

CULTURAL FEAST

Folk festival

Tuning into Baul songs



Baul artistes, (L-R) Ajmal Shah, Abdul Latif Shai, Pagla Bablu, Abdur Rahman Bayati, Alam Rahman and Nayan perform at the show

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

THERE was a time when rural Bangladesh would resonate with the beats of the dhol, the ektara and the mystical songs of the Bauls. The Bauls were a very colourful community, known for their wit, humour, nomadic lifestyle and mellifluous songs. Through their songs, the Bauls expressed their emotions, feelings, dreams and philosophy and also earned their livelihood. Today, this community is confronted with competition from the electronic media and is in danger of losing its charm. Against this setting what could be better to bid adieu to the past year and welcome the new year than a musical treat from these mystic singers? Pally Baul Samaj Ummayan Sangstha (PBSUS), an organisation that works hard to preserve and revive this Baul culture, organised a two-day long Baul Utshab to celebrate Chaitra Sangkranti and

the first day of Bangla year --Pahela Baishakh. The first day of the celebration kicked off on April 13, with a colourful rally by the Bauls. After the speech of noted folk researcher Dr Ashraf Siddique, the celebration premises at Engineer's Institute echoed with the mystic tunes of Baul songs presented by the Bauls from all over the country. Most of the Baul Sufis sang of life, love and universal fraternity, which continued till midnight. The second day began with the celebration to welcome the new year. The President of PBSUS Ferdoushi Nazma inaugurated a documentation CD of Baul songs featuring 50 mystical songs in mp3 format, which would help preserve these precious songs, said a hopeful Nazma. The event featured day-night programmes including rendition of various types of Baul songs such as devotional, Marfati, Murshidi and Lalon Geeti, discussions on

different aspects of the Baul cult, and the devotional chants of Bauls as well as fans of Baul songs. Around 70 Baul singers from distant places of the country and mainly from Kushtia's Lalon's Akhra (den) performed over two days. Popular names like Pagla Bablu, Akmal Shai Dayal, Baul Bimal, Abdul Latif Shai, Khorshed Alam, Samir Hossain, Ranjit Das, Mamata Das, Baur Rahima, Bilquis Banu and others enthralled the music buffs. Apart from music, an exhibition of rare Baul musical instruments featuring khamak, dotara, ektara, dhol, mandira and others also attracted the spectators. Earlier, because of lack of sponsors, the enormous expenditure of such big occasion had to be borne by the poor Bauls themselves. But this year PBSUS organised an event and presented clothes and musical instruments to 50 insolvent male and female Baul singers.

Baishakhi celebrations

A Baishakhi gala was held on April 14 at the Engineer Institute premises, says a press release. The event started off with a tribute to the victims of the unfortunate collapse of a factory building in Savar. Artiste Momtaz commenced the cultural programme and lured the audience with some of her popular songs, such as Banglaley gaan gai, Bukta faita jai and Amay udhashi banaiyya. Subsequently emerging artiste

Mila Islam performed a few songs. Comedian and actor Prince Alamgir entertained everyone with his jokes, followed by Alam and his group's dance recitals. Artiste Shandipon performed Shonabondhu tui amarey korli dewana along with a few other songs. Pantho Kanai rendered some of his popular songs, Orey neel dariya, Chumki cholechey eka pothey, Churi korecho amar monta.



Band artiste Hassan sings a catchy number

Artiste Pathik Nabi also performed a few of his songs. A major attraction at the event was a fashion show. The show featured attires made with locally woven fabrics. The clothes were provided by Palli Check, Karushaili and Karigar Boutique.

The event came to end with the band-artist Hassan's rendition of Ekaaki, Megh nai brishti nai, Lal bondhu and Ashay pashey moy-murubbi. The event was presented by Sanowara Group and coordinated by Universal Media.



