

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Autumn Sonata

by S. Bari



The strains of autumn at Chhayanaut's festival.

Bengalis being sentimental down to their very toenails, they endow each season with a light and mood all its own. If summer is the killer sun and the taste of mango, and the monsoons are the ultimate in romantic encounters, autumn is the season when the sky is softer and the mind relaxed.

After a hiatus of a number of years, the musical institution Chhayanaut last year resumed its annual Sharodotsav, the autumn festival. Yesterday several hundred people gathered at the break of day in the meadow adjoining the Arts Faculty building in Dhaka University. Chhayanaut, which has been called many names during its colourful history, including 'anti-Islamic' and 'ossified', has continued doggedly over the years to churn out some of the best talents in the country. The dawn-to-noon show Friday had some of that talent on display.

The style of presentation remained pretty much standard Chhayanaut: mellifluous voices and impeccable tabla, dainty costumes for the dancers, and flowers all over the place. There were some lapses among younger singers, but what was enchanting was the mood. Bengalis being Bengalis, there has to be a season for laziness among all the seasons of the year. Sharat is obviously the chosen one. Listening to the lyrics of both Tagore and Nazrul Islam, one would think we spent our autumn months gazing at the shapes in the clouds and playing with boats made out of leaves. The music and the early morning air certainly lent a great deal of charm to that idea. The problem with Bangladesh is that some people pretend it is always autumn.

Autumn comes with a peculiar feeling of brevity, though. Songs are full of figures of autumn as a passing guest, a golden sky of one moment. Some of the spectators took the images to heart. The programme was fairly long, so the audience drifted in and out, some sauntering off to look for the breakfast they hadn't had the inclination for at six in the morning, some lounging about far from the stage, intent in gos-

sp. Hopefully Chhayanaut can arrange more of these relaxed mornings; for many of the spectators, it was a rare opportunity for a safe family outing.

And how safe. With riot police and security forces ploughing through the crowd every so often, it was evident that the powers that be were taking good care of the university campus. What was less appealing was the occasional car driving up close to the stage to drop the passenger unwilling to walk the few hundred yards from the gate to the centre of the clearing. Some cars even honked to move spectators aside and drew up so close to the singers that one wondered whether the car was actually going to go up on stage.

Pahela Baisakh, mainly thanks to Chhayanaut, has become quite an institution in itself. Nowhere in the entire sub-continent is the Bengali New Year celebrated with so much of what the papers like to call 'due fervour.' Chhayanaut has been criticized for its so-called excessive seasonal festivities, but Sharodotsav and Barshamangal (welcoming the monsoon) help keep a certain tradition alive. You could call it the tradition of welcoming the seasons or you could call it the tradition of finding any excuse to celebrate, but it is doubtless extremely pleasant. If the music school moves even further forward in its vision and its experimental techniques, the programmes will not only keep traditions alive, they will create new traditions. At the moment, this is all that is lacking.

All morning, the usual golden sky of autumn fought most un-autumnal dark clouds, and Chhayanaut staff walked around with harassed faces. The sword of Damocles fell before noon, sparing all but the end of the programme. But when the mud has dried and the paper banners and jute mats have been cleared away, the meadow will still ring with echoes of the autumn songs of yesterday, caught on the blades of the new grass. There, that was a sentence worthy of the most soppy Bengali essay on autumn.



To commemorate the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas, the American Cultural Center and the Bangladesh Association for American Studies (BAAS), in cooperation with the Bangladesh History Association, held a one-day seminar on October 12 in the American Cultural Center auditorium. The inaugural session was addressed by Professor Abdul Momin Chowdhury, President, Bangladesh History Association, seen here, and by officials from the Embassies of Italy and the United States. The seminar included the presentation of research papers, discussions, and videos on Columbus' voyage to the New World. A book exhibit on the discovery, 'Old World, New Worlds', was formally opened in the USIS library by Fulbright Professor Jody Foote and Mr A K M Abdur Noor, President of the Library Association of Bangladesh. The books will be on display throughout the month of October. — USIS photo

### Loss of lives condoled

Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal MP Friday condoled the loss of valuable lives and damage to property, caused by the earthquake in Cairo and the surrounding areas, reports BSS.

