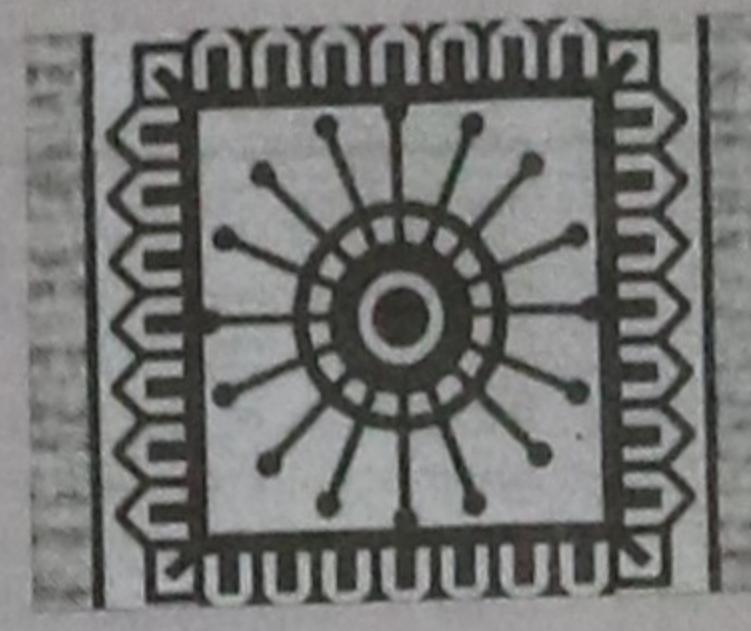


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photography Exhibition
Title: Modhupur and Lawachara: Stolen Forest Threatened Heritage
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15/A (new), Dhamondi
Date: June 21-27
Time: 3pm-8pm
An hour-long documentary screening (6pm-7pm) will feature everyday

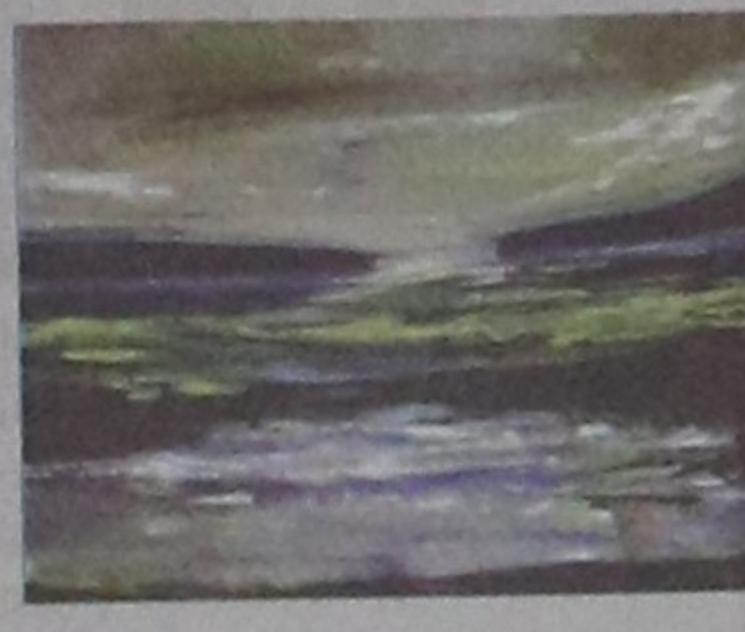


Exhibition
Organiser: Fashion Pathshala
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15/A (new), Dhamondi
Date: June 26-27
Time: 11am-8pm



