

Selim Al Deen theatre fest begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong theatre festival, in honour of the iconic playwright Selim Al Deen, begins today at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka. Selim Al Deen Foundation and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy are jointly arranging the festival, while Dhaka Theatre and Bangladesh Gram Theatre are assisting them.

Apart from a play written by Al Deen, the festival will also feature plays by other notable writers as it commences this evening at the National Theatre Hall with the staging of Dhaka Theatre's latest production "The Tempest". An adaptation of the William Shakespeare classic, the play highlights Bangladeshi folk elements. Today, Drishtipat Natyadal will also stage a play, "Raja Himadri", at the Experimental Theatre Hall.

Through the festival, the organisers will celebrate Al Deen's brilliance but the core aspect of the festival will be exploring the link between Al Deen's thoughts on the thousand-year-old Bengali theatre tradition and the history of this land. In this regard, an exhibition featuring terracotta and other archaeological items from the Wari and Bateswar sites will be held at the venue. Archaeologist and Professor Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, chief of the excavation team, will deliver a lecture at a seminar that is part of the festival.

Former Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman is expected to inaugurate the festival this evening. ITI Worldwide President Ramendu Majumdar, Sara Ara Mahmud, director, Film and Theatre department, BSA and Professor Sufi Mostafizur Rahman will be present as special guests. Nasiruddin Yousuff, convener of the festival committee, will preside over the inaugural session.

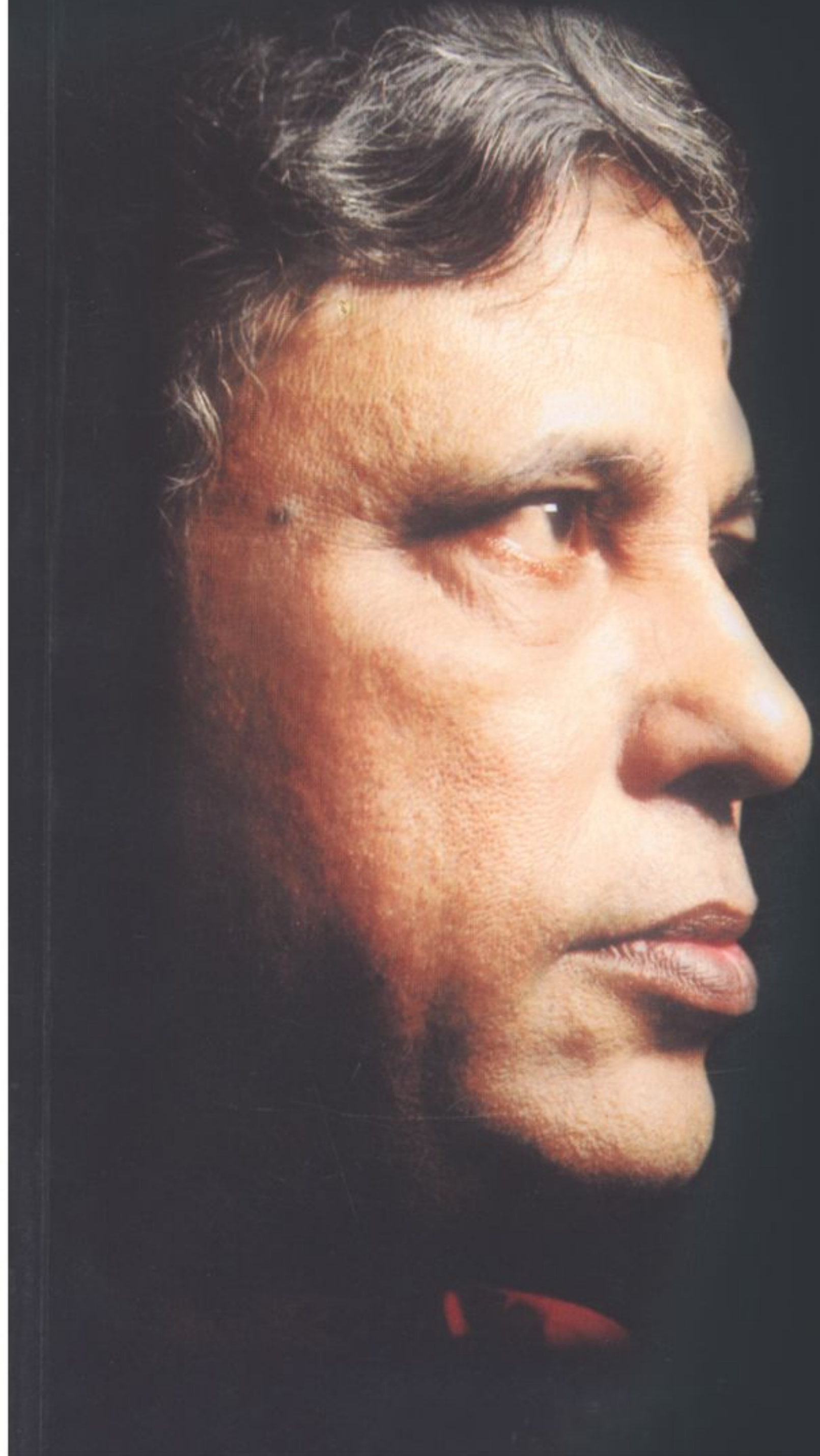
Two troupes from Kolkata, India -- Naye Natua and Tritio Shutra -- will take part at the festival. Naye Natua will stage two plays -- "Baroda Baroda" and "Kabye Ganey", while Tritio Shutra will stage Tagore's "Bisharjan".

