# BAFA: Fifty Years of

MUSTAFA ZAMAN

At around 3:45, in the afternoon, Dhanmondi Kakoli School is vibrant with the chimes of ghunghur. Its source is the dance class of the first year (junior section) on the ground floor. More than eighty children, between five and six, are busy following the steps shown by their teachers, one male and another female. The classroom is far too small for such a large group of would-be dancers. But the teachers as well as the students seem impervious to the matter; they are too engrossed in the art. The male teacher AH Tapan has been teaching here for the last ten years. He himself finished his certificate course on classical dance in 1992 and three years later joined as the teacher of the same school.

Kakoli school is one of the two branches that the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) has opened up in the 1970s. As for Tapan he enjoys teaching little children. "I feel happy that I teach students are taking dance lessons for thr first time in their lives." Tapan testifies that today guardians are eager to see their children learn singing and dancing. "They are so eager that along with their children some of the guardians show up in white clothes, which is the prescribed dress for students. Parents are as enthusiastic as the children, and it helps in nurturing the young talents," says Tapan.

