

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Suchitra Sen Retrospective

Organiser: Suchitra Sen Smity Sanrakshan Parishad, Pabna
Venue: Mukto Moncho, Pabna
Date: November 26-December 3



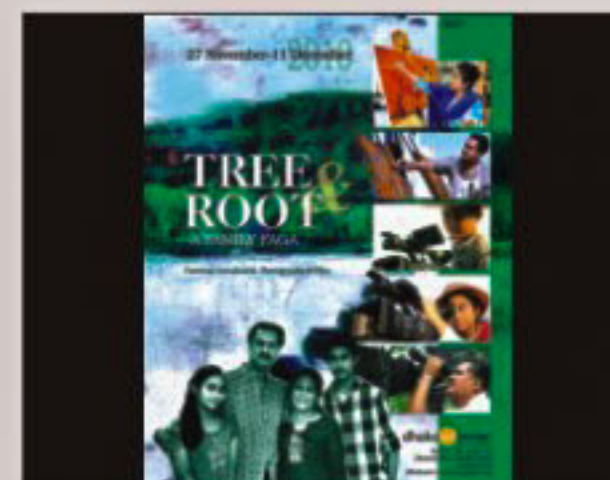
Drawing Exhibition

Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
Date: December 3-20
Time: 10am-8pm



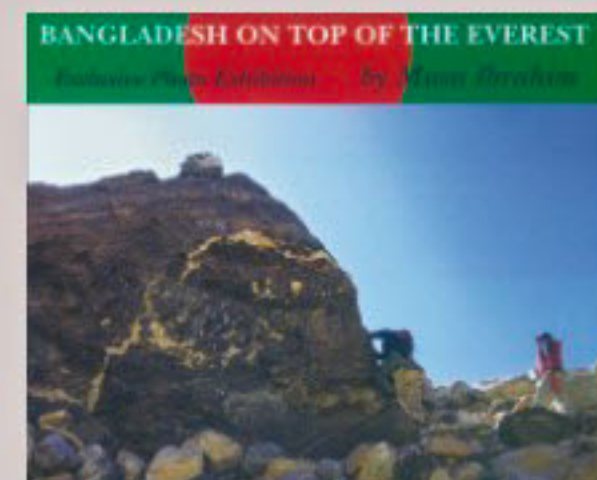
Group Art Exhibition

Title: Tree & Roots
Artists: Mithu, Kanak Champa, Arjo and Shiropa
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7/A, H-60, Dhanmondi
Date: November 27-December 7
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: Bangladesh on Top of the Everest
Photographer: Musa Ibrahim
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: November 26-December 9
Time: 9-8pm



Ushering in the season of harvest

Nobanno Utshab in Magura

Lathi khela was a highlight of the celebrations.

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

The season of late autumn brings with it bountiful harvest. 'Nobanno' is a festival that celebrates this season and harvest. And naturally, the festival originated in and used to be celebrated with much gusto in the villages throughout Bangladesh. Villages in Magura are now abuzz

with people getting into a festive mood. Local socio-cultural organisations are now holding various cultural events at the villages.

The events include: *mela* (fair), *jhapan-khela* (a game using snakes), *jatra pala* (folk theatre), *lathi khela* (a combative sport using bamboo sticks) and musical performances featuring *kobi gaan* (songs in the form of ques-

tions and answers between dueling bards) and *bichar gaan*.

Muktijoddha Shangshad's Magura district unit held a daylong programme, which included a *mela*, *bichar gaan* and *lathi khela*.

"We organise this festival every year, mainly to uphold and promote an age-old tradition," Advocate Abu Bakar, one of the organisers of the

event, said.

Chandpur, Bhaina and Tengakhali - under Magura sadar upazila - also held similar programmes attended by sizeable enthusiastic crowds.

Commenting on the events, Khan Rakibul Haque, a local cultural personality said, "These celebrations are now playing a key role in preserving the Bengali cultural heritage."

Aspirations of an emerging folk singer

In conversation with Salma

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Since her grand success in the 2006 edition of the musical talent hunt "Close Up One: Tomakei Khujchhe Bangladesh", Salma has been on the road to glory. Her career has been on the roll with album releases, stage shows and TV programmes. Salma expresses her gratitude to fans and well-wishers who voted for her throughout the competition.

Her first audio album "Best of Salma" was released under the banner of Gaanchil soon after her win on "Close Up One". The album was an immediate hit, giving Salma a double reason for celebration. Other solo albums soon followed -- "Bondhu Aiyo Aiyo", "Maatir Tara" and "Poran-er Bondhu". All the albums were commercially successful.

Salma's latest release comes in the form of "Brindabon". For this album, the up and coming artiste has worked under composer Lutfor Hasan. Apart from composing the tunes, Lutfor also wrote some of the songs, along with Jahid Akbar, Kawnain Sourav and Shomeshshor Ali. There are 10 original folk songs on the album, directed by Abhijit Chakrabarty Jitu. Salma gives credit to everyone involved in the making of the album, adding that it was a team effort that makes the collection of songs great.