Popular singer Momtaz performing at the event

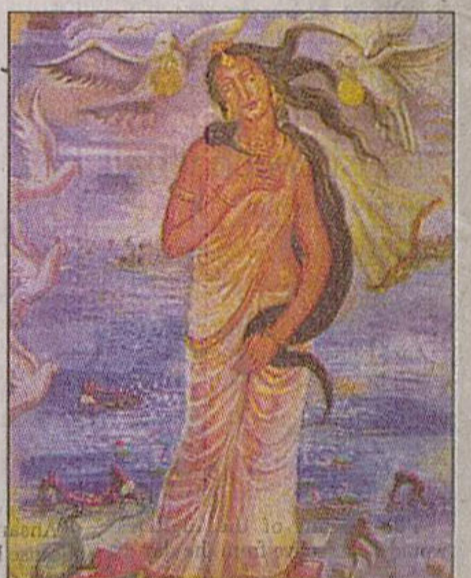
Exhibition

Scintillating rickshaw art

FAYZA HAQ

The superb exhibition on rickshaw painting, that opened at the Alliance Francaise recently, drew large crowds of viewers. The display combined the work of 10 rickshaw painters and 11 contemporary artists, who had participated in a workshop that had been arranged by Britto Arts Trust at the Alliance Francaise, Dhaka. What was amazing about the feat was that within a very short time excellent work had been organised and presented. Of course, the attempt had culled some of the cream of talent from the Fine Arts DU products and the rickshaw painters that The Daily Star had earlier displayed on this page. The experiment was undoubtedly a fresh presentation of what can be achieved if work can be done coolly and collectively. Moimuddin Khaled, a noted critic, explained the wonder of the achievement. He went into various details of the magnificent display. Khaled said, "Here the 20 artists have combined two different genres: the popular language of artists, who paint of the body of rickshaws and the one

from the Fine Arts Dept, DU. Both types of art present perspectives, combine compositions, and present wondrous works." The rickshaw paintings are flamboyant, whereas the works of the Fine Arts painters tend to be more muted. "They use icons," he said "like film actresses, or the Taj Mahal, combining it with various types of flora and fauna, presented in loud colours. These colours naturally attract the people when the rickshaw comes onto the road. The academic painters, on the other hand, present a 'language' as their teachers have used before them. It is normally realistic and representational. They do not combine the subject with various other ones in the manner that the rickshaw painters do. The proportions of the subjects are naturally more sophisticated and presented in a more subtle way. They will never present hunting scenes in the manner that the rickshaw artists do. They never use the 'pseudo perspective' which enables the rickshaw painters to let the viewer see so much in so little space. What dominates the display is the 'language' of the rickshaw artists. Thus



The Rebirth of Venus

Boticelli's Venus arising from the ocean has a new dimension in the exhibit. Thus the unique language of the rickshaw painters in Bangladesh, which differs from that of those found elsewhere in the subcontinent and the Far East -- which has a connection with miniature painting -- has been amalgamated with the talent of established Dhaka artists, such as Shishir Bhattacharya, Nisar Hossain and Tayeba Begum Lipi. The paintings have been done together, the 20 artists applying the brushstrokes in unison on to the space before them. They had decided between themselves as to who would do what before the workshop on rickshaw artists began. Alinoor, Tapan Das, DC Das and the other rickshaw painters spoke at length about the problems they faced while working on this project and their individual lives in general. Of the 11 contemporary artists -- which included Tarun Ghose, Nisar Hossain, Atia Islam Anne, Shishir Bhattacharya, Sulekha Chowdhury, Tayaba Begum Lipi and Mahbubur Rahman -- Lipi and Mahbub of the Britto Arts Trust -- expressed their sense of satisfaction with their current project.



Visitors at the exhibition

Fundraiser

Chondalika: A treat for Tagore fans

CULTURAL REPORTER

On April 18, Chondalika -- one of Rabindranath Tagore's later works -- will be staged at the National Theatre

within the Hindu society and the harmonising role of Gautam Buddha's teachings. The other element in the play is the relationship between Prokriti, a young girl from the untouchable class and Tagore's disciple Anondo. After many twists and turns, the conclusion sees the victory of Tagore's heroine. There is a subtle difference between the Buddhist legend and Tagore's drama. The former heralds the triumph of Buddha's teachings, in the latter, it is Prokriti's eternal love which gives her the courage to turn aside the monk, bewitched by her beauty -- through her mother's witchcraft. A talented team will stage Chondalika. There's Sharmila Bandyopadhyay as dance director, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonniya as music director, while the play is produced by Shadhona. Tickets are available at Jatra (Banani), Dolce Vita (Mirpur), Sagar Publishers (Bailey Road) and at Papyrus (Shahbagh).