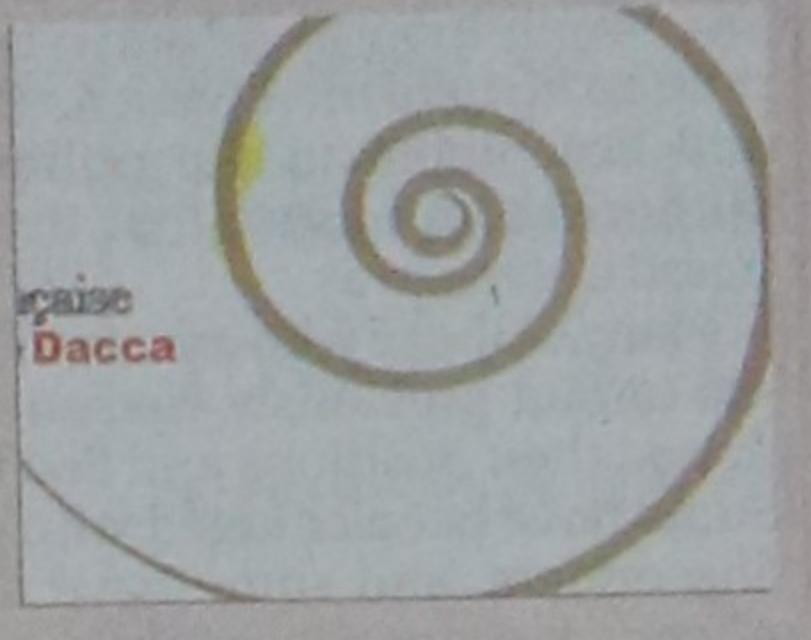
Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Form of Nature
Artist: Aif-Uz-Zaman
Venue: Dots Contemporary Art Centre, 191/A, Haque Tower (2nd floor), Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road, Tejgaon I/A
Date: June 20-27
Time: 11am-8pm



Oriental Art Exhibition

Artist: Abdul Aziz
Venue: Gallery Zoom, Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhamondi
Date: June 19-27
Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm (Saturdays 5pm-8pm)



Ecstasies of ornamentation in water-colour

Exhibition of Abdul Aziz's works at Alliance Francaise

FAYZA HAQ

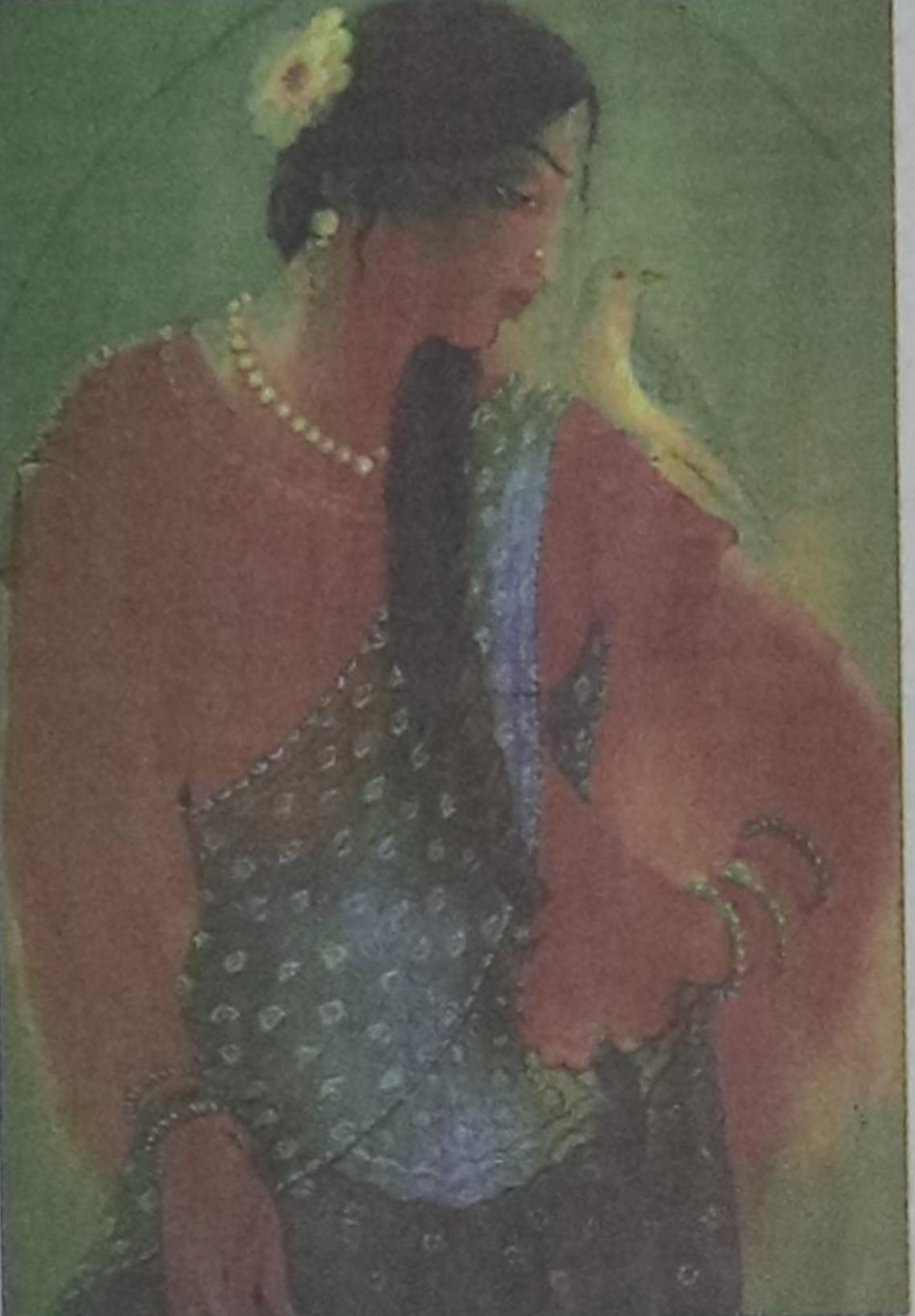
Abdul Aziz's recent exhibition at Zoom Gallery, Alliance Francaise drew many enthusiasts of oriental art. With gold, brown, beige and black strokes Aziz has brought beautiful, stylised images of birds, women, flowers and trees on to his canvas. This is in praise of the simple Bangladeshi women, with their uncomplicated "shalwar-kameez" apparels and accompanying jewellery. There is also his regard for the wealth of nature.

