

## 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*  
Artists: 12 Women artists of Shakti  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpajaya, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi  
Date: October 17-26  
Time: 12:00-8pm

## Solo Painting

Title: Life and Nature  
Artist: Raghunath Chakraborty  
Venue: Drift Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (New), Dhanmondi  
Date: October 21-27  
Time: 3 pm to 8 pm

## Kozmo Amaze

Artistes: Abeer Hoque and Kaiser Haq  
Venue: Kozmo Lounge, Bikalpa Tower, Plot 74, Road 5/A, Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: October 23  
Time: 7 pm

## Theatre

Title: Circus Circus  
Troupe: Prachyanat  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: October 22  
Time: 7 pm

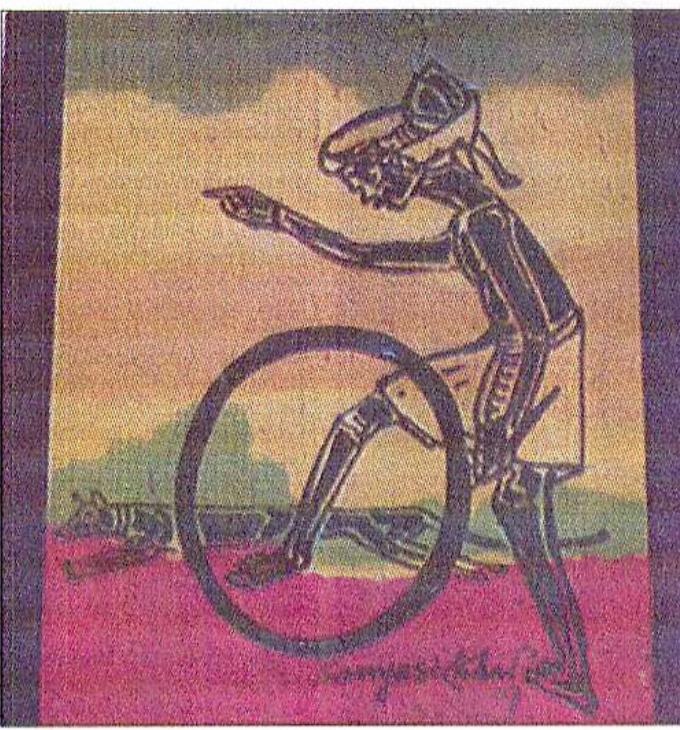
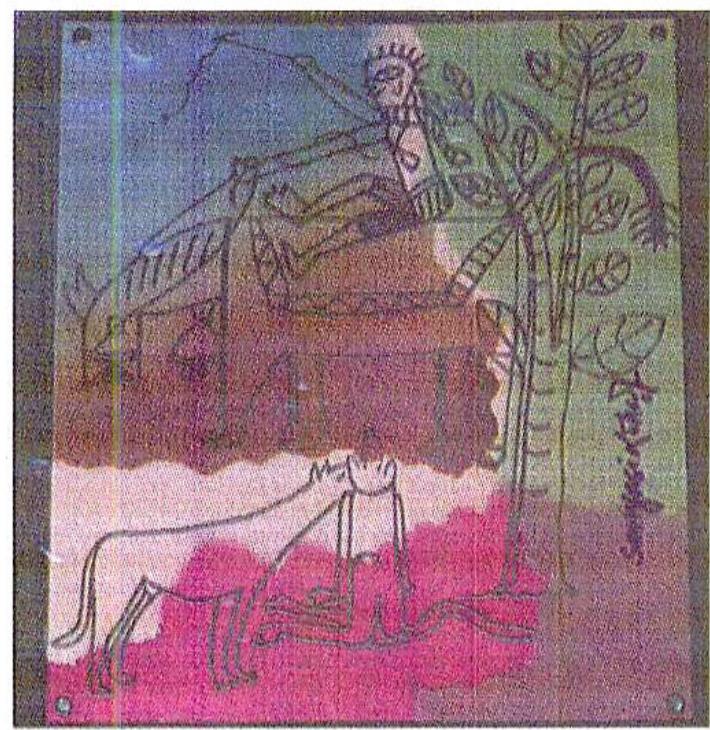
Title: Koinna  
Troupe: Prachyanat  
Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium  
Date: October 24  
Time: 6:30 pm

## Film Screening

Title: Puja Special  
Organiser: High Commission of India  
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 26, Road 96, Gulshan-2  
Time: 6 pm  
Date: October 23  
Film: Nishijapan  
Date: October 25  
Film: Bibar  
Date: October 26  
Film: Swet Pathare Thala  
Date: October 29  
Film: Ek Mutho Chhobi

## Exhibition

## Flora and fauna of Santal life captured with passion



Artworks on display at the Goethe Institut

FAYZA HAQ

THE mixed media paintings that one sees at the Goethe Institut in the ongoing exhibition by Indian artist Sanasi Lohar is remarkable indeed. Using leather, Camel brand Indian paints, spray gun and applying bold dramatic black strokes, the artist presents paintings that hold one's breath. The dynamism and lyricism of these paintings are due to the artist's training at Santiniketan and his own prowess and perseverance.

