

anniversary

# Rabirashmi Glows

**Kalim Sharafi accorded reception at the second founding anniversary of the institution Rabirashmi**

By Shahana Parbeen

PERFORMERS of Rabirashmi literally glowed at an evening of Rabindra Sangeet at the main auditorium of the National Museum on Saturday evening. The enthralled the audience with their brilliant presentation of Tagore's songs, once again proving that the institution is indeed the rightful one to carry on the legacy of the fine songs that Rabindranath Tagore created.

Saturday marked the second founding anniversary of Rabirashmi, an institution dedicated to the practice and teaching of Tagore's songs. Rabirashmi celebrated it by accoring a grand

Mahadeb Ghosh, the Director of Rabirashmi, said that he was exhilarated at having the opportunity to accord a grand reception to such a noted artiste. The reception was exceptionally grand. Sharafi was draped in a Sash and presented a large crest. Then began the flood of garlands. Well-wishers and Rabirashmi students one by one decked the grand man in garlands, almost drowning him beneath the pile of garlands.

Mahadeb Ghosh had to keep taking some of the garlands off to let every one get a chance to put their garland on Sharafi. A bemused Sharafi let each them have their chance and also posed for the cameras.

Two things he staunchly stuck to were his love for music and his love for Bangladesh. Sharafi has been recognised for his work and awarded many awards. Among these are the 'Ekushey Padak' in 1985, 'Nasiruddin Gold Medal' in 1988 and 'Shadhinata Padak' in 1999. He was awarded the 'Shubha Guhatakura Smriti Award' in 2000.

At the musical soiree the performers sat in two rows with a row of 'diyas' (oil lamps) in front of them. They began the session with 'Aguner Porash Mani.' The use of red and yellow lights on the stage and the sarees (white with orange borders) and punjabis (white with a splash of orange) they all adorned were all suggestive of the power and beauty of the glowing rays of the sun.

The singers also performed 'Koto Baro Bhabe Chiru,' 'Ami Chini Go Chini,' 'Jodi Tore Pakh Shune,' 'Praner Manush,' 'Ami Shudhu Roim Bak,' 'Amar More Jokhon Jagle Nare,' 'Nachamile Jare Pawan Jay' and many other popular numbers. Any one in the audience could see the brilliance of the performers as they sang number after number. Who knows, they might create a few stars tomorrow.

The show was anchored by Bhaskar Bandyopadhyay. Performers were members of Rabirashmi and Benuka Lalitkala Centre.

Kachi-Kanchar Mela had a significant role to play in both lathi

rebel all his life. Back in 1942 when he had just appeared for his matriculation exams, he was arrested for chairing 'anti-British' (Quit India) meeting. He had to spend over 15 months behind the bars for this. This was just the beginning of his rebellion against injustice. Interestingly, this rebel was an artiste at heart. He took quite an interest in music and acted in a handful of dramas of IFTA. As a matter of fact his passion for acting and music led him to neglect his studies and he dropped out of medical school after a year! Sharafi's life is full of adventure. After spending quite sometime with IFTA, he came to Dhaka and started singing on the radio. This 'Abak Prithib' earned him the wrath of the Pakistani secret forces and he was obliged to quit Dhaka. He then joined an American company in Chittagong. This was only the beginning of his juggling careers. He has served in various posts in several organisations since then.

After the deliberations of the guests the cultural function began with another interesting event. This time about 25 children of same height with different colourful dresses performed doll dance. They moved like dolls to the sound of the background music. This part of the dance performance was conducted by Rehana Pervin Runa for which she received applause from the audience present including Japanese and Norwegian students of Kachi-Kanchar Mela who also took part in another dance sequence.

Chorus recitation by ten

youngsters drew attention of the audience.

Speakers recalled the founder-director of this children organisation Rukanuzzaman Khan with due respect.

On the second day, the reputed artist of the country Rafiqunnabi drew paintings exhibition by the students of Shilpa Bitan of Kachi-Kanchar Mela. A large number of paintings were on display, including the ones that received awards. Shatadru Nandi's painting was one of the attractive inclusions. His proud parents were among the audience. Artist Rafiqunnabi gave away the prizes to successful budding artists. The entire premises of the mela was decorated and the programmes presented by the children of Kachi-Kanchar Mela in the '60s.

The last but the most attractive performance was a dance drama by Kachi-Kanchar students. They chose 'the struggle in life' as their theme, written and directed by Amanul Haque, one of country's

celebrated musicians.

The participation of the tiny tots from Japanese school was an added attraction. Ten of them presented Japanese song, which truly enchanted the audience. The theme of the song was 'Selka Jo no kodomotachi ga (children of the world).

Another attraction of the cultural programmes was the presentation of a song by renowned singer of the country Subir Nandi, who was associated with Srimongal Kachi-Kanchar Mela in the '60s.

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