

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Art Exhibition

Title: 18th National Art Exhibition  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 24-June 12  
Time: 11-8pm (3-8pm on Fridays)



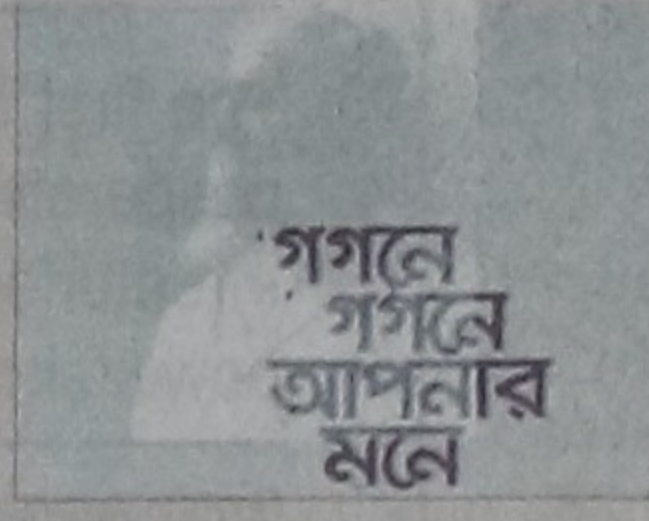
### Exhibition

Title: Sound of Weaving  
Organiser: Anjans  
Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattashali Gallery, National Museum  
Date: June 8-16



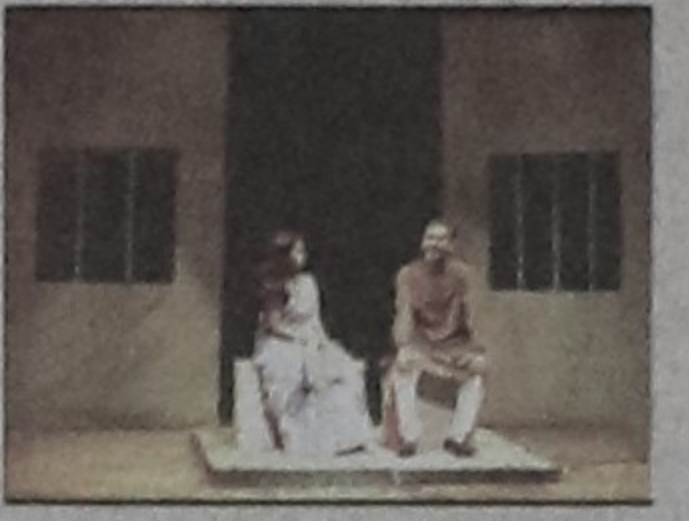
### Musical Soiree

Organiser: Dakkhini Rabindra Sangeetangan  
Venue: National Music & Dance Centre, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 13  
Time: 7pm



### Theatre

Plays: 'El Roud El Bristi' & 'Pichhu Dak'  
Troupe: Byabkram Natya Gosthi  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 11  
Time: 7pm onwards



## Mysticism unbound: Soulful folk songs take centre stage

JAMIL MAHMUD

The genre of traditional Bangla folk music is so opulent that a two or three-hour programme is nowhere near sufficient to demonstrate its depth. Nevertheless, folk music aficionados got a chance to immerse themselves into the realm of mysticism at an eventful musical programme at the auditorium of National Music and Dance Centre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on June 9. The Department of Production, BSA arranged the programme.

Through their thematic lyrics, set to soulful tunes, the bards of rural Bengal like Lalon, Radha Raman, Hason Raja, Bijoy Sarkar and many others propagated a discourse on the core human values. The relentless search is for an answer to a question as old as time, 'what is the purpose of human life?'

Soulful songs of the mystic bards took folk music lovers to a different world as the packed audience at Shilpakala seemingly enjoyed the programme. The programme featured a diverse range of folk songs rendered by a group of noted and talented artists.

The event started with a 'Bhawaiya' song, 'Oh ki oh mor shonar chan,' by a renowned singer of the genre, Nadira Begum. Upcoming singer Shafiu Alam Raja rendered another 'Bhawaiya,' 'Bondhu ki diya bandhichhen tomar hiya.'