"Dhaboman" by Dhaka Theatre is the lone Al Deen play at the fest, while experimental adaptations of Tagore literature such as "Raja...ebong Onnanyo" (by Prachyanat) and "Nishimon Bisharjan" (Mahakal) as well as biographical works such as "Mahajoner Nao" (Subachan) and "Mahatma" (Universal Theatre) will give the audience a chance to enjoy diversity.

Other troupes to stage plays at the festival are: Habiganj Shilpakala Acadmey ("Jyotishanghita"); Tirjak Natyadal, Chittagong ("Rakto Karobi"); Desh Bangla Theatre ("Kankal O Sharey Tin Hath") and Shomoy Natyadal ("Shesh Sanglaap").

The festival also includes a solo recitation evening titled, "Amar Rabindranath", compiled and performed by Hesan Arif.

This is the sixth such initiative on Al Deen. The festival will end on August 31. Everyday plays will start at 7pm.



Mymensingh Museum: Height of neglect

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Mymensingh Museum is unable to display its wealth of artefacts to advantage due to the negligence of the concerned authorities over the last 17 years.

The museum was established in 1969 by the then Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh at the "baganbari" of zamindar Madan Babu on Amrita Babu Road in the district town. Run initially by the Mymensingh Municipality, it was later placed under the charge of the Department of Archaeology in 1995 through a gazette notification.

The museum, the only one of its kind in greater Mymensingh, used to be a popular draw for the public. However, now it attracts merely 10-20 visitors a day.

The 200 rare relics, sculptures, metal and wooden works collected from Muktagacha zamindars' palaces in the Mymensingh region are in jeopardy due to poor preservation and display techniques as well as poor lighting, and inadequate space.

The relics collected from various locations in Muktagacha, Gouripur and Atharabari are a testimony to the zamindars' refined tastes.

The museum showcases elephant skulls, deer antlers, candle clusters, a sofa set made of wood and an elephant's tusk, statues fashioned out of white and black stone by Italian sculptors and a statue made of plaster of Paris.

Priceless manuscripts are kept in iron shelves with no scientific preservation system. Handwritings on palm leaves take the visitors to the past heritage of the country. How-



An uncared for artefact at the museum.

ever, the relics are kept in the open corridor of the museum and gathering dust.

Office Assistant Mohammad Saiful Islam, now also Assistant Custodian-in-Charge, said that due to space constraints, it was not possible to display the ancient coins and valuable manuscripts.

The museum has received 10 showcases recently and now some valuable relics will be displayed, he said. But more showcases are needed to display all the relics, opined

museum sources. Apparently, the renovation of the museum began in 1999 and some 150 coins of the Victorian era were handed over for safe custody to the Department of Archaeology but these coins are yet to be put on display due to space constraints.

The post of Assistant Custodian has been lying vacant since February 2008 and the museum has suffered.

Many items like earthenware, a stuffed peacock, coins of different eras, a big umbrella used for hunting by Muktagacha zamindars, ancient bricks with artistic designs and calligraphy on paper and palm leaves found here earlier are now missing from the museum. Many visitors also question if there is even a list of all the relics displayed at the museum.

Terming Mymensingh museum as "unique", Dr. Ataur Rahman, regional director of Department of Archaeology said, due to space constraints it was not possible to showcase the museum within or outside the country.

Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, secretary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha said that the rare relics need proper preservation as these are an integral part of the country's history and heritage. There are some relics at the museum which are not found even in the national museum but these are uncared for.

Though the museum is under the Cultural Affairs Ministry, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Promod Mankin, MP, from Mymensingh has not yet visited the museum. The minister was unavailable for comment, despite repeated attempts by this correspondent.