Having done his Masters in Oriental Art, and teaching this genre at the Institute of Fine Arts, DU, Aziz spends his free time in delineating statuesque women in the fashion of the Moghul art and Bengal School of Art. Moreover, Aziz enjoys doing water-colour with their soft, gentle streaks. In his four solos, he has dealt with nature and women, whom he considers a part of nature.

In "Waiting" one sees a young woman surrounded by flowers, trees, drying saris, patiently counting the minutes for the approach of her beloved. She is decked in a winding checked sari



Artworks on display



and has tiny bits of ornaments of everyday use. "Two friends" once again depicts the clothes, and the elements of finery at the wrist, nose, throat and ears.

Another painting brings in the

charm of a modern Bangladeshi woman, surrounded by untouched elements of nature, passing her time contemplating and waiting. "The lady with a bird" is more detailed. Heart

shaped motifs surround the woman so that she appears a part of the surrounding pattern. Her hands and fingers are unusually long and tapered, while tiny birds add to the ornamentation of the

composition. All in blue, "Lady with nature", has birds and geometric motifs to cover and surround a nude figure.

At times Aziz has presented elements of nature by themselves as in the case of thick, fleshy white flowers with pistils and pollen. Again, he has played with colours and left out the details of the face in one of his paintings so that it appears more modern. There is the hair and the necklace but little else.

The artist has made attractive compositions of cacti, their snow-white blossoms and large blackants.

Aziz says that water-colour is not easy, as it has to be completed quickly, while the paper is still wet. He uses English hand-made paper most of time, and imported paints.

He does illustrations too, although at present he has cut down the numbers and dedicates himself to painting, so that he can have more exhibitions. He hopes to study overseas. He has exhibited in UK, India, Iran and Bangladesh. He says his inspirations are still his one-time guides, Abdus Sattar and Nasreen Begum.