Eight of the most recognised folk sub-genres -- two songs representing each -- were performed at the programme. Apart from 'Bhawaiya' the evening also included songs of Lalon, Radha Raman, Hason Raja and Bijoy Sarkar. 'Jalal Geeti,' 'Bhatiali.'

Bishwajit Roy and Jhuma Khandokar rendered songs of Radha Raman 'Amarey ashibar kotha koiya' and 'Karey dekhabo moner dukkho' respectively.

A bard from the greater Sylhet region and an ardent Vaishnav, Radha Raman's compositions beautifully articulate the love between Krishna and Radha.

Radha Raman's contemporary, another poet-lyricist from Sylhet, Hason Raja, enriched Bangla folk music with his signature compositions. At the programme, Jamaluddin Hasan Banna, a well known folk singer from Sylhet, and Akramul Islam rendered two of Hason Raja's songs 'Bala nachiya nachiya piyari jai re' and 'Kaley hanshey kaley matey.' The programme, however, noticeably missed out songs of Shah Abdul Karim, also from the Sylhet region, and known as the 'Baul Samrat' (King of Bauls).

Renowned folk singer Dilruba Khan rendered 'Poraner bondhu rey.' Legendary singer-composer Abdul Alim widely popularised the folk song genre by writing and rendering hundreds of songs. An Abdul Alim classic, 'Holudia pakhi,' was rendered by his son Zahir Alim at the programme.

Chandana Majumdar and Kiron Chandra Roy rendered songs of Bijoy Sarkar, 'Ki shapey kamraro amaye' and 'Du'din-er duniya-e musafir' respectively. Among others, Bipul Bhattacharya and Anima Mukti Gomez sang 'Jalal Geeti,' and Nurul Islam and Sardar Rahmatullah sang 'Bhatiali.'

The programme wrapped up with performances of 'Lalon Geeti.' Fakir Lalon Shai is arguably the most influential among the mystic bards of Bengal. At the programme, Abu Bakar Siddique rendered the Lalon number 'Aar amarey marish ney ma.' Lalon exponent Farida Parveen was the last to perform. When she hit the first notes of 'Shomoy geley shadhon hobey na,' accompanied with flute (played by Gazi Abdul Hakim) and nothing else, the audience seemingly reached that definitive moment of bliss. And they certainly went home with an impression of a higher realm.

