

Restoring endangered glory

Exhibition on urban conservation



One of the buildings used by Brahma Samaj

KARIM WAHEED

It is believed that a society that disregards its heritage loses its soul. Heritage is not just a record of the past; it's one of the key elements that shape up the urban identity -- at present and for future. Cities around the world have proven that conservation of heritage adds both economic and cultural value to the community. However, in most cases the reality is old historic sites are at risk of being destroyed in the name of modernisation and economic development. The process of preservation is a shared responsibility of government, proponents and members of a community.

These issues and more were discussed at the inauguration of the three-day exhibition, seminar and workshop held at British Council on March 15. The exhibition titled *Old but New, New but Old* -- jointly organised by British Council, Bangladesh and North South University (NSU) -- features one set of posters from UK and three sets from Bangladesh. The posters reveal the sharp contrast between urban conservation processes in the two countries.

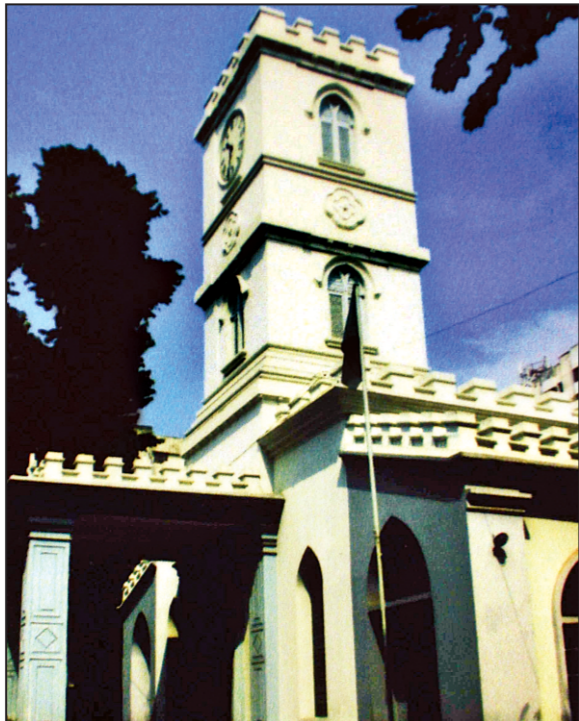
ABM Abdul Howk Chowdhury, secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs inaugurated the exhibition. Architect Mobashshar Hussein, president, Institute of Architects Bangladesh attended the event as the special guest. Richard Sunderland, acting director, British Council and Professor Mahbubur Rahman, chairman, Department of Architecture, NSU also spoke at the event.

The posters from UK highlight achievements in urban conservation powered by economic development, legislation and an overall encouraging atmosphere. Restoration implemented in neighbourhoods including Gateshead Quays, Birmingham's Bull Ring, Coin Street on London's South Bank and others are featured in the posters.

The Bangladeshi posters feature few of many historically significant sites and buildings that deserve to be conserved. The restoration, however, is being barred by lack of awareness

and expertise as well as economic reasons.

These posters -- prepared by students of NSU and volunteers of Urban Study Group as part of their studies -- feature



St. Thomas Church



A house in Old Dhaka desperately in need of restoration

three areas: Bahadur Shah Park (originally known as Victoria Park), Panamnagar in Sonargaon and Shankharibazar.

The posters provide history, existing plans, materials used, structural elements, details on designs and proposed restoration of edifices that have witnessed a century and in some cases more.

Photographs and accompanying text highlight the historic significance of buildings used by 'Brahmo Samaj'. The Brahmo movement in Dhaka started in the first half on 19th century. The progressive community introduced and operated several educational institutions and publications. The site, to the south of Jagannath University, initially housed a Brahmo school. Two small dilapidating bungalow type buildings now exist (a temple and a library). Continued misuse and pressures from developers now threaten their existence.

History of the Dafrin Hostel is quite intriguing. The Anglo-Persian branch of Mahsinia Madrassah, was established in 1906 and was converted into a school 10 years later. The school moved to its current location in 1945. During World War II, the building was used as Air Raid Protection Brigade Office. At present, Dafrin Muslim Hostel -- a small two-storied pavilion type structure built in Mughal style -- exists at the site. The building has four openings topped with multi-foiled arches, an extended cornice on dentils and parapet with floral motifs.

One of the oldest Anglican churches in the region (built in 1819) -- St. Thomas Church -- has also been featured. Inmates of Dhaka jail provided labour in the construction of the church that includes a clock tower over its west entrance. Delicate stone and brick works are still as immaculate as they have been for nearly two centuries. The church underwent an extensive renovation in 2005.