"Bhashar Bhuban" on Channel 1 tonight

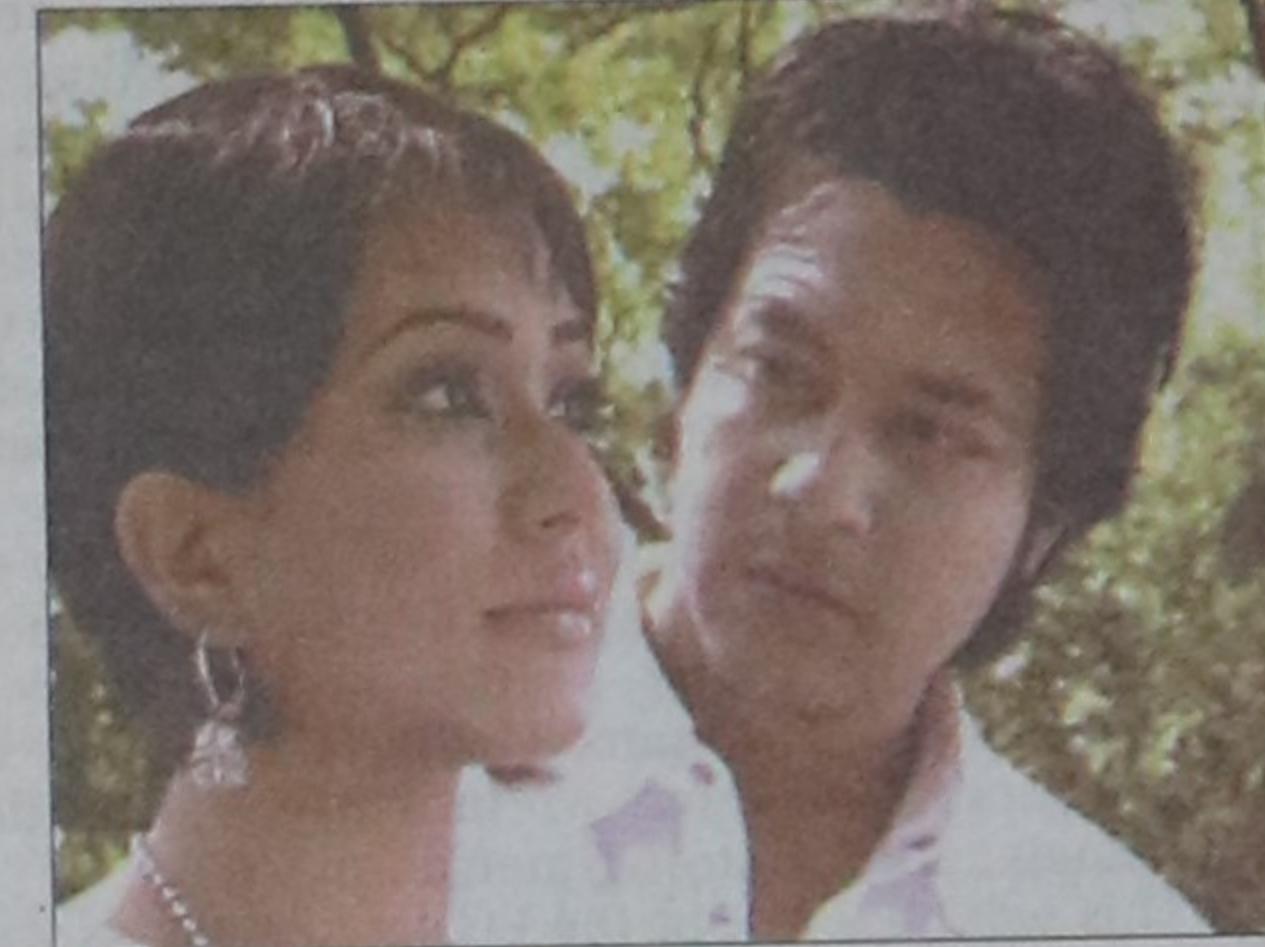
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A special play *Bhashar Bhuban* will be aired on Channel 1 tonight at 8:15 pm.

The plot revolves around the lives of two families who live in the same house. Both families are constantly bickering with each other. Bhasha -- a gentle nature science researcher -- is the son of one of the families. On the other hand, Bhuban -- mischievous and mysterious -- is the daughter of the other family. The story highlights a budding relationship between the two.

The cast of the play includes Rahmat Ali, Wahida Mallick Jolly, Priscilla Parvin, Momo and Emon.

Written by Ejaz Munna, the TV play has been directed by Shah Amir Khasru.



Momo (L) and Emon in a scene from the play

Last episode of "Poribibi" on Ekushey TV

The last episode of TV serial *Poribibi* will be aired on Ekushey TV tonight at 8:15 pm. The serial has been written by Rezwan Khan and directed by Abdullah Al Mamun.

The plot revolves around the life of a widow named Pori. Based on a true story, the play follows Pori whose husband dies after only two years of their marriage. Driven out of her husband's house, she moves in with her brother, Raju. Beautiful and vulnerable, Pori comes to the attention of Asgar who tries at all cost to win her affection. He frames Raju with charges of possessing arms and gets him arrested in the hope of persuading Pori. She however, rejects his proposal and sets out to free her brother. Meanwhile, Pori comes across Marmur who tries to help her negotiate with the police, and the story proceeds on.

The cast of the serial includes Abdullah Al Mamun, Sweety, Joy, Tofa Hassan, Maruf, S.M. Mohsin and Nazmul Huda Bachchu.



Sweety in a scene from the serial

Santal revolution day observed in Rajshahi

ABU KALAM RATHAN, Rajshahi

The 153rd anniversary of Santal Hul (revolution) was observed on June 23 in Kakonhat upazila in Rajshahi with a call for enactment of laws to protect the traditional culture and language of the indigenous people.

