

30th death anniversary of our National Poet observed

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 30th death anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Nazrul Institute arranged a three-day long programme from August 27-29 at the Kabibhaban auditorium.

A prize distribution ceremony for children's drawing competition was held on the first day of the programme. The second day saw the launching of 10 audio CDs (reproductions) featuring original versions of Nazrul songs. A discussion session and a cultural programme followed. Chief guest of the occasion, legendary singer Firoza Begum along with Nazrul exponents Asadul Haque and Sudhin Das and noted singer Rowshan Ara Mustafiz took part in the discussion. Dr Ashraf Siddiqi, chairperson, trustee board of Nazrul Institute presided over the function.

Firoza Begum shared her vast experience and struggle in the course of becoming a Nazrul singer. She congratulated Nazrul Institute for taking on the daunting task of collecting rare songs of the famous yesteryear singers and combining them into audio CDs. "Very soon we will have over



Nazrul artistes perform at the event

600 songs which would have been lost if not for the efforts of the institute," she concluded.

In the last leg of the programme, singers from the Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad enticed the audience with their melodious renditions. They commenced with two choral render-

ings-- *Khaybar joyee Ali Haider* and *Tolomol tolomol podobhore*. Later Badrunessa Dalia sang *Onek chilo bolar*, Ataur Rahman sang *Omon kore hashish na aar*, and Shireen Akhtar sang *Bolechiley tumi*. Besides them, Shamsad Begum, Bipasha, Mahbulul Alam, Chhonda Chakrabati, Shaheed

Kabir and Nasreen Jahan also took part.

On the last day of the programme on August 29, the Institute had arranged a discussion and cultural programme based on the documentary titled *Chottogram-e Nazrul*.

Fakir Bader Shah Upholding the tradition of Lalon's Akhra

ERSHAD KAMOL, back from Kushtia

In a large room adjacent to the Chhewria Lalon Dargah (shrine) in Kushtia district, now known as Lalon Academy Complex, live Fakir Bader Shah and his disciples--Fakirani Shona Bibi and Bader's son Kanu.

Fakir Abdul Gani Shah known as Bader Shah was the Khadem of Lalon's shrine. His mentor was Fakir Kokil Shah, whose mentor in turn was Fakir Bholai Shah. And the latter was the adopted son as well disciple of Fakir Lalon Shah.

Like most of the Lalon followers, Bader Shah's ancestors were weavers. Later he became a Lalon follower and subsequently gained Khilka Khelafat (the highest state of knowledge and sacredness; the cult believes that at this stage one is prepared to absorb the Lord in the soul) 50 years back. After gaining Khelafat, men wear white lungis and long white tunics while women wear white saris and are forbidden to bear children, though some may do so before gaining Khelafat.

Fakir Bader Shah said, "Being attracted to Fakir Lalon Shah's verses which are principles of Ohadianiat (the belief that glorifies human beings) I became a Lalon devotee. We believe that all human beings are equal, irrespective of caste and creed. I can render 200 Kalamas (Lalon songs). And I've heard from my guru that Fakir Lalon Shah composed over 1,000 Kalamas in Dehotatta, Nabilata and Shadhondeshar."

Even at the age of 101, the blind Fakir arranges Shadhushongha (where the Fakirs are entertained) at his house on Dolpumima (on the full-moon of Bangla month Phalgun) and on the first day of Bangla month of Kartik, the death anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shah. At these gatherings Fakirs perform religious rites and render Kalamas.

Why does he arrange *Shadhushongha* at his house? Fakir Bader Shah says, "Since the inception of Lalon Akhra

Complex, Lalon's Mazar has become a government property and the committee that runs the Complex is highly corrupt. And no Fakirs go there to celebrate *Dolpumima* or *Paheela Kartik*--two major celebrations of the cult--festivals. That's why I arrange the festivals near the field of my house."

Fakir Bader Shah has over 150 disciples. Fakirani Shona Bibi, who takes care of the seasoned Fakir, is the wife of Bader Shah's disciple.