The exhibit is a part of the celebration of "Mother Language Festival" on the Santal life and culture. The festival itself is the brainchild of Dr Martin Kampchen, a German scholar and social worker and Lubna Marium, noted dancer and cultural activist. The display was inaugurated by Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, the Indian High Commissioner. Dora Rapold, the Swiss Ambassador, added her words in support of promotion of mother language.

"My mixed-media work is mainly on the sights and scenes found in the Santal villages. I've painted on paper and leather. There are 20 such paintings in the exhibit, ten being on leather and the rest on handmade paper. The exhibition also includes the crafts work by students of the school where I teach in India," said Lohar, commenting on the exhibit.

Lohar has studied at Santiniketan. His passion for drawing and painting has its roots in his childhood. The flora and fauna of Santal life have been clearly indicated in his work and captured with passion. Some scintillating batik work by him have also been included. His forte, however, remains painting.

He has had formal education for seven years in his college at Santiniketan: he was encouraged by Dr Martin Kampchen. His teachers of "Kolabhaban" were Jogen Chowdhury, Sharbory Rai Chowdhury and KB Subramanian.

In addition there were younger

teachers like Pinaki Bose and Pankaj Panwar -- his favourite teacher being Jogen Chowdhury. The artist has had two exhibitions before at Kolkata, at Max Muller Bhawan and at the Academy of Fine Arts in 2005.

When working on leather, he uses permanent ink for painting and brass instruments for direct drawing. He also utilizes spray painting. He uses mostly black ink to make his figures and scenes -- taken from nature around him. These are on a bright backdrop of three merging colours. The hues are not necessarily realistic and are often taken from his moods and imagination. He has attempted to use natural colours, but has not found them enduring. His favourite colours are vermillion, cobalt blue, sky blue, and yellow ochre and other variations of topaz and emerald green. All the artworks are unprinted.

In one of the entries one finds two gorgeous female figures with lotus bud eyes, and drapery, with criss-crossed black geometrical motifs, on gray and beige. This

presents Santal life as do the other 19 paintings. Suave and subtle, the eye-catching sweeps of paintings are bubbling with joie de vivre. "The simple and uncomplicated life of the Santal would inspire any artist," says Lohar.

Another painting introduces the collection of date juice from trees, and the juice being consumed by the carefree but hard-working locals -- who take joy in every step of their lives. The painter's vision includes two trees with birds flying on top and around it, with the merry-making locals sitting close by. This amalgamation of man and nature is indeed noteworthy.

Taken from the imagination is a horse -- done with Cubism in mind and it is seen in the next painting. A man with spiky hair is guiding it on. In front are two dogs, appearing to play with one another.

The camaraderie, bonhomie and contentment of Santal life is clearly presented in the paintings.

## Outdoor on ATN Bangla tonight

Airtime of drama serial *Outdoor* is rescheduled to Monday at 8pm in place of Sunday on ATN Bangla.

Tanvir Sweety, Richi Solaiman, Ishita, Timi, Tazin Ahmed, Shumona Shoma, Mir Sabir, Apurbo, Shaju Khaider, Anisur Rahman, Milon and Hillol are in the main casts of the serial.

A handful of people, residents of Dhaka go out of the city seeking relief from the hazards of city life to spend some time in nature's solitude. They all have very different reasons to go there. As they come together, their aspirations conflict with one another.

*Outdoor* is written by Arun Chowdhury and Rownok Hassan. Arun Chowdhury is the director of the serial.



## Bristir Phool on Channel-i this evening



Alamgir and Tinni in 'Bristir Phool'

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To mark the birth anniversary of poet Shamsur Rahman, Channel-i will telecast a special TV play titled *Bristir Phool* at 7:50 pm tonight. The play, an adaptation of Shamsur Rahman's novel *Elo Shey Obeloye*, has been directed by Raju Alim.

