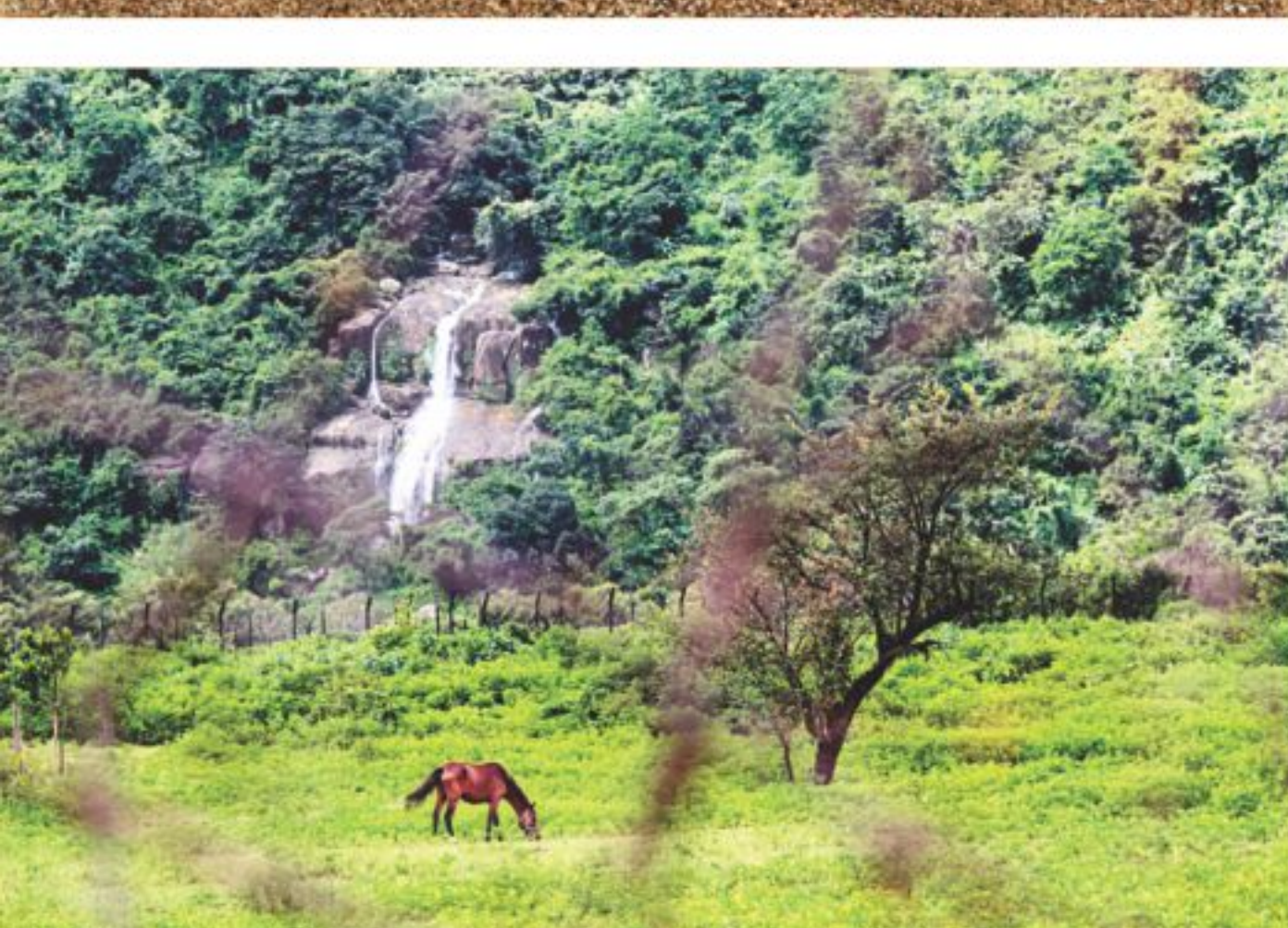




A bounty of beauty Monsoon in the Haors

ZAHANGIR ALAM

The well loved monsoon, a unique season in Bangladesh, showcases her multifaceted natural beauty in floating clouds, flashes of lightning, pattering rain, a glimpse of a rainbow, rain-drenched fresh greenery, mighty rivers and haor (a large stretch of land that turns into a lake during the rainy season) replete with fish and other forms of aquatic life. To savour the splendour of the monsoon, it is best to take a trip to the haor region stretching from Netrakona to Sunamganj, of Bangladesh. Generally the haor region remains under water for six months with the onset of the monsoon, while lush green paddy fields along with a large number of migratory birds prevail in the other half all through winter. Most residents of the haor region are busy fishing during the rainy season. We (a seven member troupe including three journalists)



Post-Eid special On the roll with **Apurba**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Viewers were treated to a spectrum of TV plays during Eid. Popular actor Apurba was one of the most visible faces on the small screen during the festival with around 20 of his plays and tele-films aired on various channels.