The exhibition can be a source of information and inspiration to students as well as history, archaeology and architecture enthusiasts. The joint endeavour by British Council and NSU is commendable.



National Theatre Festival '07

'Shundar Alir Pala': A tale of oppression

It is the misfortune of Bangladeshi peasants that despite producing crops, the harvests are logged at the houses of feudal lords. Over the decades, regardless of changes in the government, little changes have been made to the system that deprives proletariats of their rights.

Featuring a Union Parishad Chairman named Shundar Ali and his exploitation of the masses, Kamal Mahfuzul Hadi's play *Shundar Alir Kissa* brings to light a tale of oppression.

To serve their personal interests, feudal lords such as Shundar Ali interferes in each and every aspect of the proletariats and turns their lives to hell.

Shundar Alir Kissa, a Gobindaganj Theatre, Gaibandha production, was staged at the Experimental Theatre Stage on March 15. The show was held as part of the ongoing National Theatre Festival arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Through a chorus, director of the play Mohammad A Hannan lets the



A scene from Shundar Alir Pala

story unfold. Between the sequences the chorus appears on the stage and introduces a new scene. The tune of the chorus is highly influenced by *Bhawaiya*, a popular folk music genre of the northern part of the country. If the chorus is efficient during transition

of scenes, switching off the lights is unnecessary.

Biplab Datta's set is simple yet effective. Abdullah Hel Safi Talukdar as the lead singer of the chorus was impressive. Rest of the actors need to perform from the heart.

Script reading of 'Nimajjon'



Recital of Nimajjon

Acclaimed dramatist Selim Al Deen's play *Nimajjon* is yet to be staged. As part of the script reading course MA students of the Department of Drama and Dramatics, Jahangir-nagar University recite scripts of plays on the stage.

A recital of *Nimajjon* was held at the National Theatre Stage on March 15. Through voice modulation and music compositions students presented the fall of humanism featured in the play.

Nimajjon is a chronological history of genocides that have taken place, questioning whether we are rational beings or not. Genocides carried out by humans are the reason for civilisations being destroyed. And the repetition of these brutal incidents has moved human beings from the superior position.

BY ERSHAD KAMOL

CULTURAL FEAST

National Theatre Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
In association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Time: 7pm

Venue: National Theatre Stage

March 17

Desh Natok

Jonome Jonmantor

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall

March 17

Theatre (Arambag)

Bolod

The schedule is subject to change

Baha festival: A boost for indigenous culture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Thousands of Santals in Rajshahi began observing a three-day Baha (flower) festival at Sundorpur village of Kakonhat in Godagari upazila recently.

Danish Ambassador Einar Hebogaard Jensen extended his greetings to the organisers. His message, pledging expansion of collaboration with government to supplement development of the indigenous communities, was read at the inaugural session.

Eminent litterateur Professor Hasan Azizul Haque formally inaugurated the festival. In his speech, he called upon the indigenous communities to struggle for safeguarding their own culture and heritage. "There are close relations between Bengali and Adivasi cultures. However there is a need for

economic freedom."

Professor Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University and Moloy Kumar Bhounik of Rajshahi University attended as

special guests.

Santal Pargana leader Bishonath Tudu of Godagari upazila and Adivasi Unnayan Sangstha (AUS)



Song and dance during the Baha festival

executive director Bhagbot Tudu delivered welcome messages to thousands of Santals.

A paper on the cultural significance of the Baha festival was presented by a respected member of the Santal community, professor Albert Soren.

AUS, with assistance from OXFAM-GB and Manusher Jonne, organised the event.

The programme began amid dancing and singing accompanied by traditional drums and harmonium in the morning.

The Santal men and women went around houses and expressed greetings by throwing coloured water at each other.

A fair was organised at Sundorpur where weavers, cake makers and different NGOs had booked stalls for projecting indigenous lifestyle and history of their struggles.

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, 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.

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.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

CHANNEL 1
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm

RTV
News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk Show: Annyodrishti

11:05 Swapner

12:15 Muthophone

12:45 Shurer Madhuri

01:30 Shatidin

01:30 Nari

03:45 Shobar Jonno

04:20 Shesh Okhor

05:30 Grameenphone Nari

06:20 O Rajniti

06:20 Gondhoraj

08:00 Samsung Cine Aha

08:00 Mega Serial: The

08:40 New Sabuj Opera

08:40 Drama Serial: Laal

09:50 Neel Beguni

09:20 Mega Serial: Ek

09:50 Jonomey

Channel i

08:30 Shokaler Gaan

09:30 Shangbadpotre

09:30 Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Tritomatra

11:05 Na Bola Kotha

12:30 Citycell Taroka

01:05 Criticall Bishwa

01:30 Special

04:25 Shoter Shondhaney

05:30 Muktiudho Protidin

06:00 Talk show

06:20 Drama Serial: Shath

07:50 Goenda

Drama Serial:

09:35 Bhober Haat

10:00 Hridoye Mati O

10:00 Manush

12:00 Nishidho Bonobhumi

12:00 GrameenPhone

12:00 Ajker Shanbad Potro

ntv

06:50 Mon Amar Shondhan

07:30 Kori

08:15 Ranger Manush

09:50 Drama Serial:

10:30 Shanto Kutir

10:30 Somprodan

12:10 Urey Jay Bok Pokhi

12:10 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu

12:10 Gaan

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobhat

09:30 Bangladesh

10:00 Chokh Mele Dekhi

10:00 Magic Show

10:30 Bagan Bilash

11:00 Bangladesh: Ja Kichhu

12:05 Chai Ei Jiboney

12:05 Telefilm: Sholon

02:00 Olpo Sholpo Golpo

03:30 Parul Shomachar

05:15 Fusion for Baul

06:00 Saaj Bela

06:30 Top News

06:45 Mukti Judho

07:00 Shurela Lagan

08:15 Drama Serial:

09:00 Shurney Boshobash

09:30 Shondhi Khoney

09:30 Expression

BANGLAVISIO

N

10:10 Talkshow: Apnar Ki

11:10 Kichhu Bolar Achhey

11:40 Shomoy Oshomoy

12:40 Media Bhuban



ICC World Cup 2007

Bangladesh Vs India

On BTV at 7:15pm

Live from Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain, Trinidad

03:05 Durey	08:40 House 2	01:55 Dhoom	10:30 Aek Chabhi Hai
04:15 Drama Serial: Guest	10:20 Hard Target	02:00 Bolly V - Star Plus	11:30 Padoss Mein
05:00 Public Forum	10:20 Aviator, The	02:00 V Trailers - Star Plus	11:30 Thegreatindialaughterchampion2
05:00 Ebong Classer	09:00 Bolly V - Star Plus	02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus	
05:40 Bairey	09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus	02:30 Kalash	
05:40 Diner Sheshey	09:30 Saans	03:00 Kahaana Ghar Ghar Kii	
06:25 Music Moments	10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus	05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus	
08:15 Drama Serial:	10:30 Shararat	05:25 Bolly V - Star Plus	
Krishno Pokho	11:00 Akkad Bakkad	05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen	
Amar Ami	11:00 Bambeey Bo	06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends	
	11:30 Sonpari	07:00 Ducttales	
	12:00 Golu Ke Goggles	07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus	
	12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus	07:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	
	12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus	08:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay	
	12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus	08:30 Lucky	
	01:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron	09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan	
	07:00 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi	10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby	

PICK OF THE DAY



Amar Ami

On Banglavisation at 8:55pm

Talk show

Tonight's Guests: Ramendu Majumdar and Tropa Majumdar

06:00 Hope & Faith

06:30 The O.C.

07:30 Tna Xplosion

08:30 Desperate

Housewives

09:30 Grey's Anatomy

10:30 Heroes

11:30 Fashion House

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

09:30 Discovery Spotlight

11:30 Animal Camera

12:00 Amazing Baby Videos

12:30 African Adventures

01:00 Meerkat Manor

01:30 Wild Discovery

02:30 Million 2 One

3:00 Everything you need to know

3:30 How Do they do it

4:30 Wild Discovery

5:30 Beyond Tomorrow

6:30 Planet Earth

7:30 Wild Discovery

8:30 Discover India

9:30 Sacred India

10:30 How Do They Do It?

11:30 Planet Earth

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 The Kill Zone

10:30 Landslide

11:30 Monsoon

12:30 Sarno Slides

01:00 Boscastle Flood

01:30 Sri Lanka Tsunami

02:00 Brazil Hurricane

02:30 Monkey Business

03:00 Salt Water Crocodiles

03:30 Earth's Core

04:30 Winds Of Victory

05:00 Jassel, Ingrid, Hogan

05:30 Big Bang

06:00 Loggerhead & Green

06:30 Alpine Tsunami

07:30 Deadly Obsession

08:30 Mumbai

09:30 Delhi in Flames

10:30 Albuquerque Ballon

Crash

11:00 Plainfield III Tornado

11:30 The FBI

AXN

09:30 Ripley's Believe It Or

Not! (Season 2)

10:30 AXN Xtreme Macau

11:00 E Buzz

11:30 Guinness World

Records: Primetime