### BTV Saturday

- 5-00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5-10 News in Bangla
- 5-20 Recitation from the Tripitak
- 5-25 Cartoon : Care Bears Family
- 5-50 Shabar Shathe
- 6-20 Documentary programme
- 7-05 Banshari : Folk Songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Matti O Manush
- 9-00 Shatabdir Prantey Dantya : Magazine programme
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Dallas
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-40 Sunday's programme summary
- 11-45 Closing

### Weather

## Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Dhaka divisions, the regions of Barisal, Patuakhali and at a few places over the country during the next 24 hours till 6pm Saturday, Met office forecasts.

Moderately heavy rain is also likely at places over Chittagong division and the regions of Barisal, Patuakhali, Faridpur, Dhaka and Mymensingh.

Day temperature may fall by one degree Celsius over Chittagong and Dhaka divisions and remain nearly unchanged over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions.

Meanwhile, parts of the country experienced rain during the last 12 hours till 6 pm Friday with the highest 116 mm at Mymensingh. Khepupara had 32 mm shower, Bhola 30 and Dhaka 29 mm rain during the period.

The highest temperature of the country yesterday 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Satkhira and the lowest 21 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimangal.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 5-30 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5-57am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns yesterday are as follows:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	30.3	24.6	85	84
Chittagong	30.8	24.2	84	80
Rajshahi	31.4	24.1	89	90
Khulna	32.2	26	85	81
Cox's Bazar	30.5	23.5	92	77
Sylhet	29	21.6	91	83
Barisal	32	24	92	92
Rangpur	27	22.5	87	89

# Formulation of policy for women underscored

Education Minister Barrister Jamruddin Sircar Friday said the present democratic government was determined to uplift the condition of womenfolk in the society, reports BSS.

He said it was essential to include women in the nation-building process because they are 48.5 per cent of the population.

He was inaugurating a workshop on 'Women in development: Technical profession and education' held at the seminar room of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) here. It was jointly organised by the University of Alberta-BUET institutional linkage project and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Emile Gauvreaux, Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Prof AMM Shafulah, Project Manager of the linkage project, Dr Dil Afroza Begum and Khaleda Rashid also spoke on the occasion while Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of BUET presided.

The Education Minister un-

dercored the need for formulation of a policy for women so that they could equally participate in the national development activities.

To eradicate illiteracy from the society it is necessary to provide proper female education, he said adding, if a woman is taught, she can teach a family.

He said this is a time of unity and integration and advancement can only be achieved through joint efforts of male and female forces. The Minister said the government was sincere to ensure congenial atmosphere for women in working places. He hoped that, "We will be able to enhance women's participation in the decision-making activities."

Emile Gauvreaux said there are huge problems in the global management and we need a joint effort with our natural and human resources to survive.

Termining the topic of the workshop a challenging one, Gauvreaux stressed on the involvement of women in the

process of sustainable development.

Prof Shahjahan expressed his gratitude to the CIDA and University of Alberta for their continuous assistance for expanding different activities of BUET. He hoped that the workshop would be able to find out the scope and nature of involvement of women in the development process.

Prof Shafulah said the University of Alberta-BUET institutional linkage project is devoted to create a fleet of trained experts in the field of science and technology.

The workshop discussed different topics like socio-cultural and financial problems of women, advantages and disadvantages of being women in technical education, problems of female students in higher studies and problems of female professionals in discharging their duties.

Different sessions of the workshop were presided over by Dr Dil Afroza Begum, Khaleda Rashid, Shaheda Imam and Dr Selina.

## Irregularities found in Rupali, Karnafuli Insurances' audit reports

The 12th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Commerce was held Thursday at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Commerce Minister M K Anwar in the chair, reports BSS.

The members of the committee Muhammad Ansar Ali Siddiqi, Advocate Abul Kalam and Begum Farida Hasan were present in the meeting.

The meeting discussed in details the special audit reports on Karnafuli and Rupali Insurance Companies in which several irregularities were detected.

The meeting directed the Controller of Insurances to identify the persons who were guilty of violating the law and take appropriate legal actions against them.

The meeting was informed that the office of the Controller of Insurances was facing problems of shortage of manpower and space.

It reviewed the proposed organisational set-up of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

The meeting was informed that two separate proposals on the set-up of TCB and the office of the Controller of Insurances were under consideration of the Ministry of Establishment.

The Commerce Minister urged the officials of TCB and the insurance organisations to make their organisations economically viable and go along the competitive free economy.

## Truck Owners Assoc hails serial system at ferry ghats

Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners Association yesterday hailed the government for introducing 'serial system' at Aricha, Nagarbari and Doulatia ferry ghats for smooth movement of bus, truck, minibus and tank-lorry, reports BSS.