Apurba starred in SA Haq Alik's drama "Bashboi Bhalo", where he was cast opposite film star Purnima. Termining the silver screen actress as "a very talented artiste", Apurba said it was a great experience working with her.

Another Eid drama featuring Apurba was titled "Rhythm", directed by Masudur Rahman. Here he was paired up with Faria.

Apurba also worked in seven plays and tele-films by Chayanika Chowdhury this Eid. Calling every work by Chayanika "unique", Apurba conveyed thanks to his viewers for their highly favourable response to the productions.

Apurba also appeared with Sumaiya Shimu in Ferdous Hasan Rana's drama "Tinn Jonaki". Apurba featured in the same director's tele-film "Chompakoli and Modon Kumar" where he was cast with Monalisa.

Apurba said he had lost track of all the productions in which he had played his part for Eid, but they included "Phooler Boyosh", "Joler Aaina-e Mukh", "Kacha Paka", "Chor Chor" etc. He has worked with actresses like Tarin, Rakhi, Jenny, Mimo, Sumaiya Shimu and Badhon in the plays.

Apurba spent Eid in Dhaka with his family. His focus was on his mother, father, wife and close family members.

Apurba becomes nostalgic when he remembers how he celebrated Eid in his childhood, saying that he misses the feeling of joy which continued for weeks before Eid even arrived.



Athena Gallery Open house for art lovers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nilu Murshed, CEO of Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, has been a devoted art collector and supporter of the arts for over 40 years. The gallery, which opened recently at North Badda in Dhaka, is a subsidiary of the non-profit Rafia Foundation.

As one of the first major collectors of Bangladeshi artworks, along the way Nilu has inspired others to invest in the arts.

In acquiring her collection, Nilu has always stressed the importance of maintaining close personal ties with the artist community. In her love for the arts, she is especially motivated by her determination to bring more prominence and recognition to the ever-growing community of established and upcoming Bangladeshi artists.

Nilu says, "My aim is to create a cultural hub where art connoisseurs and newcomers alike can appreciate and learn of the exciting new trends that are being pioneered by a new generation of artists. I feel that the country's long and rich tradition of fine art is unique throughout the South Asian diaspora."

"Athena Gallery aims to represent the wide range of styles and techniques that are being mastered by our artists. My intention is to promote Bangladeshi artists and arts on a global scale. I have seen many artists never being appreciated. So, my aim is to give recognition to the talents in our country. The gallery invites well-known critics, historians, curators and painters from all over the world as part of its initiatives. Regular exhibitions, discussions and workshops will also be a vital part of the gallery's activities."

Nilu wants both seasoned and upcoming artists to be given the opportunity to display, sell and discuss their works. This is in addition to an in-house collection of precious treasures from some of our most celebrated artists like Zainul Abedin, Saifuddin Ahmed, Anwarul Haq, SM Sultan, Quamrul Hassan, Mohammad Kibria, Rashid Chowdhury, Aminul Islam, Abdur Razaque, Nurul Islam, Mobinul Azim and others.

Featuring state of the art walls set on movable tracks, the gallery ensures that guests get a different visual experience. Nilu says, "At the gallery, viewers can browse through a wide selection of art, journals and cultural publications. Besides frequent group and solo exhibitions of various mediums, in the future visitors can also expect to attend educational seminars,



Nilu Murshed

workshops, and various other cultural events." As part of the gallery's inauguration, Athena Gallery recently organised a group art exhibition, featuring works of both prominent and young Bangladeshi painters. The exhibition displayed some rare pieces by master artists like Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan and Rashid Chowdhury. The show featured 150 paintings, drawings, prints, ceramics, installations and tapestry by 67 artists. Among the participating painters were: Murtaja Baseer, Mustafa Monowar, Syed Jahangir, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Monirul Islam, Ranjit Das, Mohammad Eumus, Kanak Champa Chakma, Mohammad Iqbal and others.

Readers' delight Special publications on Eid

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Eid, there are special treats for everyone, including readers. Literature enthusiasts in the country eagerly await Eid as the newspapers and magazines bring out 'Eid-specials'. These special publications include novels, stories, short stories, memoirs, special features and more by noted and emerging writers, columnists and personalities from different arenas. Although some magazines bring out special issues featuring new designs and trends in clothes for Eid, literature-based publications remain the readers' favourites.