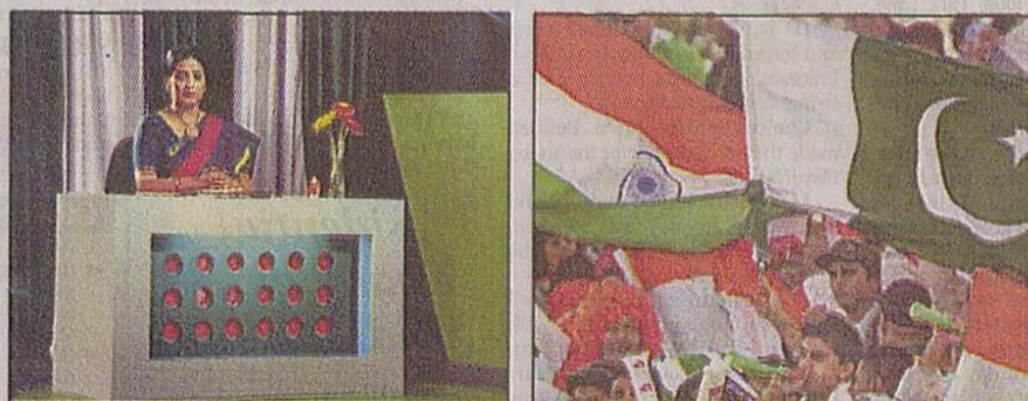
Stage at 7 pm. The dance-drama, is adapted from a Buddhist legend. The work touches on the sensitive issue of caste and untouchability



Sharmila Bandyopadhyay (L) and Lubna Marium in the dance-drama

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Medhabi On ntv at 9:40pm Quiz Show Hosted by Subarna Mustafa

India Vs Pakistan On BTV and DD Sports at 9:30am 6th ODI match Live from New Delhi, India

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm. News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm. News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm. Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. CHANNEL-i News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15am. Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm. News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. ntv News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. TARA BANGLA News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm. Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm. Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm. BBC WORLD Every hour on the hour

BTV 07:30 Shubhechha Nin 08:15 Programme From Archive 09:00 Satellite Programmes 09:30 Live Telecast of the ODI match between India and Pakistan 05:05 Selected Programme 05:45 News For Children 06:10 Geelanjali 06:35 Programme From Chittagong Centre 07:00 News Headlines, Share Market and Weather Forecast 07:05 Mali O Manush 07:30 My Three Sisters 08:25 Proidin Bangladesh 08:30 Drama Serial: Ekka 09:00 Drama Serial: Shonar Gaon 10:25 Takraf Theka Tetula 10:30 Abhibashi 11:00 Ei Shomoy 12:05 Satellite Programmes CHANNEL-i 09:45 Tibijo Matra 10:30 Tele Prescription 11:30 Hindoye Mati O Manush 12:00 TVC Sky Shop 12:30 Aj Dupurey O Citycell 10:05 Tarakobton 01:00 Ebong Cinema Gaan 01:25 Public Reaction 01:30 Shangbadpotey Bangladesh 01:35 Special Programme 03:50 Banglar Gaan 04:20 Nim In Life 04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma 05:30 FTC Business Talk 06:00 Music Plus 06:30 Flop Show 07:50 Special Programme

08:25 Rupkatha 09:35 Drama Serial: 69 10:00 Drama Serial: Shakti Kutum ATN BANGLA 10:30 Annodishti 11:05 Drama Serial: Ek Janomey 11:35 Cine Aha 12:15 Adibeshi Janapad 12:50 Smiriti Monikothay 02:30 Drama Serial: Ghunpoka 03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chhokhu Nai 04:25 Children's Programme 05:00 Musical Programme 05:45 Gram Ganer Khabor 05:45 Istemi Sawal O Jawab 06:25 Dokka 08:00 Danish Pothey Pothey 08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shabuj Opera 09:00 Drama Serial: Biboron 09:30 Drama Serial: Mohona 10:35 Business This Week 12:20 Bangla Feature film ntv 08:30 Aajker Shakal 09:05 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamela 09:20 Shanskriti Ei Shoptabo 10:05 Alankar 10:30 Gallery 11:00 Mon Amar Shandhan Kori 11:30 Ki Kolha Tahar Shalthey 12:05 American Cinema 01:05 Potrikar Khabor 01:30 TVC 02:25 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush 05:20 Anar Jigyasha 06:20 Shubho Shondhya