On another note, the talented artiste says she is trying to add a new dimension to her music, particularly through memorable lyrics and tunes. "Brindabon" is one such attempt, as the album was created by a young team. On her future plans, Salma says she is focused on music.



The artiste says that winter is the high season for concerts. Performing on stage is more fun than cutting an album.

Her goal is to reach people from all classes and unify them with music. She is also busy with frequent stage shows around the globe. Salma has already traveled to the US, UK, Spain, Italy, Canada, Australia and Bahrain. The artiste says that winter is the high season for concerts. Performing on stage is more fun than cutting an album,

she says. So far the young singer has done playback for 15 movies, with further offers waiting to be discussed. She wants to continue working in the film industry.

Salma's ambition is to remain in the music world. Her idol is Runa Laila, but she also admires the singing talents of Shreya Ghoshal and Shubho Mita.

Singing nonsense verses with Chandrabindoo



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Some labelled them as "nonsense verses," while others find the lyrics to be satire on contemporary society -- call it whatever you will but Chandrabindoo seems to be highly successful in capturing the essence of contemporary Kolkata life with their songs.

The band released its debut album "Aar Jani Na" in 1997, though its journey began in 1989. Chandrabindoo has released seven more studio albums; mostly hits which established the band as a big player in the Kolkata music scene.

Chandrabindoo visited Dhaka recently. The band performed live on Desh TV's studio concert "Call-er Gaan" on the third day of Eid. The band also played at Dhaka Club the following night. Chandrabindoo, which comprises Upal, Anindya and Chandril, shed light on its musical journey, philosophical aspects of its lyrics, contemporary Kolkata music scenario and more.

Chandrabindoo is well known for Chandril's satirical, colloquial lyrics,

full of references to current affairs and cultural phenomena around Kolkata.

"Our songs certainly represent us; we even love to mock each other. There is no particular reason behind such lyrics. They come spontaneously to us, which later turned into the signature style of the band," said Chandril about their unique songs.

Songs such as "Conductor", "Juu", "Mangal Graha", "Aar Jani Na", "Bhalo Lagey Na", "Gaan Bhalobeshey Gaan" and "Twaker Jatno Nin" are from the band's repertoire that feature satirical verses.

"I think two decades after we appeared on the scene and with eight albums to our credit, we can say that we've created our own space with our own musical dialogues," said Anindya.

"We don't only sing satirical songs. We have a good number of romantic songs as well that are equally popular among our fans," Anindya continued and added that in some cases they invite guest artistes to sing with them.

They cite the release of their fourth album "Chaw" (2001) for which the band invited noted singer Lopamudra Mitra to sing "Adorer Nouko". The

poetic lyrics by Chandril juxtaposed with a melancholic tune by Upal turned the song into one of the most popular numbers of the band.

Their romantic numbers include "Mounomukhorota", "Dupurer Khamokha Kheyal", "Eita Tomar Gaan", "Mon", "Uthey Jawa Shiri" and "Bhin Deshi Tara". Anindya mostly writes romantic songs. In some cases Chandrabindoo also renders songs that make one nostalgic: among them are "Neel", "Adda", "Bondhu Tomae" and "Bus-stop-e Keu Nei".

When asked about the evolution of rock music in Kolkata, Upal affirms that Kabir Suman's early 1990s' emergence set the platform for the contemporary rock acts. However, Suman created a unique genre in modern day Bangla songs and it is obviously not just "rock".

"When we first heard Suman, his songs seemed to give us some confidence," said Upal.

Though it is widely regarded that Moheener Ghoraguli initiated the rock genre in Kolkata in early 1970s, Chandrabindoo feels that the band could not fill the void between the late 1970s and early 1990s. "Suman started with a new promise. People first

started to accept this kind of music [apart from adhunik and film songs] after Suman come on the scene," said Anindya.

At present Kolkata bands are more active than in the recent past, and a lot of groups are working in the film industry, said Anindya. He finds this change occurred after the success of Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury's national award winning film "Antaheen" (2009). Anindya and Chandril worked for the film and won a Best Lyrics award for the song "Pherari Mon". Shreya Ghoshal won a Best Female Playback Singer award for the song. Chandrabindoo's popular number "Bhindeshi Tara" was also used in the film.

Currently the band is working on its e-magazine "e-Aarki". The band plans to release its ninth album next year. It is open to the prospect of accepting an offer from any Bangladeshi label for its next album, said its members.

Chandrabindoo's other members are Arup (bass guitar), Surojit (lead guitar), Rajshekhhar (drums), Shibu (keyboard) and Sourabh (percussion).

Lifetime achievement award for Sean Penn

Sean Penn will be honoured with a lifetime achievement award at the upcoming Dubai Film Festival.

The Oscar-winning actor will receive the award at the opening ceremony on December 12, reports the BBC.

Festival chairman Abdulhamid Juma described Penn as "an outstanding and versatile actor, gifted director and accomplished producer."