Fascination with diverse roles

In conversation with Putul

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Putul won a National Film Award for her performance in acclaimed director-writer Humayun Ahmed's "Aguner Poroshmoni". Since then, Putul has focused more on TV plays. Several plays featuring her are now being aired on different TV channels. Like all other artistes, Eid had also made her shooting schedule more hectic.

Putul has acted in 10 one-hour plays and tele-films for Eid. Among them are three dramas by Shokal Ahmed -- "Nosiot", "Chakra" and "Jochhnay Porechhe Daak". The other dramas where Putul is also in the cast are "Gendru Chora" by SA Haq Alik, "Local Hero" by Jamal Mallik, "Dui Chor" by Nasir Chowdhury and two more dramas by Awal Chowdhury and Aminul Islam Shova.

Asked to choose her favorite plays, Putul claimed that all of the works were enjoyable. However, she said that "Gendru Chora" is a very special drama, adding that the plot progresses around the character she portrays.

Putul is celebrating Eid in Darjeeling, where her daughter is studying.

Meanwhile, Putul's ongoing serials are "Ladies First" being aired by Banglavision, "Chaad Ful Omaboshya" being aired by ATN Bangla, "Village Politics" being aired by BTV and "Ishti Kutum" being aired by Boishakhi TV. Another serial featuring her,



"Hawa Mithhai", also recently finished airing.

The popular actress is busy with new serials as well. She is working in Awal Chowdhury's "Hashi Anoner Golpo", Aminul Islam Shova's "Shongshar Shimana", "Happy Villa" and Zulfikar Chanchal's "Hatem Taal".

After Eid, she is also set to begin shooting for Mamtazur Rahman Akbar's serial "Pakhi Ebon Manushera" and another serial by Khalilur Rahman Shaon.

On her performances, Putul says she has always enjoyed acting, as she was never stereotyped in her roles. This offers her plenty of challenges, she adds. Roles that are unique and special

have always seemed attractive for Putul, as she prefers working in something different.

Putul has appeared in many of Humayun Ahmed's movies and dramas. Following the success of "Aguner Poroshmoni", she went on to work in the acclaimed director's "Shyamol Chhaya" and "Amar Achhe Jol". Her last work with Humayun Ahmed was the serial "Chandra-karigor".

Remembering Humayun Ahmed, Putul says it is impossible to narrate all the happy memories with the icon. It is also not possible to forget the countless joyous moments shared with him. She further expressed hopes that Humayun Ahmed's soul had found peace in the afterlife.

Salma Hayek: "I Am Proud to Be Mexican"

AP, Los Angeles

Salma Hayek says she is proud to be Mexican and that comments suggesting otherwise were "lost in translation."

The 45-year-old actress issued a statement Thursday after German Vogue magazine quoted her as saying she "hardly had any memories of what it is to be Mexican."

"I have never denied my background or my culture," Hayek says in the statement released by publicist Cari Ross. "I have taught my child to embrace her Mexican heritage, to love my first language, Spanish, to learn about Mexican history, music, folk art, food, and even the Mexican candy I grew up with. I have always been an active part of my community. I have tried my whole life to represent my Mexican roots with honour and pride. It saddens me when my words are lost in translation and taken out of context to hurt the people of Mexico, whom I love."

Hayek graces the cover of German Vogue and gives an interview about her role as the leader of a Mexican drug cartel in the Oliver Stone drama "Savages." Telephone calls seeking comment placed to the magazine late Thursday night went unanswered.

This is not the first time Hayek has made remarks about her Mexican background that have drawn attention. Last year, she quipped to a reporter in Spanish, "If it wasn't because of my high heels, I would still be in Coatzacoalcos with 10 children."



First Look: Shyamalan's After Earth

The first look of M Night Shyamalan's next film "After Earth" is out.

Featuring Will Smith and his son Jaden, the sci-fi adventure will release on June 7, 2013.

The story -- written by Will Smith himself -- goes like this: One thousand years after cataclysmic events forced humanity's escape from Earth, Nova Prime has become mankind's new home. Legendary General Cypher Raige (Will Smith) returns from an extended tour of duty to his estranged family, ready to be a father to his 13-year-old son, Kitai (Jaden Smith).

When an asteroid storm damages Cypher and Kitai's craft, they crash-land on a now unfamiliar and dangerous Earth.

As his father lies dying in the cockpit, Kitai must trek across the hostile terrain to recover their rescue beacon. His whole life, Kitai has wanted nothing more than to be a soldier like his father. Today, he gets his chance.

Will Shyamalan have a winner on his hands with this one? Let's wait and watch.

SOURCE: INTERNET



Jaden Smith in "After Earth".