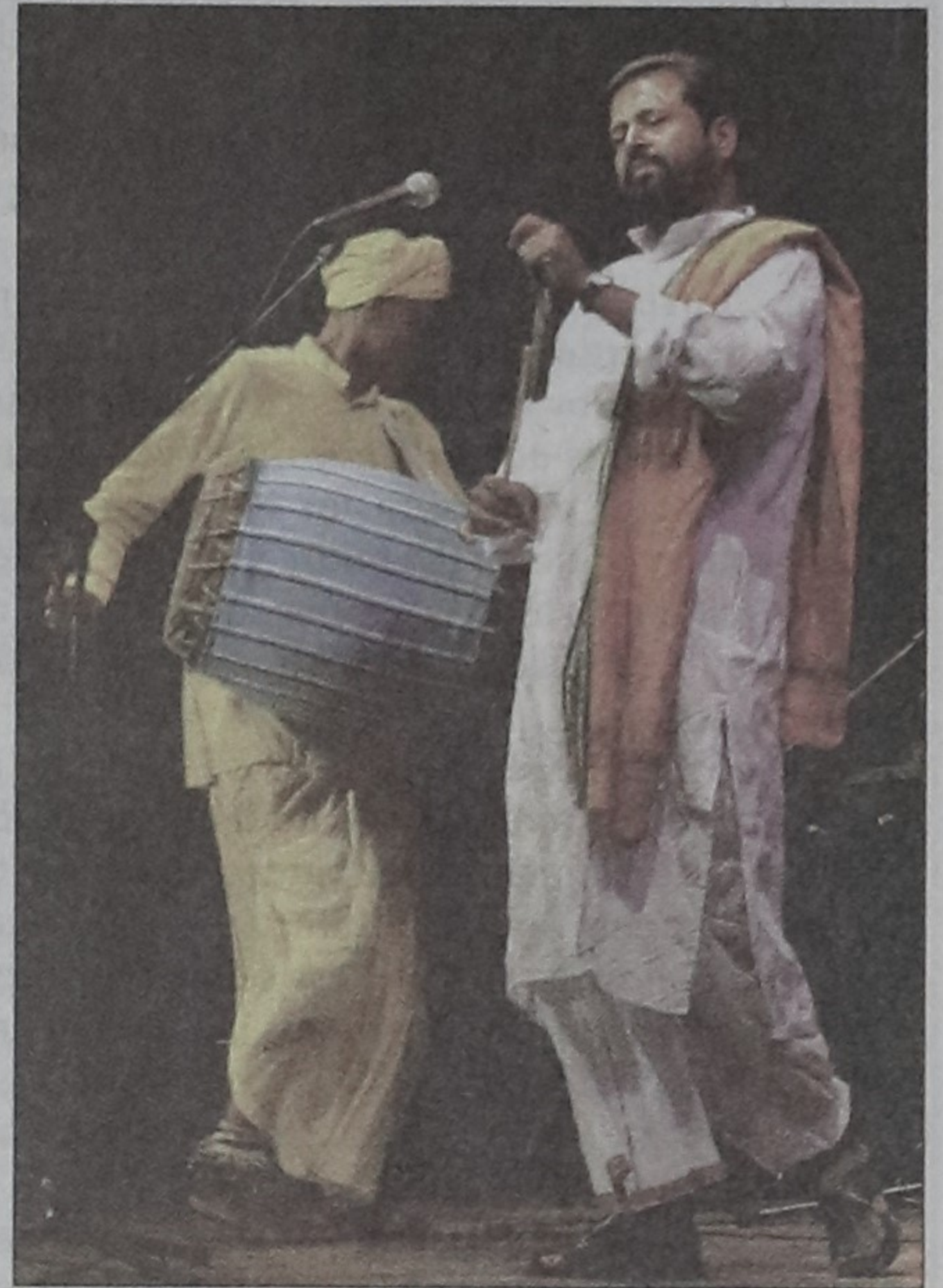
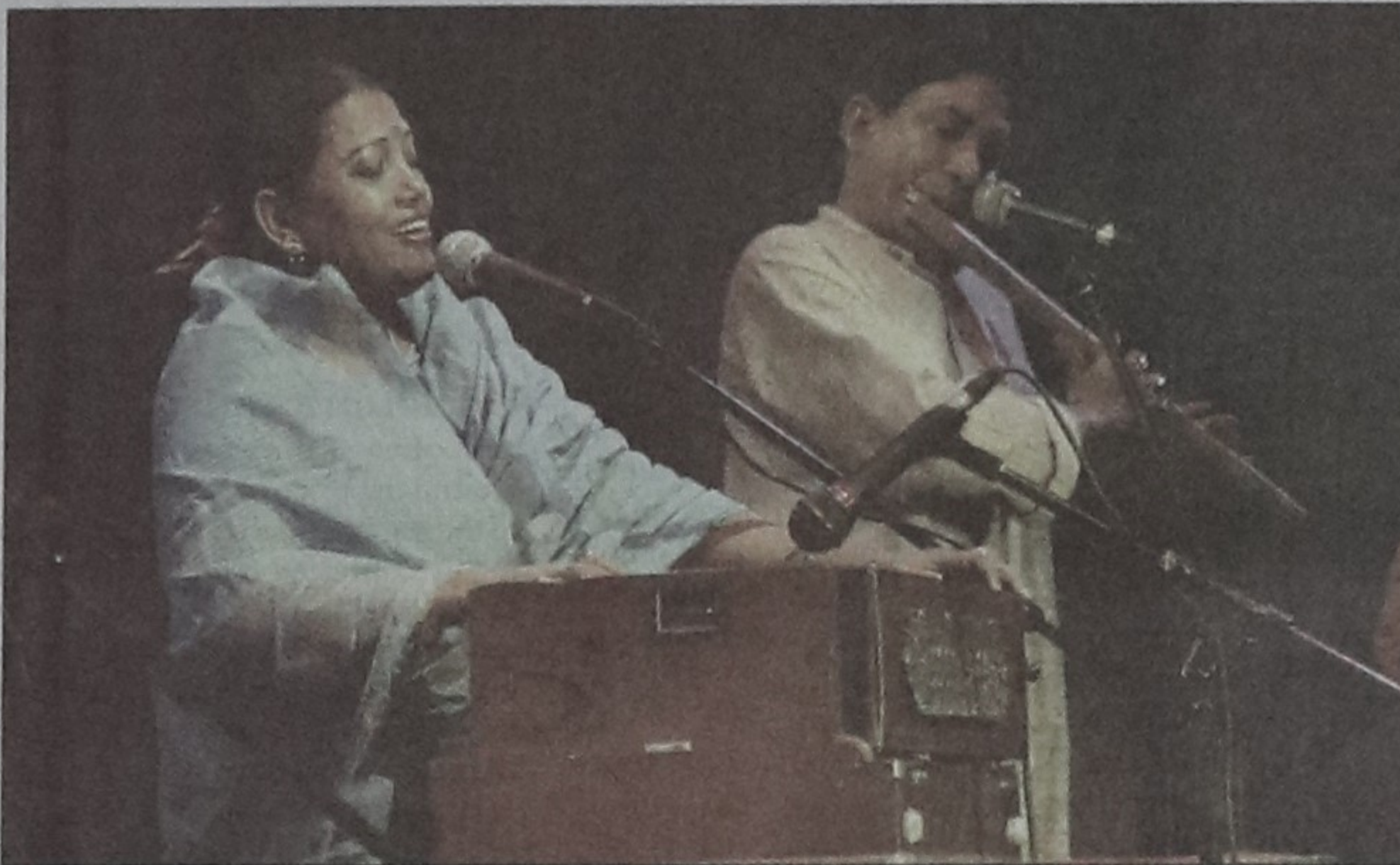


