



Silver Screen

Nacholer Rani

The uncrowned queen of the Santals

NOVERA DEEPIKA

"I grew up listening to the legends of rebellious Ila Mitra, who championed the cause of the indigenous Santals. I was brought up in the area where she spent many years of her life and this was the driving force behind making the film," says the director of *Nacholer Rani*, Syed Wahiduzzaman Diamond.

Under the banner of Pankuri and based on the life of the courageous Ila Mitra, Diamond is making the film *Nacholer Rani*. He has developed the script and has designed the set and costumes for the film as well. Shahana Shumi, a promising actress, will play the protagonist while Kajol Majumder, Rabul Islam, Afzana Rahman, Sajjad, Ripon and Tapon will enact other roles. About 450 Santals and 250 policemen have also performed in the film.



Stills from the movie

The story of *Nacholer Rani* runs like this: In 1950 a woman took up the cause of the Santals. She was married to a zamindar of Ramchandrapur in Nachol. But leaving her lavish and secure life behind, she fought for the Santals, who were often ill-treated by people of her own social status. For her dedication to their cause, she attained recognition as an uncrowned queen and was given the title *Rani-ma* (Queen mother), by the Santals. This courageous woman was Ila Mitra.

About casting new artistes in the film, Diamond says, "I had to take the risk; without taking risks nobody can succeed in any venture. The artistes have always followed my directions without any hesitation. It was like molding figures out of clay."

Diamond adds, "I had to work with the entire crew for months in the remote places. Popular artistes can't give that much time." The shooting was held in remote areas of Nachol, such as Chandipur, Rawtara Kendua, Gheshua and Nawabganj; the places associated with Ila Mitra.

Diamond says, "I have always worked with the people who were deprived and whose heritage is endangered, as for instance, the indigenous people in Barendra area."

Diamond had been developing the script for the last seven years. As he says, "I wanted to do justice to this film and want it to be my best production. I have prepared myself for the film and went over to those historic places where Ila fought for her people."

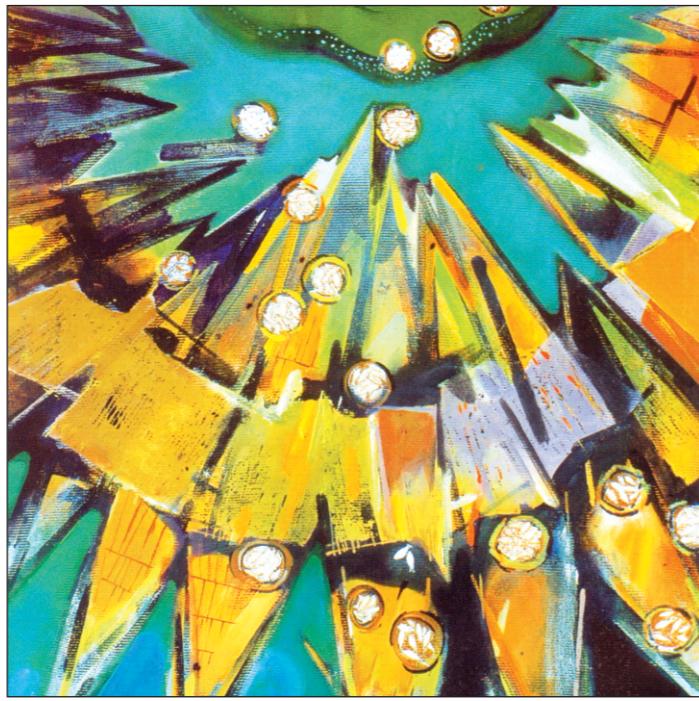
Akhtar Hossain, who has also worked in films such as *Hathat Brishti*, *Aguner Poroshmoni* and *Nolok*, is the cinematographer for the film. Diamond has used three songs in the film, one with courtesans' dance, one is of Santals and the final one is a song of rebellion: written by Diamond and composed by Imon Shah. Two new comers Ivana and Anima De Costa are the playback singers.

