

Museum At Lalan Academy

The opening of a museum at the Lalan Academy at Kushtia is by itself an opportunity for the lovers of poetry and literature to study the works, minds and activities of the Bauls, including Lalan Shah, in an atmosphere congenial for the purpose. The works of the Bauls, like folklore, folk tales and songs, are an important component of the basis of our cultural heritage. Rooted in the soil, these relate the minstrels' inner yearning, hopes and aspirations, their thinking and action, their mystic struggle against their base desires and ultimate victory and spiritual achievement in a language common to all. It is the language that flows from their simple hearts. These precious jewels of our culture and tradition must be preserved, studied—and published both in the original and translation so as to enable the national and international scholars to understand them.

A good many words were spoken about the importance of these Baul works and about their preservation in the past. That was all. And thereby a great

many of these works are feared to have been on the verge of extinction. This, indeed, would be a great national loss. The museum at the Lalan Academy is a pragmatic step to save these valuable jewels of arts and culture. What is, however, urgently needed is to ensure its smooth functioning which depends on many things, including adequate funds. The government, as Mr. Abdul Huq, Minister for Land Revenue and Land Administration, has said the other day, will do its best for preservation of works of Lalan Shah and others. We would also expect the government to sanction necessary funds for the museum serving the purpose.

While developing, culture of a nation gets influenced by the cultures of other nations. But the Baul works, having grown and developed on the firm field of our national life, are quite distinct. They deserve special attention for preservation and study to help ourselves now and for ever know our own land and compatriots to enrich our national entity and identity.