"Sean Penn is without a doubt one of the finest talents of our generation. His tireless

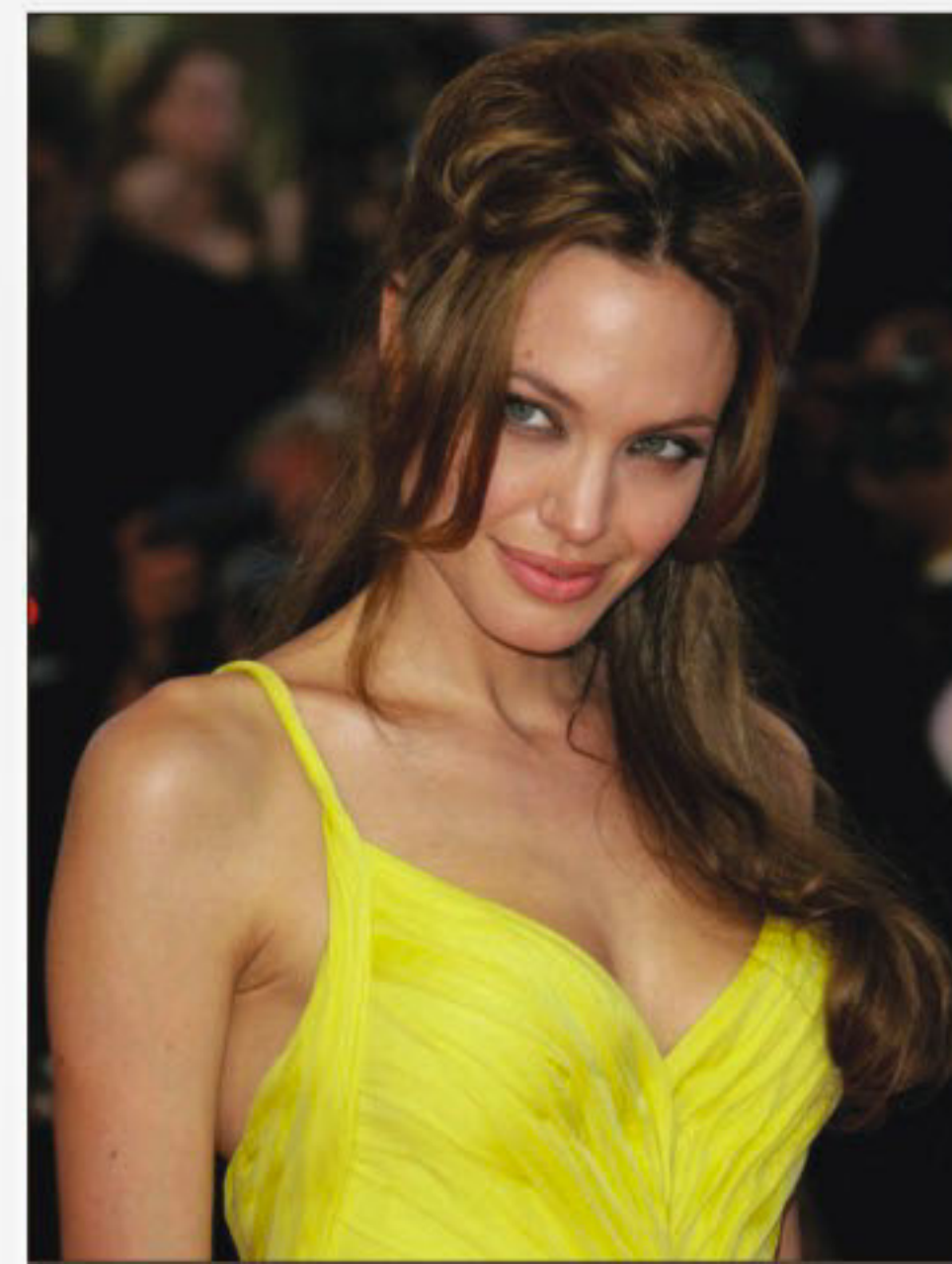
work on behalf of the people of the world from Haiti to the United States, Iraq and Iran, and his use of the celebrity spotlight to assist humanity, is an example to us all," he said.

"We look forward to welcoming this culture-bridging icon to Dubai," Juma added.

The star, whose career spans nearly three decades, has starred in more than 45 films, including the 2008 movie "Milk", for which he won an Academy Award.

Source: Internet

Angelina Jolie comes to Italy's aid



Angelina Jolie has once again turned up for a humanitarian cause and has pledged to help flood-ravaged victims near her Italian home.

The "Salt" star who owns a house in Italy's north-east Veneto region with partner Brad Pitt, has donated cash after the area suffered rising water levels following a spate of heavy rains, reported Daily Telegraph.

Several residents have been forced to flee from their home while others had to be rescued after being trapped in the floods.

The 35-year-old actress, who is a UN Goodwill Ambassador and is involved in various philanthropic work, has also offered to head fundraising appeals to help boost efforts to overcome the floods.

Source: Internet