The tradition of Eid-special magazines can be traced to post-Liberation War Bangladesh when Shahadat Chowdhury (founder editor of weekly magazines Bichitra and 2000) took the initiative to bring out a special literature-based publication on Eid. According to journalist Golam Mortoza, the

idea and inspiration came from "Sharadiya-specials" published in West Bengal. Said Mortoza, "Back in those days there was no quality literature-based publication in our country and Shahadat bhai wanted to provide a platform for our writers -- both popular and upcoming. That's how the first Eid-special issue of the weekly Bichitra happened. The issue featured fresh new literary works by authors and special features."

"Other magazines soon began to bring out their Eid specials but some of them included works of writers from West Bengal. There is an avid readership of Indian literature in our country. However, the attitude of readers in West Bengal has been and still remains nonchalant towards our writers. Which is why Bichitra featured only Bangladeshi writers; 2000 is continuing that tradition. It's good to see that other magazines too have started following that trend," Mortoza added.

Eid-special editions include novels, special features, memoirs of renowned personalities, short stories, science fiction and more.

Usually, work on the special issue begins six months ahead of Eid. However, the last two months are crucial mainly due to getting the features from the writers take time.

Begum, the pioneering women's magazine in the country, has been publishing Eid-specials for years. Among its special features were, poems, stories and more. And this write up would be incomplete if Unmad's Eid-special issue is not mentioned. The cartoon magazine with a cult following, as usual, includes their take on TV shows and films that have attained public attention.

The special Eid issue of the Star Weekend Magazine published an assortment of creative endeavours of writers known as well as less known.

With so many choices, readers were definitely in for a treat this Eid.

Spanish fresco restoration botched by amateur



Elias Garcia Martinez's "Ecce Homo" (left) and the "restoration".

An elderly parishioner has stunned Spanish cultural officials with an alarming and unauthorised attempt to restore a prized Jesus Christ fresco.

"Ecce Homo" (Behold the Man) by Elias Garcia Martinez has held pride of place in the Sanctuary of Mercy Church near Zaragoza for more than 100 years.

The woman took her brush to it after years of deterioration due to moisture.

Cultural officials said she had the best intentions and hoped it could be properly restored.

Cecilia Gimenez, who is in her 80s, was reportedly upset at the way the fresco had deteriorated and took it on herself to "restore" the image.

She claimed to have had the permission of the priest to carry out the job.

"(The) priest knew it! He did! How could you do something like that without permission? He knew it!" BBC Europe correspondent Christian Fraser says the delicate brush strokes of Elias Garcia Martinez have been buried under a haphazard splattering of paint.

The once-dignified portrait now resembles a crayon sketch of a very hairy monkey in an ill-fitting tunic, he says.

The woman appears to have realised she was out of her depth and contacted Juan Maria Ojeda, the city councillor in charge of cultural affairs.

Teresa Garcia, granddaughter of Elias Garcia Martinez, said the woman had painted the tunic before, but the fresco got disfigured when she painted Christ's head.

Art historians are expected to meet at the church soon to discuss how to proceed.

Ojeda said: "I think she had good intentions. Next week she will meet with a restorer and explain what kind of materials she used."

Photography exhibition of Pavel Rahman

MEHEDY HASAN, Rangpur

A three-day photography exhibition of renowned photojournalist Pavel Rahman was inaugurated last Wednesday evening at Rangpur Public Library hall room.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Abdul Jalil Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur.

Journey, a cultural organisation of Dhaka University, arranged the photography exhibition. Motiza Rahman, mother of Pavel Rahman; Advocate Rezina Razaq; Administrator of Rangpur Zila Parishad, Saleh Mohammad Tanvir; Superintendent of Police of Rangpur, Kazi Md. Junnun; former chairman of Rangpur Municipality and noted cultural activist of Rangpur, Ashraf Al Amin and Dr. Omar Faruk, elder brother of Pavel Rahman, were present at the inaugural ceremony as special guests.

A large number of visitors, especially youngsters, visited the exhibition on the inaugural day. After the opening a discussion was held. The exhibition ends today.

Bengal Gallery wins Top Influential Galleries Award in Beijing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts has won the Top Influential Galleries Award at the 15th Beijing International Art Expo 2012. The 15th Beijing International Art Exposition was inaugurated on August 16 at the China World Trade Centre, which was organised by the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China. Over 130 galleries from 16 countries took part at the five-day festival.

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka in collaboration with the Embassy of Bangladesh in Beijing arranged the Bangladesh booth at the expo, where 30 artworks including oil, acrylic, drawing and video installation were exhibited.

