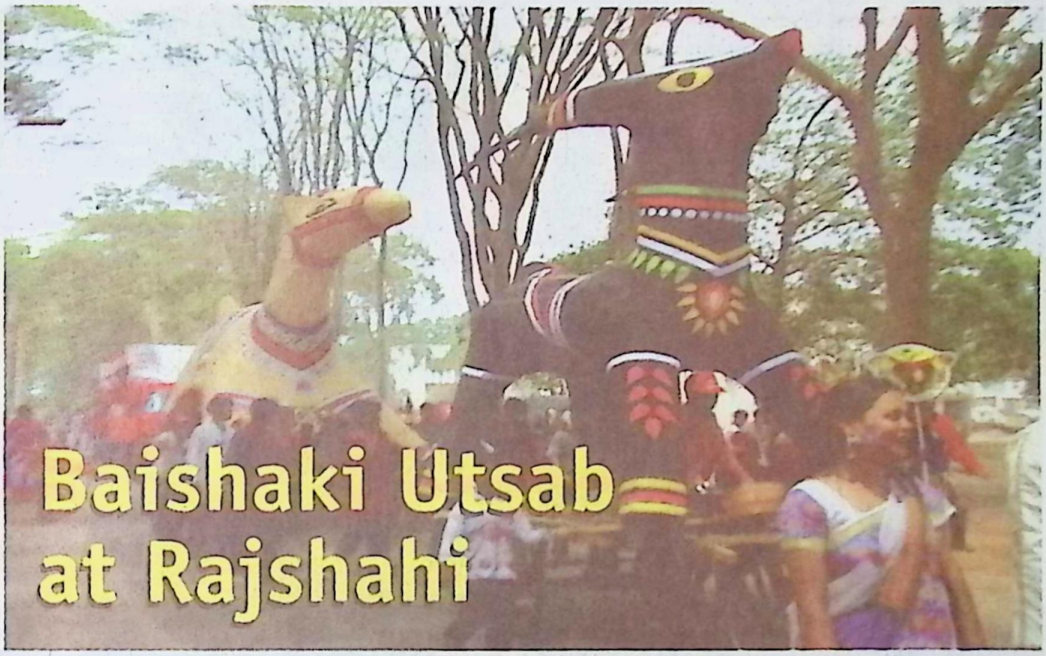


Baishaki Utsab at Rajshahi

Aurangazeb Sohel

PAHELA Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year-1417, was celebrated at Rajshahi with much fanfare. To mark the day various educational institutions like Rajshahi University (RU), Rajshahi College, Rajshahi Medical College, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET) and various socio-cultural organisations of organised colourful programmes.

The programmes included Baishakhi fair, musical soiree, colourful procession (Mongol Shobhajatra), with multi-coloured masks and traditional dresses; rendering folk songs and band music, discussion, art and painting competition, poem recitation, staging of dramas, cultural progammes and prize giving ceremony.

Students and teachers of the Department of Fine Arts brought out a colourful procession named Mongal Shobhajatra at 9 in the morning which paraded the entire campus, wearing masks and traditional dresses with songs including the Baisakhi song "Esho Hey Boisakh Esho Esho" ("Welcome Baisakh, welcome").

The department also arranged a three-day long Baishakhi fair and folk song festival including gambhira featuring popular rural culture in this region at the Charu Chattar on the campus with the cooperation of ROBI, the newly emerged brand of mobile phone. On the 3rd and final day, the fine arts department also organised a poem recitation and painting competition at the same venue. The three-day events ended with a gala cultural programme where noted artistes of the country participated.

Students of the Accounting and Information Systems (AIS), Philosophy, Public Administration, Anthropology, Law and Justice Sociology and Mass Communication and Journalism Department organised colorful rallies as well as stalls featuring rural culture, Pithpuli utsab and games of the countryside like Hadudo, Lathi Khela etc in front of the Rabindra Bhabon on the campus.

The Marketing department and its cultural organisation Bibarton jointly organised programmes including folk songs, band songs of D-Rock Star, discussion meeting with the aid of ROBI in front of Business Studies Faculty. An art competition among the students of different schools in Rajshahi was also organised to mark the occasion.

The Folklore, Political Science, Bangla, CSE, Social Work, Zoology and Botany departments arranged a Baishakhi stall and cultural programme on the campus celebrating the traditional event.

Group Of Liberal Debaters (GOLD), a debate organisation of RU, organised a Teacher-student humour debate on "Ei Campus Er Pran Chattrora Noi Sikkhokrai" at Dean's complex premises. Prof. M. Shahidullah, Chairman of English department was the moderator of the debate session. Prof. Azam Santonu, Moderator of GOLD opened the cover of annual souvenir "AURORA" after the debate session. The Socio-cultural organisations of RU also celebrated the day through series of programmes.

Biswa Sahitto Kendro arranged a two-day book