Fakirani Shona Bibi said, "I've gained Khilka

Khelafat 10 years back. My husband has sent me here to take care of my guru." The other residence of the room Kanu, the youngest son of Fakir Bader Shah, said, "I've yet to gain Khelafat. I'm still in the learning process of becoming a true devotee of Lalon Shah."



Fakir Bader Shah and Fakirani Shona Bibi

PHOTO: STAR

Heritage Overlooked treasures of Shakhari Bazaar



Buildings featuring architectural styles of different eras in shambles

KARIM WAHEED

A visit to Shakhari Bazaar can be a treat for architecture enthusiasts. Actually, that would be an understatement; a visit to Shakhari Bazaar can enthuse people ranging from tourists to a generation of youngsters interested in our city's history and heritage.

It is however unfortunate that the historic buildings in Old Dhaka, specifically the ones in Shakhari Bazaar, boasting architectural finesse of different eras are reduced to rubble. In the name of urbanisation, things are rapidly changing but perhaps not in the best interest of the city.

Architects, archaeologists, urban planners, historians and cultural activists have repeatedly expressed their concern

in the preservation of these landmarks with little positive outcome.

Urban Study Group (USG), a voluntary organisation formed by a group of architects, has been campaigning for the conservation of Shakhari Bazaar. As part of the campaign, USG is holding an exhibition titled *Save Shakhari Bazaar* at Nolinikanta Bhotoshali Gallery, National Museum. Former chief advisor to caretaker government, Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman inaugurated the exhibition on August 27. Wolfgang Vollman, UNESCO representative in Bangladesh attended the event as special guest.

Architect Taimur Islam, team leader of USG said that the group has been working on this campaign for last two years. Apart from being one of the oldest surviving sections of Dhaka, Shakhari Bazaar is

home to the *Shakhari* community. The community is carrying on the ancestral tradition of *Shankha Shilpo* (craft of *shankha* or conch shell carving). Bangles made of conch shells with intricate designs, commonly referred to as *Shakha* are significantly important to religious Hindus. Shakhari Bazaar is still a centre of religious activities. Images of celebrations on Durga puja, Kaali puja and Janmashtami are featured at the exhibit.

USG has done a survey on the residents of Shakhari Bazaar. About 150 families are involved in the *Shankha* craft. Some families earn their living making musical instruments, paper craft or crafts using jute-straw or styrofoam sheet while some are *kumar* (artisans making clay figures) and goldsmiths. Collages at the exhibition feature images



of these craftsmen at work.

During much of late 18th and 19th century, the surrounding areas of the *moholla* (neighbourhood) formed the urban core of our city. Shakhari Bazaar was considered as one of the two most prestigious neighbourhoods of the city during that period.

Images of buildings in shambles, crisscrossed by electric wires highlight architectural features bearing styles of the bygone glory days. Mughal, late Mughal, Colonial and Raj -- different styles are noticeable in the designs. Exquisitely decorated Ionic and Corinthian columns, cornices, wooden louvers, cast-iron railings, wrought-iron joists, wooden panels and more are visual delights.

Apart from images, drawings of the architectural designs are also on display. The once thriving *shakhari* community are now being forced to change their ancestral profession due to lack of patronage and incentive. Access to raw material is also an issue. Conch shells were once imported from Calcutta. After Partition (1947) that stopped. Now the conch shells have to be imported directly from Sri Lanka and there is a ridiculously high tariff (32 percent) on the shells.

Taimur Islam points out, "The community as well the landmarks make this site significant to our city's heritage. Cities have restored historic venues and declared them as 'Heritage Sites'. Locations like these can generate international interest and give our tourism a much-needed boost and most importantly, provide our future generations with reasons to be proud of our city, one of the oldest in the subcontinent."

The exhibition ends today.

Talent hunt Final round of 'Bengal Bikash' to begin

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The talent hunt programme of Bengal Foundation, *Bengal Bikash* has reached its final phase. A total of 100 aspiring singers selected from the previous three rounds in five categories will participate in the finals.