The story of the play follows a middle-aged professor Jamil Akhter, who remains bachelor after his first relationship ended on a bitter note at an early age. On the other hand, Nusrat, a young woman, is an avid fan of Jamil's writing. Both eventually fall for each other. Jamil however, cannot overlook their age difference and refuses Nusrat's offer to pursue a relationship.

Arif Al Mamun has done the dramatisation. Seasoned actor Alamgir and model turned actress Tinni have played the lead roles.

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Ishita and Mir Sabir in the drama serial

*Outdoor* is written by Arun Chowdhury and Rownok Hassan. Arun Chowdhury is the director of the serial.

No one has been allowed to visit

Sen except her daughter Moon Moon Sen. West Bengal Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi, however, paid her a visit last week.

The actress was in the limelight recently after she was named for

the Dada Saheb Phalke Award in August. She refused to break her 28 years of seclusion and did not accept the award in public.

Source: Internet

## Tête-à-tête

## Dancer turned actor Farzana speaks her mind

JAMIL MAHMUD

Farzana Chhobi, one of the familiar faces of the popular mega serial *Bhober Haat*, began her career in the small screen. Several years ago, she approached BTV for a dance audition. There she met noted director-actor Abdullah Al Mamun, who later offered her a role as the central character for his play *Clithi*, based on Leo Tolstoy's story. That was her starting point in the small screen, and since then, she is a regular BTV actor and enlisted since 2002. At present she is an A grade artiste of BTV.

However, earlier she aspired to become an actor rather than a dance artiste. She has completed a five-year dancing course from Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA), which she began at the age of four.

In future she wants to complete her remaining aspirations in dancing. "Dancing is my first fascination. If, somehow, I can relate to it, I will have an immense sense of satisfaction," she says.

She admits her dance experience helps her career enormously. She says, "To become a proper artiste, one should keep in touch with every section of art and culture. My experience in dancing is a plus point. However, most people don't know that I can dance, and this is somewhat painful for me."

Chhobi's passion for her profession is admirable. She says, "I think every artiste must work with sincerity."

Apart from *Bhober Haat*, her noteworthy roles are in Kaisar Ahmed's mega serial *Mon Chhutey Jai*, Sirajul Islam's *Nagor Dola/Gyadon*, *Bongshor Bati* and *Bridhasrom*.

On acting in the silver screen, Chhobi says, "As a professional actor I should think about acting both on TV and films. Acting is an integral part of one's culture."

About channel-i's recently ended popular mega serial *Bhober Haat* she says, "The cast worked in unison and so the serial was a hit." In particular, she praised A.T.M. Samsuzzaman and Salauddin Lavlu's



Farzana Chhobi

role in the serial.

Chhobi completed her masters in Business Management from Dhaka Commerce College. She hopes to do an MBA in future.

Her ambitions include playing woman's roles in Rabindranath Tagore, Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay or Manik Bandyopadhyay's novels-based films and plays.

## Satkhira Film Society launched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira Film Society, the first of its kind in the district, began its journey with the screening of the award-winning Bangla movie "Nirontor" on October 19 at the District Bar Association auditorium.

Prior to the show a discussion was held with Asit Kumar Majumder, president of Satkhira Film Society, in the chair. Deputy Commissioner of Satkhira Md. Kefayat Ullah was the chief guest.

The discussion was also addressed by a renowned civil

surgeon of Satkhira Md. Aziz Al Mansur, ADC (Revenue) Mahmud Hassan, vice principal Abdul Hamid, Advocate Tapon Chakrabarti, District Bar Association president Advocate Abul Hossain, Public District Information Officer Nurul Huda, Trishna Chakraborty and others.

## Suchitra Sen recovering

Legendary Bengali actress Suchitra Sen, undergoing treatment at a nursing home in Kolkata, is now improving.

"The condition of her health has improved, but she is still weak and running a mild temperature. We hope she will be all right soon," her physician said.

Sen, 77, was admitted to the nursing home, Belle Vue Clinic, on October 9 with high fever and urinal infection.

Nursing home sources said the reclusive actress was put on antibiotic medicines. Since her fever was not subsiding for the past week, the hospital authorities changed her dose of antibiotics for the third time.

"She needs to be kept under observation for a few more days," her physician added.

Suchitra, who dominated the Bengali film industry in the 1950s and '60s, left the industry in 1978 after a career of over 25 years, and since then has been living a recluse's life.

No one has been allowed to visit

Sen except her daughter Moon Moon Sen. West Bengal Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi, however, paid her a visit last week.

The actress was in the limelight recently after she was named for

the Dada Saheb Phalke Award in August. She refused to break her 28 years of seclusion and did not accept the award in public.

Source: Internet



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