The participating Bangladeshi artists were Quayyum Chowdhury, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Kanak Champa



(From left) Kanak Champa Chakma, Subir Chowdhury, Maksudha Iqbal Nipa and Biswajit Goswami attended the expo.

Chakma, Maksudha Iqbal Nipa, Yasmin Jahon Nupur and Biswajit Goswami. Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts; artists Kanak Champa Chakma, Maksudha Iqbal Nipa and Biswajit Goswami attended the expo.

Beetle Baily



Henry



03:30	Star Adda	11:10	Tele-film: Prabar
03:50	Drama	02:50	Bangla Feature Film: Bhalobashar Dushmon
05:15	Music Video	06:20	Drama Serial: The Business of Batpuri
07:35	Drama Serial: Hata Baba Return	07:30	Houseful
08:10	Drama: Bipatti	08:45	Drama: AJ Amar Beyer Din
09:20	Drama Serial: Ognipoth	10:30	Drama: Ekhone Mushidhare Bristi Jhore Ranga Raat
10:30	Tomar Golpe Shobar Eid		
11:30	Shomyo Katur Gaane		
		11:45	
BANGLAVISION		CHANNEL 9	
10:10	Bangla Feature Film: Banglar Bos	10:30	Bangla Feature Film: Bou
02:10	Tele-film	02:25	E Mother Gunjine
04:30	Eid Ajoyjon	07:25	Drama: Tinto Jon
05:15	Ek Akasher Tara	04:45	Newbahar
06:40	Drama Serial: Ekda Ek Bagher Golai Har Phitachhili	05:40	Banglar Eid Utshab
07:55	Drama: Golper Moto	08:15	Zen X
09:40	Drama: Golper Moto	09:25	Tele-film: My Husband My Hero
11:10	Drama Serial: Barabari	11:45	IFA Award 2012
11:55	Drama: Ichhey Purun		
		CHANNEL 24	
		09:30	Bangla Feature Film
		03:00	Studio Concert
		07:00	Life Style 24
		08:15	Hinimun
		09:00	Drama Serial: Rokto
		09:30	Banglar Mamsosh
		09:30	Tele-film
		11:30	Musical Programme

ATN BANGLA		Dhadha	
09:15	Eid Ananda Gaan	08:10	Musical Programme
10:30	Tele-film: Nobab Bari	09:30	Drama
03:05	Bangla Feature Film: Bou Shashur: Judhho	11:05	Drama: Nikah Baj
		12:00	Studio Concert
Desh TV		Bangla Feature Film:	
07:45	Drama: Kacha Paka	09:30	Tomar Jonno Morte Pari
08:50	Drama: Ek Je Chhilo Murgir Dim	03:00	Priyogoner Gaan
		06:15	Drama Serial: Radio Chocolate
10:45	Drama: Mon Chhuye Jai	07:40	Drama: Abdul Mannan
CHANNEL i		Phire Ashar Por	
10:30	Tele-film	08:45	Shumpuno Rangin
12:25	Tele-film: Shonni Moner	09:20	Drama: Ekti Phul Othoba
			Shubhongkorer Phaki
02:30	Tele-film: Abdul Latif L.M.A.F	10:25	Drama Serial: Shubho Bibah
05:30	Moner Moto Gaan	11:35	Close-up Call-er Gaan
07:50	Drama: Phuler Boyosh		
09:35	Drama: Detto Khela		
ntv		Diganta TV	
10:05	Bangla Feature Film: Phuler Moto Bou	11:30	Prane Gaaner Shure
		01:05	Drama: Dotto Dushmon
02:35	Tele-film: Mon Phoringor Golpo	03:05	Tele-film: Bibham Bilash
05:30	Chukhe Oshhe	06:00	Alochayay Aima
06:45	Drama Serial: Break Even	08:05	Drama: Patabahar
08:15	Drama: Ghori	09:40	Drama Serial: Rahashy Jal
09:15	Dur Pakarer Gaan	11:15	Eid Ananda Gaane Gaane
11:30	Drama: Artist		
Boishakhi TV		Maaranga Television	
10:25	Bangla Feature Film: Shongkhomala	10:20	Magazine Programme
02:25	Shudhu Cinemar Gaan		

Ekti Phul Othoba Shubhongkorer Phaki
On Desh TV at 09:20pm
Single Episode TV Play
Cast: Anisur Rahman Nilon, Shoshi

Housefull On Maaranga Television at 07:30pm
Game Show
Host: Alamgir

Ek Je Chhilo Murgir Dim
On BANGLAVISION at 08:50pm
Single Episode TV Play
Cast: Amirul Haque Chowdhury, Sarika