**Anandadhara and Shaptahik 2000 step into 8th year**

Popular magazines, *Shaptahik 2000* and *Anandadhara* stepped into their eighth year recently. The milestone marking programme attracted noteworthy personalities, such as journalists, actors, singers and media representatives. The function was inaugurated jointly by Shahadat Chowdhury, editor of *Shaptahik 2000* and *Anandadhara* and Mahfuz Anam, editor of *The Daily Star*. In an informal setting, an audience-engaging cultural programme continued throughout the day. Artistes Mehreen, Rupam, Maqsood, Pentagon, Fahmida, John and members of Prachyanaut performed songs, while celebrities Subarna, Kumar Bishwajit, Nobel, Mahfuz and others attended the event.

**A homage to creativity: A display of 14 artists**

Love by Biren Shome



Fishing boats by Syed Enayet Hossain

FAYZA HAQ

The ongoing exhibition of 14 contemporary artists at Saju's Gallery is on a grand scale. This exhibition by the Dhaka Art Circle is dedicated to the memory of the late artist, Samson Islam Nijami. The exhibit brings in some of the most influential artists of Bangladesh, who pay homage to their late colleague and friend.

In Abdus Shakoor's work we find the folk motifs and raw colours that best tell the folk tales of the villages. In *Story of Noder Chand* we find women's faces in blue and purple with a backdrop of deep pink containing a bird done in dots and zigzag lines. A man in black and white is included in the composition. As we move on to Abu Taher, we discover energetic splashes of colours. There is a mixture of strong vibrant hues such as burnt sienna and burnt umber mixed with dashes of royal

blue and sea green.

We come across more futuristic work in Samarjit Roy Chowdhury's paintings that speak of folk festivals. Within the rectangles of blue, orange and black are floating figures of humans, birds, flowers, fish and buntings, done in delicate black lines and touched with splashes of bright colours. The figures have an air of playfulness, washed in waves of blue and yellow. The Japanese calligraphy effect dominates the brush strokes of Pranesh Mondol. With white flowers bursting as the symbol of hope in the mucky green, a red sun peeps behind the black bars.

The elements of friendship, peace and beauty are focused in Biren Shome's acrylic, *Love*. Here we see the sharp features of a woman clad in a green sari and red blouse, holding on to a snow-white dove on her hands. The beautiful human form, with elegant features, is enveloped by the beauty of nature -- with trees, leaves and the blue moon standing out against the green backdrop. The impact of crumpled scraps of paper is found in Swapna Chowdhury's cubistic work. Fish, flowers, kites and folk faces are found swirling within the cubes of yellow, red and brown and white. Dots, lines and swirls complete the composition. Many of the paintings appeared abstract but artists like Swapna Chowdhury commented, "Paintings are not illustrations. They are like the pages of an artist's diary. I consider my paintings as realistic although they may appear abstract to many."

A lot of green and blue have gone into Chandra Shekhar Dey's creations. In the centre of the canvas is the drama and tension in shades of green set off by the blue. The elements of water and breeze have been well captured by the detailed streaks and swirls of jade and emerald. The story of lost love, loneliness and suffering is found in Syed Enayet Hossain's oil on canvas *Devdas*. We find the lips of desire, eyes closed with despair, the glass of absinthe. Clouds of white and black create the confusions of the mind.

Rezaul Karim's figures in *Dream on Panam city-1 and 2* have sculptural qualities. The man appears to be full of longing while the woman seems delicate and fragile. Parapets, arches, doorways from the past form the backdrop of the forgotten city. Rafi Haque's *Memories* is a collage of colours in space, with each section of the painting having its own story in the colour harmony. Like most other entries of the renowned city artists, this too is mind-boggling. Anwarul Haque, another artist added "I have brought in ancient symbols to project universal values such as the head of Buddha standing for peace."

"The turnout at the exhibition has been satisfactory," said Elthem Kabir, the chairperson of Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA).

child alone. This is a 35-minute short film made in 35-mm format. Tania Ahmed performs in the role of the central character in *Biswaroner Nodi*. Rimjhim performs as Tania's daughter, Rokeya Prachi, Shamsul Alam Bakul and others also perform in the film."

Rashed, says "Before *Biswaroner Nodi*, I made a documentary film in 2002 titled *The Long Wait*. It is a documentary on the life and work of veteran sculptor Novera Ahmed. And this work won accolades. Every one in the documentary is on the lookout for Novera. But nobody knows for sure if she is still alive or not."

