

The art of drawing alpona

More than fifty mud houses at Tikoil village in Nachole upazila of Chapainawabganj are decorated with colourful motifs drawn by older and younger female generations of Hindu generation. They do it to showcase the beauty of the house and also to secure the blessings of their God to their houses. The artwork is done mostly on the outer walls and sometimes on interior walls and floors of the houses. They usually decorate their houses with alpona during religious festivals like Durga puja, Swaraswati puja, Laxmi puja and Kali puja and other festivals like Nabanna Utsab, Pahela Baishakh and wedding ceremony. The art is dominant in all homes of Hindus irrespective of they be rich or poor and the legacy is passed on from one generation to another. The older generation used to draw the motifs with Girimati (Red Ochre), chalk powder, turpentine oil and colour. But the arts using these elements were not durable enough. Now Girimati (Red Ochre), liquid of rice powder, flour, chalk powder, turmeric and vermillion, Astringent juice of banana tree and Arum, the powder of old seed/stone of Mango etc are being used to make the arts durable for more than one year. Now chemical colours are also available in local markets which are being used by the new generation female to decorate the houses. People of these families used to choose bride or groom evaluating this aesthetics of the houses. (Source: The Daily star, Tuesday, July 14, 2020).





