

## CULTURAL FEAST

**Mother Language Festival:** *Santal Life*  
 Organiser: Goethe Institut Bangladesh  
 Venue: Goethe Institut Bangladesh  
 Date: October 20 & 22  
 Time: 4:30 pm onwards

## Exhibition

**Title:** *Shades of Life*  
**Artistes:** 12 Women artistes of Shakti  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpgram, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** October 17-26  
**Time:** 12:00-8pm

## Solo Painting Exhibition



**Title:** *Life and Nature*  
**Artist:** Reghnath Chakraborty  
**Venue:** Dr. K. G. Hall, House 58, Road 15A (New), Dhanmondi  
**Date:** October 21-27  
**Time:** 3 pm to 6 pm

## Film Screening

**Title:** *Puja Special*  
**Organiser:** High Commission of India  
**Venue:** Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-2  
**Date:** October 23  
**Time:** 6 pm  
**Film:** *Nishipan*

Up close

# Shubhro Dev: Becoming a music icon

NADIA SARWAT

In 1978, he received the president's award for music in *Natun Kuri*, the national talent hunt competition for children. Though he was a very good cricketer and played in the first division league when he was in school, he was more interested in music. He learned to play *tabla* and started performing on stage since he was just four. In his teens, his band *Samaswar* was quickly becoming popular in the Sylhet area. He was enlisted in BTV without any audition.

But it was his first album *Hammon-er Baanshivala* (1984), a smash hit that made Shubhro Deva household name. In the following years, he had some successive hit albums like *Je Baanshi Bhengye Gachhey*, *Kone Ek Shondhaye*, *Chhowa* and *Shesh Chithi*. A smooth flow of chartbusters has made him a pop icon in our music industry. To date, he has released over 20 solo albums and is currently working as one of the directors of ATN music.

The artiste recently talked to *The Daily Star* regarding Durga Puja, the largest festival of Bengali Hindus.

"I always go to my hometown, Sylhet, to celebrate the puja. Paanchgram, a village about one and half hour drive from Sylhet city is famous for its traditional puja celebration. Except for one time, I've never missed it. This year, I refused an offer to perform in Paris because it would coincide with my puja plans. Like many, I have some special *mantra* on that day."

Recalling his childhood memories regarding Puja, Dev says, "I was very particular about new clothes for puja. I used to come to Dhaka to



PHOTO COURTESY: ENTHUSIUS MEDIA

**❀ The Puja observance at Paanchgram became a universal celebration as people from all walks of life shared the joy ❀**

shop for new clothes. To a child the excitement and anticipation can be tremendous. There was no responsibility, only fun unlimited. During the puja, we wake up at break of dawn to pick flowers, as part of the offering to the deity. The Puja

observance at Paanchgram became a universal celebration as people from all walks of life shared the joy. The most interesting part of the festival was the day of *Bishorjon*.

"Apart from the usual ritual of

immersing the idol of the goddess, we used to participate in games. To put it briefly, it was really thrilling!"

His last album *Lalita* (2005) featured experimental Sylheti folk compositions. The album earned him an award at the Dhaliwood Music Award the same year.

"Actually, the position where I stand now demands some quality works from me. I am concentrating more on music now. Noted folk exponent Dr. Bidit Lal Das helped me a lot with the album. The title song was used in the cover page of a research paper on folk arts by a professor of anthropology at the Indiana University, USA. However, from the beginning, I never released more than two albums in a year."

Talking about his achievements the singer explains, "I want to popularise Bengali music worldwide. I've always tried to do my best. I've been the brand ambassador of Pepsi and was featured in the Bangla commercial (1994). Prabillad Kakkar was the Choreographer of the commercial. Aamir Khan played the same role in the Indian version. The theme song of Mini cricket world cup 1998, by me, was aired live in 164 countries. I had the opportunity to perform in several important venues in the world like Madison Square Garden, Kodak Theatre and more. I've performed with Hose Feliciano, Heavy metal band C & C, Music factory, which I regard as an honour."

This successful singer has also worked for several awareness-generating campaigns like anti acid violence, arsenic pollution etc. Recently, he has finished recording five songs in Mumbai for his next album, to be released around the forthcoming *Eid-ul-Azha*.

and abroad.