Biswaroner Nodi: Back from the Commonwealth film festival

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Short filmmaker N Rashed Chowdhury's latest production *Biswaroner Nodi* (The River Lite) has been screened at the Commonwealth Film Festival 2005 in UK. Around 200 feature, short and documentary films from 71 Commonwealth countries participated in the festival held from April 29 to May 9, 2005 in Manchester.

Director of the short film and General Secretary of the Bangladesh Short Film Forum, Rashed says, "Biswaroner Nodi is the narrative of a woman driven to suicide by an uncaring society, leaving her



A scene from Biswaroner Nodi

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

CHANNEL-i

09:45 Tritiyo Matra

10:30 Tele Shomoy

11:30 Islam Ki Boley

12:00 Kora Alap

12:30 Special Programme

01:00 Banglar Gaan

01:25 Public Reaction

01:30 Shabdapotrey

Bangladesh

02:30 Special Programme

03:30 Shottor Shondhaney

04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:30 Shamoyiki

06:00 Music Plus

06:30 Music Net

07:50 Drama: Nishat Rater Athiti

09:35 Drama Serial: 69

10:00 Close Up Juke Box

10:30 Aajker Shakal

09:05 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush

09:30 Horlicks Genius

10:05 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe

10:30 Apran Jigysa

11:30 Trans-world Sports

01:05 Mahilangan

02:35 Jatra

05:20 Tifiner Fankey

06:20 Shubho Shondhya

06:50 Closeup One

Tomakei Khujchhe

Bangladesh Adda-4

08:30 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush

08:50 Music Express

09:40 Drama: Protakor

Jotsna

11:25 Dindarpan

ATN BANGLA

10:25 Anodrishti

11:05 Islamic Programme

02:27 Muktijuddher El Diney

03:40 Binodon Jummabar

05:00 Gram Ganjer Khabor

05:10 Shesh Akhbor

06:20 Amra Korbo Joy

08:00 Drama Serial: Shonali Swapno

08:30 Drama Serial: Alo Chhaya

09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni

09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Jonomey

10:35 Samsung Aha

12:20 Talk Show: Nari

8:15 Murder in Greenwich

10:00 Monday Night

Mayhem

12:00 Mr Deeds

2:00 Summer Catch

4:00 Blood Crime

5:45 Clockstoppers

Body Snatchers

7:45 Deep Blue Sea

11:45 The Guardian

1:30 Mr. Deeds

12:5 The Touch

1:50 Far From Heaven

STAR GOLD

09:00 DilJala

01:00 Yeh Dil Aashiqana

05:00 Asoka

09:05 Bade Miyan Chote Miyan

12:00 Kahani Jurrum Ki

8:40 Instinct

10:45 The Touch

12:35 Nemesis Game (Aka Nemesis4)

2:15 Horse Whisperer

The

6:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai

6:30 Hercules

7:00 Timon And Pumbaa

7:30 Star Parivar Awards

'05

6:30 The Simpsons

8:35 Cold Creek Manor

Visitors

10:35 Sonpari

PICK OF THE DAY



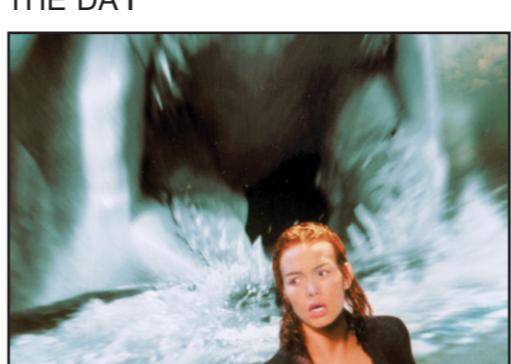
Nishut Rater Athiti

On Channel i at 7:50pm

Drama of the Week

Cast: Shomik Kaiser, Intekhab Deenar

Directed by Animesh Aich



Deep Blue Sea

On HBO at 9:30pm

Genre: Action/Adventure

Cast: Samuel L Jackson, Thomas Jane

Directed by Renny Harlin

ANIMAL PLANET

1:30 Pet Nation

2:30 The Most Extreme

Miami Animal Police

Tiger Trouble

5:30 Twisted Tales Horse

6:00 Monkey Business

6:30 The Planet's Funniest