

## Three-day drama festival held at North Lakhimpur



Stills from the play '*Kamala Kunwarir Sadhu*' (left) & '*Laluksola*' at the drama festival

A three-day multilingual drama festival was held at the District Library auditorium in North Lakhimpur from February 23 to 25, 2021, which was organised by the Ramdhenu sub-committee of Asam Sahitya Sabha in association with Asom Natya Sanmilian and All Lakhimpur District Students' Union. The festival, dedicated to Asam Sahitya Sabha's founder president Padmanath Gohain Barua on the occasion of celebration of 150 years of his birth anniversary, was inaugurated by the Sabha president Dr Kuladhar Saikia in the evening on February 23. The inaugural play of the festival was '*Kamala Kunwarir Sadhu*' staged by the artists of 'Mukti' theatre troupe of Guwahati. It was written by Dr Paramananda Rajbongshi and directed by Manik Ahmed. The second play of the evening was 'Rangamancha' troupe's '*Laluksola*' written by Dr Kuladhar Saikia and directed by Upakul Bordoloi.

Two plays were also staged on the second evening. The first one was Padmanath Gohain Barua's legendary play '*Teton Tamuly*' directed by Bhupen Sarma and staged by the artists of Baan Theatre, Tezpur. A Mising language play '*Mullangou Yogmopow Ikang*' was staged in the same evening by the artists of 'Dumour' theatre troupe of Gogamukh. The play was written and directed by Dibakar Pegu. The concluding day was marked by the staging of three plays. Of these, the first one was a Rabha language play titled '*Aafe Tora*' written and directed by Sudarshan Rabha. The artists of 'Rontumuk' troupe staged the play. The second one was an Assamese play '*Moi Kon*' staged by 'Rangabhumi' troupe of North Lakhimpur. Written by Babul Bhuyan, the play was directed by Krishna Bhuyan. The third play of the evening was a Deuri language play '*Pikiti Kaal Aatigu*' written and directed by Dipak Deuri and staged by the artists of Adarsha Yuvak Sangha of Bihpuriya.

A series of seminars were also organised on the occasion. On the first day, Dr Sanjeev Sharma of Dispur College, Guwahati, spoke at length on the history of theatre with special reference to Assamese theatre tradition at a seminar held at the Lakhimpur Central College. Three other noted persons attended the seminar were the college principal Golap Sarma, playwright-director Nazim Ahmed and Asam Sahitya Sabha former vice president Dr Hemanta Kumar Barua. The Sabha general secretary Jadab Chandra Sharma was present on the occasion as the special guest. In the second session held in the afternoon on the same day, National Award winning singer-musician Torali Sarma spoke on theatre and music. Moderated by Dr Surajit Bhuyan, the session also saw Dr Sanjeev Kumar Sarma speaking on the Assamese theatre tradition. On the second day, several aspects of theatre were discussed in another seminar which was attended by Dr Kuladhar Saikia, Asom Natya Sanmilian president Kumar Deepak Das, Nazim Ahmed, Manik Ahmed and others. On the same day, Dr Kuladhar Saikia addressed an assembly of students at the Lakhimpur Girls' College.

Dr Upendtanjit Sarma of Dhubri College was the main speaker in the seminar held on the third day. Dr Sarma dwelt at length the innovative experimentation in modern theatre.