Third Theatre Festival at Dhaka University

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Photos: Mumit M

As part of their academic curriculum, the students of the department of Drama and Music of Dhaka University regularly stages plays that not only prove the theatrical accomplishments of the students, but successfully add some outstanding productions to the theatre world of the country. In the last few years, theatre festivals by the department have been hailed with a lot of fervour by both the students and other theatre enthusiasts. The third central theatre festival of Dhaka University bears out the fact further. Organised centrally, the 10-day festival was held from November 8 to November 18.

One of the major attractions of the festival was a Jatrapala, with which the festival opened its curtain. The department recently included this ancient indigenous theatrical form in their curriculum. Before staging the Jatrapala, the honourable vice chancellor of Dhaka University, Dr. S M A Fayez, formally inaugurated the festival. Dr. Sirajul Islam Chowdhury was the chief guest of the event while Dr. A F M Yousuf Haider Choudhury, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Syed Abul Kalam Azad, treasurer, Dr. Sadrul Amin, Dean. Faculty of Arts, were present as special guests. Dr. Israfil Shaheen, Chairman, Department of Theatre and Music, presided over the inauguration.

"Shah Jahan", the Jatrapala was an adaptation of the Dwijendralal Roy Tragedy (1909) with the same title. The students worked almost for two months to adapt the style of a jatra. Eminent Jatra artistes including Jotsna Biswas, Sultan Selim, Rikta Sultana and Milan Kanti Dey instructed the students.

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