Seven baul singers -- Rob Fakir, Bazlu Shah, Kangalini Sufia, Fakir Ainuddin Shah (posthumous) Abdul Gafur Shah (posthumous), Sawrup Shah (posthumous) and Shamsuzzoha Badal -- were awarded with 'Lalon Medals' at the festival. Amongst others, popular Lalon exponent Farida Preeen and *Close Up* 1 finalist Beauty presented Lalon songs.

Lalon Mela is also known as 'Lalon Smaran Utsab'. On the occasion, the Akhra was colourfully decorated.

Communications Secretary Dr.

Mahbubur Rahman inaugurated the programme. Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kushtia, Nurul Islam was in the chair. Assistant Commissioner of Kushtia, who is also the member-secretary of Lalon Academy, coordinated the entire programme.

Poet Samudra Gupta, folklorist Professor Dr. Abul Ahsan Choudhury, Professor Shahinoor Rahman, Rabindranath Biswas and head of communications of Banglalink Solaiman Alam, delivered speeches at the programme.

The programme was sponsored by Banglalink.

## Lalon's death anniversary observed

### Three-day Lalon Mela in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

To mark the 117th death anniversary of the bard Fakir Lalon Shah, a three-day Lalon Mela was held at the Chheuria Akhra (den) in Kushtia. The programme began on *Pahela Kartik* (October 16), on the death anniversary of Lalon, and ended on October 18.

Lalon Academy, the government initiated organisation that looks after the Akhra, arranged the programme. The event included discussion and presentation of Lalon songs. The festival attracted a huge number of Lalon devotees from different parts of the country



PHOTO: STAR

Devotees perform at the programme

## New Drama serial "Aloknogor" on ATN Bangla



A scene from the drama serial

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Scripted by Masum Reza and directed by Saidul Anam Tutul, new drama serial *Aloknogor*'s second episode will be aired tonight at 8:00 pm on ATN Bangla. The 52-episode drama serial will be aired every Saturday and Sunday at the same time.

The play takes place in Aloknogor, a village; the residents are funloving. Bairam Biswas, the head of the village founded as a tribute to his father. As Bairam excluded the local women from his

all men's club, his wife Gulshan Ara creates another club only for the women. But Bairam cannot accept the concept that women can have anything to do beside their household chores. Eventually, this tug of war between the husband and wife catches on among the villagers.

Humayun Faridee, Subarna Mustafa, ATM, Shamuzzaman, Joyonto Chatterjee, Sharmili Ahmed, Shirin Bakul, Azizul Hakim, Tania Ahmed, Litu Anam, Dipa Khandaker, Fakhrul Hasan, Bairagi, Saju Khadem and others are included in the cast.

They cited the example of the recruitment for "Tribal Cultural Institute", situated in Khabangpuriya, Khagrachhari. There is no Marma teacher at the institution, they claimed, though there are Chakma, Tripura and Bengali teachers.

Mrasathowai Marma, advisor, BMAP, said that the Marma in Khagrachhari seek assistance from both the government and NGOs, to uphold their culture and heritage.

Speakers also said that the Marma children today are forgoing the ways of their forefathers.

## Marma leaders call for safeguarding their culture

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Marma leaders in Khagrachhari, speaking at the Bangladesh Marma Aikka Parishad hall, said that the traditional games, sports and cultural events of the Marma community have gradually reduced due to lack of proper initiatives.

The leaders of Bangladesh Marma Aikka Parishad (BMAP) claimed that they were facing discrimination at every stage -- both by outsiders and their neighbouring communities.

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Marma girls participate in a traditional game *Reekajja* during their annual cultural event called *Sangraha*

Babuji Chowdhury, secretary of BMAP said that the young Marma were only aping the culture and ideology of the west in a rampant manner.

Chailapru Marma, 75, concluded the discussion by pointing out that without direct endeavours from the government the future of their ethnic culture was bleak.

When the Rome film festival forgot to invite Sophia Loren for its first edition last year, she was said to be furious at the snub.

This year, Rome made good by giving Loren a lifetime achievement award and organising a series of events to honour the half-century career of an actress who has been called Italy's "best-known export after pasta".