The Owners Association, in a statement, observed that proper implementation of the newly-introduced system would save the transport owners and passengers from giving lakhs of taka as 'extortion money'.

The association, however, noticed that some people were realising Taka five as toll from each truck and bus at Aricha ghat during the last 48 hours despite deployment of BDR and police there.

It demanded immediate action to stop extortion of money.

## Workshop on English Language Oct 20

A three-week workshop on English Language will begin here on October 20 with a view to providing functional knowledge of English to students, housewives, businessmen and other sections of society, reports BSS.

Prof Mazharul Haq, a language researcher will conduct the workshop at the "Education research complex" at 31 Block E, Lalmatia.

The workshop, first of its kind, will enable the participants to acquire better knowledge of spoken and written English for their day to day use.

## Publication ceremony held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 16: The publication ceremony of the book entitled 'The History of French Literature' first even in Bangla from middle ages to renaissance (volume one) was held at the Alliance Francaise here today, reports BSS.

Chaired by Director of the Alliance Francaise, Gerard Oppe, the function was addressed by eminent sociologist Dr Anupom Sen, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Chittagong University Prof Mizanur Rahman, Journalist Arun Das Gupta and author Gurupada Chakraborty.

The author Gurupada Chakraborty who is also a French language teacher, in his speech, said the learners of second language and literature have to face great difficulties because the medium of language learning is not written in mother tongue.

## AL discussion on Malek Ukil today

Bangladesh Awami League has chalked out an elaborate programme in observance of the fifth death anniversary of Abdul Malek Ukil, a party press release said, reports BSS.

A discussion meeting has been organised at the party office today evening Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina and other central leaders will speak.

As part of the central programme, milad mahfil, Quran-khwani and discussion meeting will be organised in Noakhali, the press release added.

## Diarrhoea claims 21 in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 16: Twenty-one persons died of diarrhoeal diseases in three thanas of Khagrachari hill district in the past three days, Civil Surgeon of Khagrachari said today.

The diseases broke out in Matranga, Ramgarh and Mahalchhari thanas as an epidemic form. Most of the victims are children, he told BSS.

Three special medical teams with medicare facilities from Khagrachari headquarters have been sent to the affected areas to join the local medical units which are working round the clock there.

About one thousand people in the areas have been affected by the diarrhoeal diseases, the source further said.

Medical teams with adequate treatment facilities are working to check the disease, the source added.

## Stop illegal manpower business: JJP

Jatiya Janata Party (JJP) Chief Seikh Asad Friday demanded immediate ban on illegal manpower business and called for sending jobseekers outside the country through governments initiatives, reports BSS.

In a statement, Asad said the so-called manpower businessmen were not only exploiting the people but also tarnishing the image of the nation in foreign countries.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West seeks applications

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West have invited applications from woman candidates for participation in the Rotary International Group Study Exchange Programme, '92-93, says a press release.

