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Cultural talent on display

'Bangladesh Night'

By ANN CERVENKA
Staff Writer

An exotic evening, far removed from any experiences at Texas A&M, will feature musicians and dancers from the East at "Bangladesh Night." The Bangladesh Association, Memorial Student Center International Programs and the Arts Council of Brazos Valley will present "Bangladesh Night" in Rudder Auditorium on Saturday at 7 p.m. "The evening is meant to represent some of the cultural talent that we have, and at the same time have a better understanding with the local community," Shafiq Khandoker, president of the Bangladesh Association, said. Bangladesh singers and dancers will perform traditional and popular pieces. One of the pieces "The Spring"

dance group from New York will perform is "Matrimony." This traditional dance depicts the wedding of two people who previously have never met. This type of traditional marriage still occurs in villages, Khandoker said. Another popular dance will be performed by Lina and Luna from Austin. "The Fisherman" dance is a romantic encounter between a fisherman and his wife, he said. Other performers include the pop group from Oklahoma, "Bengal Tiger," which symbolizes the royal tiger in Bangladesh. Also performing is the vocalist "Roksana Islam" of Texas A&M, who has appeared on numerous television programs from her native Bangladesh to Malaysia. Local residents will contribute by playing several eastern instruments.

These include the sorod, a plucked instrument originating nearly 2,000 years ago; the tabla, a pair of tuned drums; the harmonium, a wind instrument; and the bamboo flute. The Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United States, A.Z.M. Obedulla Khan will attend the festivities. Khan will tour the campus and meet with University President Frank Vandiver. He is also scheduled to speak about China for MSC Student Conference on National Affairs, Khandoker said. "We would like to see many students and residents of the community attend and enjoy the show," Khandoker said. Tickets are on sale for \$2, including refreshments, at the MSC Box Office in Rudder and in the MSC Main Lounge.

Budget

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from current spending instead of 26. The new money would come primarily from new and expanded fees proposed by Gov. Mark White, increased tuition at state colleges and universities, rededication of one cent of the state cigarette tax, and trimming the increase planned for the state's contributions to the teacher retirement fund. Speaker Gib Lewis, an LBB member, said he thought the proposal "had a great deal of merit but I'd like to study it a little further." White, who in the past has stopped short of adopting a general college tuition increase, said he "might support such a move provided there were guarantees that poor students would receive sufficient financial help." Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, said later she was "delighted they are recognizing that institutions of higher education cannot sustain a 26 percent cut. There's

just no way. I'm delighted we got other people's attention." The LBB approved in December a budget of \$35.8 billion from all funds that is now being considered by Senate and House committees. On Jan. 15, White presented his no-new-taxes budget of \$36.1 billion, an increase of \$320.8 million over the LBB document. Comptroller Bob Bullock's most recent revenue estimate was that the Legislature needed to find an additional \$1.1 billion if it wanted to finance state services at current levels. Hobby said the LBB was actually a "non-budget board" now since it technically went out of existence when it made its recommendations in December to the Senate and House. "Now we are faced with the prospect that future revenue estimates from the comptroller are more likely to go down than up," Hobby said. "It would be a terrible mistake at this time for the state to signal it was failing its higher education system." Briefly the proposed revenue increases proposed for the Senate and House would:

- Take one cent of the state cigarette tax intended for development of local parks and place into general revenue for a gain of \$36 million.
- Increase the amount of highway fees used to support the Department of Public Safety, without affecting the Highway Fund, \$60 million.
- Increase the amount of federal funds used in paying Medicaid claims at schools for the mentally retarded, \$40 million.
- Reduce the planned increase of the state's contribution to teachers retirement funds from 8.5 to 8 percent, \$86 million. The current state's contribution is 7.1 percent.
- Increase resident tuition fees at state colleges from \$4 per semester hour to \$8 in 1986 and \$12 in 1987 and double tuition for out-of-state and foreign students, \$120 million.
- Increased revenue from management audits of state lands, \$20 million.
- Adoption of White's proposal for new and expanded fees charged by state agencies and courts, \$147 million.

Survey: principals oppose testing

Associated Press
AUSTIN — A majority of elementary school administrators surveyed recently favor the state's new school reform law, but they don't think as highly of competency tests for teachers, sponsors of the poll said Wednesday. "They (teachers) are taking it rather personally," said Brad Dugan, executive director of the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. "They think they have made a

commitment to the children and to the community, and they have a level of professionalism which is of a very high standard," he said. "To ask them to come in and assume they are guilty before it's been proven, after they've been education leaders in the community, is personally rather insulting to them." The school reform law passed by a special legislative session last summer calls for competency testing of all public school teachers. Several

teachers' organizations are seeking to repeal the measure. At a news conference, the principals' group released its poll which showed that only 21.1 percent of the 1,216 elementary school administrators surveyed believed that competency tests can accurately measure teaching skills. The poll also found that just 21 percent thought a competency test would demonstrate that Texas schools provide a quality education.

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