Madonna says she "forgives" Sir Elton John

Madonna has "forgiven" Sir Elton John for calling her a "fairground stripper".

The 54-year-old singer dedicated her song "Masterpiece" -- which won a Golden Globe award earlier this year -- to the British star while performing in the French city of Nice this week, saying the pair had to "start somewhere" to end their long-running feud.

She told the crowd: "I know he's a big fan of it. And I know he's a big fan of mine. And you know? I forgive him. Gotta start somewhere."

There has been no love lost between the pair in recent months, with Sir Elton initially furious after Madonna won the Golden Globe over his song "Hello Hello" from

his movie "Gnomeo and Juliet".

Then recently Sir Elton hit out at her recent MDNA tour, slamming her appearance and career choices.

He said: "Why is she such a nightmare? Sorry, her career is over. Her tour has been a disaster... and she looks like a fairground stripper."

"If Madonna had any common sense she would have made a record like 'Ray of Light' and stayed away from the dance stuff and just been a great pop singer and make great pop records, which she does brilliantly," Sir Elton said.

SOURCE: INTERNET



NEW RELEASES

Bechey Thak Sabuj Solo album by Bappa Mazumder
Source: Agniveena

Ghetu Putra Komola Soundtrack of the film Ghetu Putra Komola
Source: Laser Vision

Eka Boshey Thaki Solo album by Ferdousi Kakoli
Source: Commitment Products

Kothai Ghonshyam Solo album of Nazrul Sangeet by Sampa Das
Source: G-series

Mort Walker's beetle bailey

WANT TO WALK TO THE MAILBOX WITH ME?
ME, TOO!

WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM BEETLE IN A LONG TIME
IT'S BEEN A MONTH

MAYBE HE DOESN'T LOVE US ANYMORE
DON'T BE SILLY, HE'S JUST BUSY

HEY! THE MAILMAN JUST GOT HERE!

IT'S A LETTER FROM BEETLE!
LET'S SEE IT!

Dear Mom Dad and Chiger, Sorry, I haven't written sooner. Please send \$20.
Love, Beetle

SEE? HE'LL LOVE US!

Henry BY DON TRACHTÉ

UHM... SMELL THAT!

THAT SMELL IS COMING FROM HENRY'S HOUSE--THE LUCKY DOG!

WE'RE GOING TO SURPRISE GRANDPA WITH A BIRTHDAY CAKE, HENRY!

02:10	Houseful	The Cradle of Life
05:15	Never Mind	Sex and the City 2
06:40	Drama Serial: Ekda Ek Bagher Gola Har Phutachhil	After the Sunset
07:30	Drama: Ambition	Captain America: The First Avenger
07:55	Musical Programme	Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li
09:40	Drama Serial: Barabari	Z Studio
11:10	Drama: Modhura	11:05 C7
11:55	Drama: Modhura	01:30 Crazy Beautiful
10:05	Bangla Feature Film	03:10 Pitch Black
02:15	Tele-film: BCS Cadre	05:30 Cool Runnings
04:00	Cinema R Gaan	07:40 Shanghai Noon
05:00	Live Music	10:10 The Alamo
06:00	Drama Serial: Mofiz Coot	11:00 Tom & Jerry Show
07:15	Drama Serial: Golok Dhadha	02:30 Tom and Jerry: Shiver Me Whiskers
08:10	Musical Programme	09:30 Beyblade Metal Masters
09:30	Drama: El Golpoja Jen Kemon	10:30 Ben 10: Alien Force
11:05	Drama: Thak Baj	11:30 Johnny Test
12:00	Studio Concert	National Geographic Channel
09:30	Bangla Feature Film: Tomake Chai	03:00 India
03:00	Priyogoner Gaan	11:30 Caught in the Act
06:15	Drama Serial: Radio Chocolate	02:30 Man vs. Monster
07:40	Drama: Ekti Shironamin Golpo Abroad	09:30 Deadliest Predators
08:45	Rongin	10:30 Banged Up
09:20	Drama: Ekti Bhabha O Kotipoy Kaak	11:30 Taboo
10:25	Drama Serial: Shubho Bibah	Discovery Channel
11:35	Close-up Call-er Gaan	11:30 Man Woman Wild
Diganta TV	Bhingraher Chithi	02:30 Stan Lee's Superhuman
01:05	Drama: Amar Hyjar Majhe Lukye	08:30 Man Vs. Wild Untamed & Uncut
		09:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive
		10:30 Bering Sea

25 August, 2012
Samira's 1st Birthday
Wishing you a very happy & Prosperous life...
Grand Mother, Grand Father, Father-Mother, Uncle-Aunt, Brothers & Sisters