



Ushering in spring

Boshonto Utshab at Dhaka University

A CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "Esho Mili Praner Utshabey," members of Jatiyo Boshonto Udjapon Parishad ushered in *Pahela Falgun* (the first day of spring in the Bengali calendar) with an elaborate cultural programme at Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) premises yesterday.

Women, as well as adolescent and little girls wearing red, yellow, orange or saffron sari, and men in *panjabi* started arriving at Bakultala early morning. Though the city has not witnessed much crimson *Shimul* or *Palash* yet, marigold and roses were there to compensate. Here and there, students of FFA were painting bright designs on cheeks of children and eager revelers. As the crowd grew larger, the mood turned merrier.

Inspired by initiatives of iconic figures such as poet Shamsur Rahman, and Tagore exponent Wahidul Haque, Jatiyo Boshonto Utshab Parishad started celebrating *Pahela Falgun* in the city a decade ago. The celebration is open to all, uniting people from all sections of the society.

The daylong programme was divided into two segments. The first segment of the programme began at 6:45am with a classical dance over one of Priyanka Gope's classical records.

Spring was welcomed with a number of solo and choral renditions of Rabindra Sangeet and other songs by the artistes of Chhayanat, Swarsaptak, Dhruvotan, Surtirtha and other organisations. Noted Tagore artiste Mita Haque performed two solos amongst others. Bhaswar Banerjee, Shimul Mustafa and Kakoli recited

poems at the event.

Nritya Nandan, Nrityam, BAFA, Shadhona, Dhruvpad Kala Kendra, Spondon, Nataraj, Chhayanaut were the leading dance troupes to perform on the occasion. Manipuri *raas* dance captivated the hearts of many.

The convener of the festival, eminent media personality Aly Zaker and others spoke on the occasion.

The first half of the programme ended with a vibrant rally brought out from the FFA premises with a Tagore number "Rangiyee Diye Jao" by the artistes of Chhayanaut. The programme resumed in the afternoon. As part of the festival, Jatiyo Boshonto Utshab Parishad organised a programme at Rabindra Sarobar as well on the same day.

Banglalink sponsored the programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



Folk music festival at Chhayanaut

ZAHANGIR ALOM

With the advent of spring for the Bangla year 1416, the department of Folk Music of Chhayanaut Sangeet Bidayatan arranged their annual folk music festival on February 12 at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhavan.

The teachers, students and instrumentalists of Chhayanaut rendered selected songs of four great folk composers of Bengal -- Lalon, Shah Abdul Karim, Polli Kabi Jasimuddin and Bijoy Sarkar -- on the occasion.

The regular instrumentalists of Chhayanaut superbly backed the vocalists, while the stage, tastefully adorned, with shades and soft lights, created an apt ambience.

With her powerful vocals, Chandana Majumdar enthralled music lovers with a melancholic Lalon song "Amrito megher bari...re Chatok (skylark) swabhab na holey" that reminded one of the poem "To a Skylark"



A group rendition at the programme.

[of PB Shelley].

The event also included three choral renditions: "Amar ghar khana-e ke biraj korey" [Lalon]; "Agey ki shundor din kataitam" [Shah Abdul Karim] and "Janitey chai doyal tomar" [Bijoy Sarkar]. A group dance was performed with a Jasimuddin number "Amaye bhashali rey."

Among others, Bipul Bhattacharya, Shefali Begum, Biman Chandra Biswas, Narayan Chanadra Sheel and Tapon Majumdar performed "Tumi kar aaj ke ba tomar", "Amar har kala korlam rey", "Ami jarey bashi bhalo", and "Rongla baroi rey nanan ronger khela" and "Haat bandhibo pa bandhibo" respectively.

Apart from songs and dances, Azharun Nabi Rana and Bilkis Ahmed recited poems. Dashrath on dhol, Gautam Majumdar on tabla, Prodip Kumar Roy on mondira, Monir on banshi and Ratan on dotara provided instrumental support.

The curtains came down on the programme with a rendition of the National Anthem.