The final phase of the five-day talent hunt will begin at the National Museum from September 2-5. The finals will begin on September 2 with Tagore songs, while competition on songs of three poets (Atul Prasad, DL Roy and Rajnikanta), songs of Nazrul,

folk songs and *adhunik gaan* will be held in the following days respectively. Fifteen singers, three from each of the five categories, will be announced as winners.

Bengal Foundation embarked on the talent hunt programme in May 2005 as part of its endeavour to uphold the traditional creative Bangla songs. Among 4,091 competitors, 100 have made it to the finals, competing in the three previous rounds over a year.

Winners of the finals will be announced on September 6.



A Bengal Bikash contestant performs

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.
Teletext of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm.
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 6:30pm, 11:30pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV
09:15 Satellite Broadcast
12:05 Shingbadpotrer Pata Theke
12:30 Maa O Shishur Kotha
01:00 Shukhi Poribar
01:30 Hijol Tomal
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 Childrens Programme
03:05 Cartoon
04:00 Esho Computer Shikhi
04:30 Quiz
05:05 Selected Programme
05:30 Cartoon
06:40 Sondha Maloti
07:00 Mati O Manush
07:30 Selected Programme
08:35 Protidin Bangladesh
08:45 Drama Serial: Shap Ludu
09:25 Drama Serial: Krantikali
10:25 Tetulia

CHANNEL-i
09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Trityyomatra
11:05 Sports Time (Live)
12:30 Aj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Selected Drama
04:05 Amader Gaan
04:25 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Talk Show on Citycell Music Award-2006
06:00 Music Club
06:20 Music Club
07:50 RC Travel On
08:20 Drama Serial: Klanto Shomoy
09:35 Talk Show: Aloy

10:00 Drama Serial: Bela Obelar Golpo
12:00 Grameenphone Ajker Shingbadpotro

ntv
08:35 Ajker Shokal
10:05 Colours
10:30 Galary
11:00 Circus Lights
12:05 Shurer Jolsha
01:00 Muktagon
02:35 Labonya Probha
03:15 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush
03:50 Drama Serial: Amader Anondo Bari
04:25 Tepantor Er Matthey
05:10 Ithasher Ei Dine / Din Dorpon
05:20 Apnar Jiggasha
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Talk Show: Ki Kotha Tahar Shathey Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe
09:10 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan
09:50 Drama Serial: Amader Anondobari
Din Dorpon

CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprovat Bangladesh
10:00 Cartoon
10:30 Bangla Feature Film Nongor
10:40 Drama Serial: Daar Kaak
10:40 Rupantorer Gulpo
04:30 Ekti Tara Duti Tara
05:15 Small Ville
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:30 Top News
06:45 Jonotar Ishtihar
07:00 Baker Pathay
08:15 Drama

PICK OF THE DAY

Nawab Faizunnisa
On Rtv at 09:20pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Faria Chowdhury, Gazi Rakayet

Man-made marvels Asia
On Discovery Channel at 10:30pm
Documentary on the massive skyscraper in Taipei

09:00 Drama Serial: Kanone Kushum Koli
09:30 Expression
11:00 Sports Star

Rtv
09:30 Talk Show: Ei mon
10:30 Char Deyal
12:05 Amar Desh
02:30 Shoto Proshno
03:40 Drama Serial: Raja Bhawal Shanyashi
04:20 Pranchi Ghera China
05:05 Praner Manush
05:30 Achhey Praney
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh
06:35 Drishwa Kalpo
08:00 Drama Serial: Raja Bhawal Shanyashi
08:50 Griho Shoili
09:20 Drama Serial: Nawab

