



*Jemni nachao
temni nachi
putuler ki dosh...*

I dance the way
You make me dance
How is the puppet to blame?

PUTUL NACH

Putul Nach (puppet show) is a traditional art form of the country and a very ancient form of theatre. A *putul* or puppet, made of bamboo or wood, is jointed for easy manipulation with strings attached to various parts of its body. The *nachiye* (puppeteer) has a wooden cup attached to his or her waistband in which the rod supporting the puppet rests. The puppetry troupe includes a lead singer, who usually plays the harmonium, and also musicians on clarinet, *dhol* (drum) and *kansi* (bell). They narrate mythological stories with dance (*nach*) of the puppets playing different characters.

These photos were taken at the Fine Arts faculty of Dhaka University during *Pahela Baishakh* celebration on April 14.

Photo: PALASH KHAN