"It's the first time I have had a career award in Italy. I hope I deserve it," the Oscar-winning star, wearing an Armani black chiffon dress, said late on Thursday at a red carpet ceremony.

Friday was "Loren Day" at the festival, with the actress answering questions from 700 fans and the screening of *Marriage Italian Style*, one of her most famous films, kicking off a retrospective of her works.

Still glamorous at 73, Loren is regularly voted as one of the world's sexiest women and last year appeared in the Pirelli calendar which usually prefers top models a quarter of her age.

A child born out of wedlock who grew up in a slum outside Naples, Loren was discovered at a beauty contest as a teenager by a film

producer who later married her. She won an Oscar in 1962 for her tragic portrayal of a wartime mother in Italian director Vittorio De Sica's neo-realistic classic *La Ciociara*, which was titled *Two Women* for British and US audiences.

In the 1960s and 1970s her relationship with De Sica and actor Marcello Mastroianni made them a signature trio, creating classic social comedies such as *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* (1963) and *Marriage Italian Style* (1964).

More than 10 years later she again captivated audiences with her performance in *A Special Day*, directed by Ettore Scola. She was reunited with Mastroianni in Robert Altman's 1994 satire about fashion, *Pret-a-Porter* (Ready-to-wear).

Source: Internet



Sophia Loren

## ON AIR

## PICK OF THE DAY



**Swapnochura**  
 On Banglavision at 9:45pm  
 Drama Serial  
 Cast: Srabonti, Joy

**The Shaggy Dog**  
 On Star Movies at 7:00pm  
 Genre: Comedy  
 Cast: Tim Allen, Kristin Davis

02:30	Da Vinci Code	09:30	Kyle XY
03:30	Low Riders	10:30	Brothers & Sisters
04:30	Origins of the Vampire	11:30	The Black Donnellys
05:30	Dracula's Underground	12:30	Beauty And The Geek
06:30	A Tale of Two Cities	01:30	Beyond The Break
08:30	Jumbo Movie	02:30	In Justice
10:30	Witch Hunt	03:30	Ncis
12:00	Joseph McCarthy	04:30	Boston Legal
12:30	Rembrandt	05:30	Hollywood Shootout
06:00	Travel Asia	06:00	Travel Asia
06:30	Brothers & Sisters	06:30	Brothers & Sisters
07:30	American Inventor	07:30	In Justice
08:30	Desturte Housewives	08:30	Desturte Housewives
09:30	U-turn (Kinia & Tania)	09:30	U-turn (Kinia & Tania)
10:30	Shondher Khabar	10:30	Shondher Khabar
11:00pm	Late Night Show (Shuro)	11:00pm	Late Night Show (Shuro)
07:15am	Good Morning Dhaka (Apu)	07:15am	Good Morning Dhaka (Billob & Brisil)
08:45am	Sikha-e-Khabar	08:45am	Sikha-e-Khabar
12:00pm	Today's Adda (Nudrat)	12:00pm	Today's Adda (Nudrat)
04:00pm	U-turn (Kinia & Tania)	04:00pm	U-turn (Kinia & Tania)
05:45pm	Big Fat Liar	05:45pm	Big Fat Liar
07:00pm	Shaggy Dog, The	07:00pm	Shaggy Dog, The
08:45pm	Goal	08:45pm	Goal
10:45pm	Cruel Intentions 2	10:45pm	Cruel Intentions 2
12:15am	Swamp Thing	12:15am	Swamp Thing
01:45am	Live And Let Die	01:45am	Live And Let Die
02:30am	STAR MOVIES	02:30am	STAR MOVIES
08:15	Die Another Day	08:15	Die Another Day
10:30	Marked For Death	10:30	Marked For Death
12:00	16 Blocks	12:00	16 Blocks
01:45	Edtv	01:45	Edtv
03:45	American Pie 2	03:45	American Pie 2
05:30	Big Fat Liar	05:30	Big Fat Liar
07:00pm	Shaggy Dog, The	07:00pm	Shaggy Dog, The
08:45pm	Goal	08:45pm	Goal
10:45pm	Cruel Intentions 2	10:45pm	Cruel Intentions