09:00 Mera Naam Movie Contd. Movie
06:30 Music Mantra Music
07:00 Charbusters Music
07:30 Charbusters Music
08:00 Rishiton Ki Dor Drama
08:30 Kaisa Ye Pyar Hai Drama
09:00 Ek Ladki Anjani Si Drama
09:30 Aisa Des Hai Mera Drama
10:00 Thodi Khushi Thode Gham Drama
10:30 Pablie To Nazar Milao Drama
11:30 Pishiton Ki Dor Drama
12:00 Aisa Des Hai Mera Drama
12:00 Ek Ladki Anjani Si Drama
03:30 Matinee Movie - Johnny

10:45 Faizunnisa
10:50 Rtv Exclusive
Talk Show

Banglavision
10:00 Bangla Feature Film
02:30 Rashtro Bonam Eka
03:00 Music Rhythm
03:30 Drama Serial: Joba Kushum
04:00 Amader Atithi
04:30 Desher Pathay
05:00 Cartoon
05:30 Game Show
06:25 Dener Sheshe
08:10 Drama Serial: Gouro Chondrika
09:20 Media Bhuban
09:50 Hashuli Begumer Upokotha

SONY

09:00 V First Day First Show-Starplus
09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
10:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
11:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
11:30 Des Mein Nikla Hoga Chan
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:55 V First Day First Show-Starplus
01:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
02:00 Bhabhi
02:30 Kesar
03:00 Saarthi
03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
04:00 Kahiin To Hoga
04:30 Pyar Ke Do Naam
05:00 Prithviraj Chauhan
05:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
06:00 Mum Tum Aur Hum
06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:30 American Dragon: Jack Long
07:00 Buzz Light Year Of Starcommand
07:30 Hatim
08:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
08:30 Pyar Ke Do Naam
09:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
09:30 Viraasat
10:00 Karm Apna Apna
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kahiin To Hoga
12:00 K.Street Pali Hill.

06:30 Mera Naam Movie Contd. Movie
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12:00 Aisa Des Hai Mera Drama
12:00 Ek Ladki Anjani Si Drama
03:30 Matinee Movie - Johnny

STAR PLUS
08:30 Kyun Hota Hai Pyarr

HBO
10:30 Gothika

12:30 Dolores Clabome
02:45 Elf
04:45 New On the Big Screen in August
05:15 Beverly Hills Cop II
07:15 Catwoman
09:30 Romeo Must Die
11:45 Lethal Weapon 4
02:15 Gothika

STAR MOVIES
07:35 One Fine Day
09:25 Hollow Man
11:10 Miracle
01:25 Phantom Below
03:00 Welcome To Mooseport
04:50 Opening Night: The Devil Wears Prada
05:20 Elektra
07:00 Mr. 3000
08:45 Dr. Dolittle

STAR WORLD
08:30 Cheers
09:00 The Drew Carey Show
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 Rockstar: Supernova
11:00 Crisis Angel Mindfreak
11:30 One Tree Hill
12:30 Ghost Whisperer
01:30 Knight Rider
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:30 General Hospital
05:30 Monk
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Cheers
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 Rockstar: Supernova
09:30 Boston Legal
10:30 J.A.G.
11:30 Seinfeld
12:00 Friends

NATIONAL
10:30 Gothika

GEOGRAPHIC
09:00 Nat Geo Junior
10:30 Leopard Seal:Lords Of Ice
11:30 Is It Real?
12:30 From The Heart
01:00 5 Weddings & A Funeral
01:30 Free To Roam With Hutch
02:30 Totally Wild
03:30 No Borders
04:30 Nat Geo Junior
06:30 No Borders
07:30 Big Cat Challenge
08:30 Rwanda's Forgotten Tribe
09:30 Megastructures
10:30 No Borders
12:00 Fox City

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
08:30 Tiger Week
09:30 Sci Zone
10:30 Mythbusters
11:30 Risk Takers
12:30 Yummy Mummy
01:00 Runway Moms
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Detective Stories
03:30 Endurance
04:00 Real Kids, Real Adventures
04:30 Tiger Week
05:30 Mega Builders
06:30 Junkyard Wars
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Need for speed
09:30 Stunt Junkies
10:00 African Adventures
10:30 Man Made Marvels Asia
11:30 Scary Night: Demons