06:50 Ain O Jibon 08:15 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamela 08:50 Right Click 09:40 Medhabi 11:25 Dindarpan HBO 8:45 The Wild Thornberrys Movie 10:30 The Astronaut's Wife 12:45 Bugs 2:30 America's Sweethearts 4:30 The Sweetest Thing 6:15 The Glass House 8:30 Red Dragon 10:00 Body Shots 12:45 The Eighth Angel 2:30 Sudden Death STAR MOVIES 9:15 Hollywood One On One. 9:45 Born On The Fourth Of July 12:15 Johnny English 1:45 Psycho 3:30 Home Alone 4 5:55 Vertical Limit 7:00 Jeepers Creepers 2 8:45 In Hell 10:25 Psycho 12:05 J'Il Rips STAR GOLD 9:30 Dabur Red Gel 10:00 HumseDostKaroge 10:30 Kabhi Haan Kabhi Na 1:30 Dum 5:00 Maya

5:30 DIL HAI TUMHAARA 8:00 Alien 11:30 Zubeidaa STAR PLUS 1:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron 1:30 Mirch Masala 2:30 Bhai Ho To Aisi 6:30 Disney's Mickey Mouse Works 7:00 Mansuplami 7:30 Sesihihi...Koi Hai... 8:30 Bhoost 12:05 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet STAR WORLD 3:30 The Apprentice 4:30 Miss Match 5:30 Fashion TV 6:30 Baywatch Hawaii 7:30 Malcolm In The Middle

6:00 Kitchen Chemistry 6:30 Jelles 6:30 Wind Driven 7:00 Speed 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Intropol Investigates Shows 10:30 Night Safari Predator Bay 11:30 Diagnosis Unknown ANIMAL PLANET 11:30 Land of the Tiger 12:30 Unknown Seas 1:30 Growing Up Wild 2:00 Zig & Zag 2:30 The Snake Buster 2:30 Lyndal's Lifeline 3:30 The Natural World 4:30 Animal Planet Reveals Asia 5:30 The Most extreme Killer Cats 6:30 Animal Miracles Fire Bird 7:30 King of the Jungle 8:30 Girls Night In Cousins 9:30 The Natural World Cat Connection 10:30 Animal Planet Showcase 11:30 TV With Teeth Profiles of Nature NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 8:30 Violent Earth (Aka Death By...) 9:30 Dogs With Jobs 10:00 Dogs With Jobs 10:30 Backyard Science 10:45 Doc Eureka 11:00 Serious: Jungle 11:30 Backyard Science Highlights(R) 11:45 Doc Eureka 12:00 Serious: Jungle 12:30 Nal Geo Genus 1:00

1:30 Seconds From Disaster 2:30 Intropol Investigates 3:30 Intropol Investigates Air Crash Investigation S2 5:30 Intropol Investigates 6:30 Violent Earth (Aka Death By...) 7:30 Frontlines Of Construction 8:30 Frontlines Of Construction 9:30 Deep Jungle 10:30 Built For The Kill 11:30 Violent Earth (Aka Death By...) STAR SPORTS 8:30 The Golf Club (T) 9:00 Football Extra (L) 10:00 Super Centuries (R) 10:30 Asian Tour Weekly 2005 (R) 11:00 Asian Tour: Dynasty Cup Day Three(L) 2:00 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Fulham vs Manchester City 15:30 MotoGP World Championship 2005 Portugal 250cc(L); 500c

1:26 Sportscenter Sunday (T) 1:30 Spanish Football League 2004/05 (S) 3:30 Football Extra (T) 4:30 Masters Series Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo Monaco Semifinal #1 6:25 Sportscenter Weekend (T) 6:30 The Fa Cup - "Road To Glory" (L) 6:55 Fa Cup 2004/05 Newcastle United Vs Manchester United Semi-Final 2(L) 9:00 The Fa Cup - "Final Score" (L) 9:30 Classic Boxing Knockouts - Zarate Vs Zamora/ Hems Vs Cuevas/ Mancini Vs Chacon (T) 10:30 Uca College Cheerleading & Dance Division 1-A Hip Hop Orlando FL vs (R) 9:00 Masters Series Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo Monaco Semifinal #2 TEN SPORTS 8:00 World Rally 9:00 WWE Experience 9:30 Winning Post 10:30 India-Pakistan Unforgettable United Strongman Series 11:00 WWE Specials - WrestleMania XXI 3:30 Gillette World Sports 4:00 World Rally 5:00 Legends 5:00 WWE Heat 21:30 MotoGP: Grand Prix Rio - Jacarepagua 22:30 WWE Heat