To mark the day, a colourful rally, discussion, archery competition, cultural programmes, including Santal traditional dance, were held.

Adivashi Sangskritik Unnayan Sangha (ASUS) organised the daylong programme to mark the day.

During 1855-57, Santal revolution was one of the major revolts against the British rule. During the revolution 2 million people, mostly Santals and farmers, were

killed.

The day's programme began with offerings to 'Sidhu-Kanu', the two brothers who spearheaded the Santal Hul.

Wreaths were also placed before the idols on the occasion.

At a discussion at Kakonhat High School playground, speakers urged the government to observe the day at state level and to ensure the rights of indigenous people to their land and language.

Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ibrahim Khalil was present as the chief guest while ASUS executive director Rajkumar Shaw was in the chair.

This year, three indigenous freedom fighters were awarded the 'Sidhu-Kanu' Award.

After the discussion, Santal women performed their traditional dances, songs and staged plays to mark the day.

Earlier, a colourful procession was brought out from Kakonhat village with different traditional musical instruments.



Santal artistes perform at the programme

Gombhira, Alkap festival and mango fair in Chapainawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A two-day mango fair and Gombhira, Alkap festival was held in Chapainawabganj with much festivity on Saturday. Around 100 local varieties of mangoes were put on display at 23 stalls set up by different government private horticulture centers, nurseries and individuals of Chapainawabganj on Horimohor Government High School premises.

Rajshahi divisional commissioner M Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan attended the inaugural ceremony as chief guest while Sirajul Islam Khan, deputy commissioner of Chapainawabganj chaired the event. CO of 39 Rifles Battalion Lt. Col. Kibria, chief scientific officer Mohammad Golam Mortaza, additional SP Sajadur Rahman addressed the programme.

The speakers said that locals take pride in the popularity of their mangoes and *gombhira*, *Alkap*, *Kobi gaan* and traditional *Kansa* and *Nakshikantha*. They however lamented the fact that huge quantities of mangoes worth crores of Taka are damaged every year due



Visitors at the festival

to lack of fruit processing industries. The speakers also urge to government to set up agro-based industries in this district.

A discussion on Chapainawabganj's heritage and *Gombhira*, *Alkap* and *Kobi gaan* were also held on the fair premises. The fair and cultural function attracted several thousand people from different

parts of the district. Many of them expressed the hope that such fairs would be a regular feature. "We are in danger of completely losing this vibrant tradition," said Mohammad Rasikul Islam, a student of Chapainawabganj Government College, adding that all stops must be pulled out to keep this valuable heritage alive.

Cultural programme to mark Community Policing Day in Khagrachhari

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari district police organised a cultural event at the Town Hall to mark Community Policing Day. Local artistes and members of police force presented songs, dances, poetry recitation and short plays related to community policing. Additional Inspector General of Police, Naba Bikrom Kishor Tripura was present at the programme as chief guest.

A discussion, presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, was held prior to the programme.

At the discussion, the chief guest said that at times the police failed to provide expected services to the large population as we have only 1 lakh 30 thousand police. "Considering this we have revived community policing which has been a key component in maintaining a peaceful environment in the area," he said.

Seeking assistance from people, he also said "We would like to form a friendly bond between the police and public for all kinds of development activities."



Local artistes dance at the programme

Boy George denied visa for US tour

Boy George's US solo summer tour is in doubt after authorities refused to issue him with a visa, citing looming overseas legal issues.

Statement from the singer and DJ's management said it was in relation to a forthcoming London trial on false imprisonment charges.

The 47-year-old denied the allegations in 2007 and was released on bail.

The former Culture Club frontman's 24-date tour is scheduled to begin on July 11 in Las Vegas.

"At the moment, Boy George cannot come to the United States of America because he has been refused permission to enter by the USA Administration," the statement said.

"This is not in respect of anything he has done in the past but because he is facing a trial in November in London for something that happened in April last year."

"George's lawyers in London have absolutely forbidden us to speak about the facts of that case and all I can say is that George is astounded at the decision and is having lawyers here in the States look at it in the hope that someone will change their mind."

The proceedings that George faced in London are of course important and serious but George has been given unconditional bail by the police and the courts in London thereby permitting him to travel anywhere in the world.

"George really would love to come to America and repay his American fans' loyalty and that is why we are asking the US authorities to reconsider their decision."

Source: BBC



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