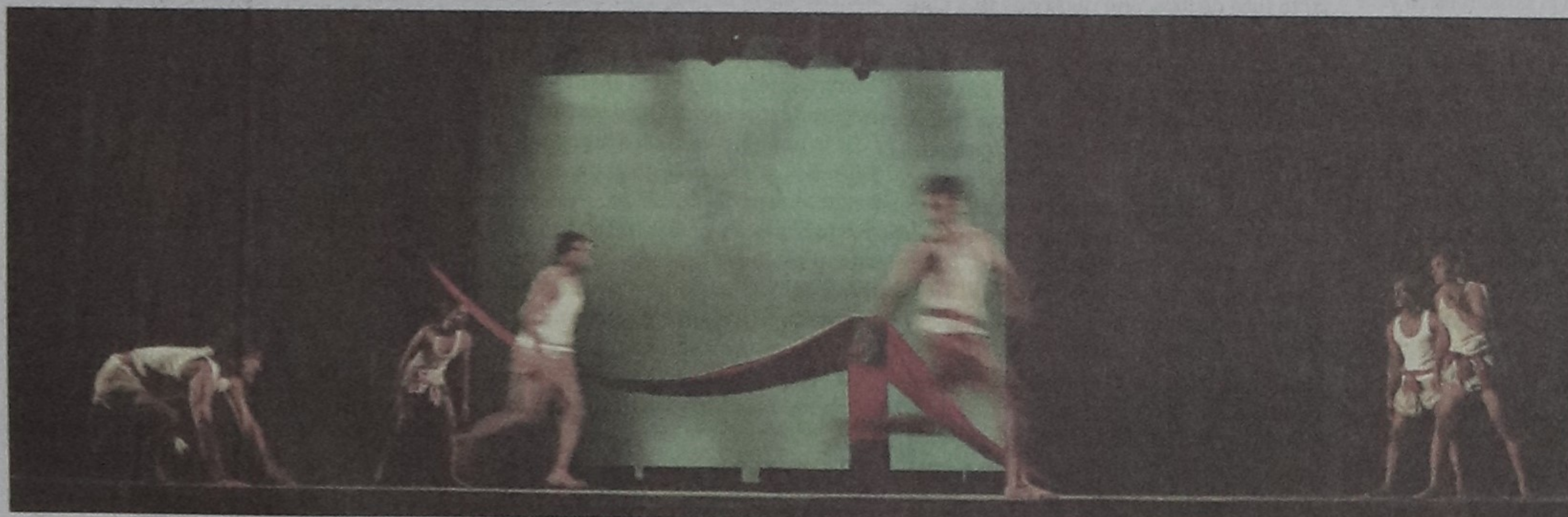
PHOTO: MUMIT M

(Clockwise from top-left) Artistes perform at the folk music soiree.