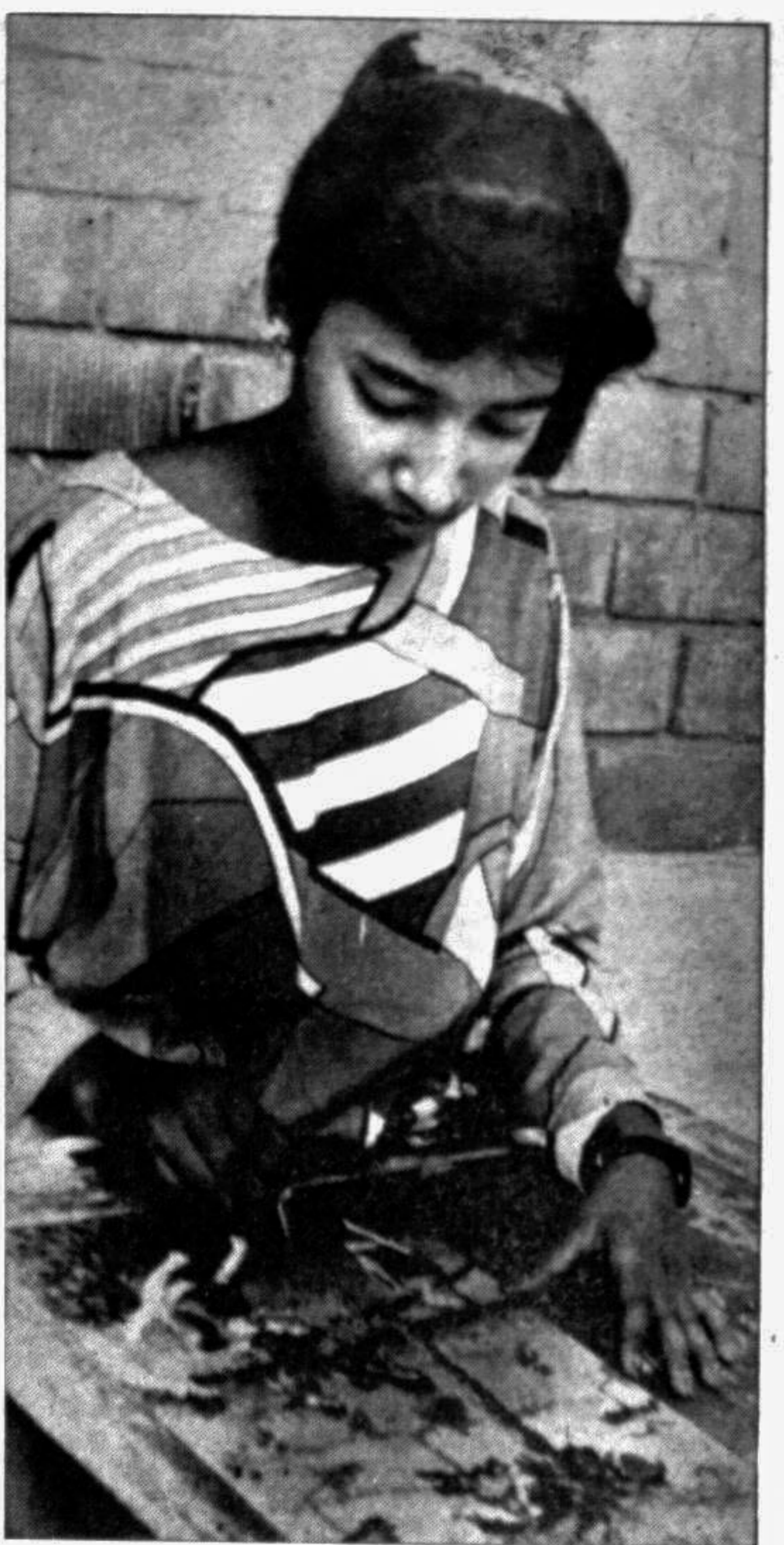
Women, aged between 25 and 35 with excellent educational background and atleast 2 years of vocational experience may apply immediately to the secretary, RC of Dhaka North West, DCCI bldg. (3rd. floor), 65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.

## Mother, child health care centre opens

A mother and child health care centre was opened at Dhanmondi here Friday under the auspices of the Mahila Unnayan Sangstha, 'Ashaharh', reports BSS.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman inaugurated the centre.

Later, She distributed rice and baby garments among the destitute mothers



Rudra Parishad held a children's painting competition yesterday at the Institute of Fine Arts in observance of 36th birth anniversary of late poet Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah. — Star photo

## Rich tributes paid to Lalon Shah

Rich tributes were paid to mystic poet Fakir Lalon Shah at a discussion yesterday on the occasion of his 102nd anniversary of death, reports UNB.

Speakers at a discussion meeting in Kushtia highlighted various aspects of the life and works of Lalon Shah. His influence in Tagore songs also came up during the discussion.

Radio Bangladesh Khulna broadcast the programme 'Achin Pakhi' live from Kushtia Polytechnic Institute from 3:05 pm.

Eminent folklore researcher Dr Ashraf Siddiqui was the chief guest at the function. Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia was present on the Occasion.

Principal of Meherpur Go-

vernment College and eminent Lalon researcher Dr Anwarul Karim, Prof Abu Zafar and Prof Abul Ahsan Chowdhury of Kushtia Government College, Prof Abu Taleb of Rajshahi University and Mohammad Musazzaman of Kushtia Shishu Academy spoke at the function.

The discussion was followed by a programme of Lalon songs rendered by the artistes of Lalon Academy, Kushtia Music Club, Kushtia Shilpakala Academy and Lalon Sangskritik Sangha.

Lalon Academy also held a discussion meeting at its premises at Sheuria, three miles from here. It was presided over by the DC of Kushtia.



An exhibition of food items was held yesterday at the Institute of Nutrition and Food Sciences in observance of World Food Day. — Star photo

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