- Farida Parveen
- Kiron Chandra Roy
- Jamaluddin Hasan Banna

## Theatre school stages Abdullah Al Mamun's "Aaina-e Bondhur Mukh"

Certificate giving ceremony for the 19th batch



Students of Abdullah Al Mamun Theatre School stage "Aaina-e Bondhur Mukh" at the programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M



Cast of the production with State Minister for Housing and Public Works, Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan (1st row-left), Professor Kabir Chowdhury and Ramendu Majumdar.

NADIA SARWAT

Students of Abdullah Al Mamun Theatre School (previously, Theatre School), 19th batch, received their certificates at a programme held at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy recently. The event

included staging of "Aaina-e Bondhur Mukh" -- a play written by the late playwright-actor-director Abdullah Al Mamun -- by the students.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works, Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan, was present as the chief guest. National Professor and principal of Abdullah Al Mamun

Theatre School, Kabir Chowdhury, presided over the programme. Ramendu Majumdar, president of ITI and secretary of the school, also spoke on the occasion.

"This is the first time we are holding a certificate giving ceremony without Abdullah Al Mamun. This school was his dream project. In his

honour, we have renamed our school. Though the school is in its 20th year, financial restraints are relentless. We have taken an initiative to resolve this issue by asking enthusiastic citizens and organisations to lend a hand to our school," said Ramendu Majumdar in his speech. Professor Kabir Chowdhury,

too, mentioned the need of a permanent venue and a studio theatre for the school. Acknowledging the importance of cultural activities in social development, the state minister assured to look into the problems.

Set against the backdrop of the Liberation War, the play, "Aaina-e Bondhur Mukh," has been directed by Farhad Zaman Polish. A teacher of the school, Polish said, "I am privileged to have the opportunity to direct this Abdullah Al Mamun play. I consider him my 'guru.' Staying true to the intentions of the playwright and the characters, I took some liberty in my theatrical approach. If the audience appreciate it, I'd be very happy."

The cast included A.B.M. Barkatullah, Anwar Hossain, Sharif Hasan Chowdhury, Khushi Begum, Zinat Mahmuda Mohua, Golam Hakkani Rabbi and others. Set, costumes, light, music and management of the production were also done by the students.

## TV Watch

## Hyder Husyn on Rtv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular artiste Hyder Husyn is the guest on tonight's "Basudha Tomar Jonyo Amar E Gaan," a live music programme on Rtv. The show will be aired at 11pm tonight.

Talented singer Hyder Husyn became popular for songs he wrote and composed on social irregularities and other contemporary issues. He had also written a moving song on the Pikhana tragedy. On tonight's show, he will present some of his popular numbers such as "Swadhinata takey khu(n)jchhi," "Sarkari Officer," "Procharona," "Faishya



Hyder Husyn is tonight's guest on the show.

Gechhi" and more. He will also respond to audience requests. The show is produced by Tanif Mahmud.

## Talk show on Bangladeshi dance on ATN Bangla

Highlighting the topic, 'Bangladeshi dance,' ATN Bangla's regular show "Talk Chart" will be aired today at 2:30 pm. Noted Kathak dancer Munmun Ahmed and Manipuri dancer Tamanna Rahman are the guests on this episode of the show.

About the show, Munmun Ahmed said, "For this initiative to have a talk show on dance, 'Talk Chart' deserves appreciation." Tamanna Rahman expressed her contentment saying, "It

was a positive experience, talking about our work and pointing out the issues dancers face in our country."

Ahmed Kamrul Mizan, senior reporter of the Daily Inqilab, is one of the guests on the show. Seasoned dancer Laila Hasan has also participated through a telephone conversation.

Hosted and directed by musician-journalist Tanvir Tarek, "Talk Chart" is produced by Bilash Khan.



Munmun Ahmed (left) and Tamanna Rahman with the host of the show.