TALENTS GUILD

TALENTS GUILD - ENGLISH

Himayat Ali Shair honoured

INTERNATIONAL
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Editor-in-Chief Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman
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Wednesday, October 9, 1996

Prof. Nazeer Siddiqi

During the last few years one good literary tradition in Urdu literature is being followed by a better one. From the beginning of the current century most of the first-rate and second-rate Urdu magazines have been celebrating a number of distinguished writers by bringing out special numbers for them after their death. *Zamana* Allahabad, *Makhzan* Lahore, *Nigar* Lucknow, *Nuqush* Lahore, *Naya Daur* Karachi, *Afkar* Karachi, *Fun Aur Shakhsiat* Bombay, *Naya Daur* Lucknow, all these well-known Urdu magazines and many others have to their credit several special numbers in memory of established writers and poets.

Now almost all the magazines have started publishing Special Numbers in honour of the living writers. In Dubai where annual world *Moshaerus* are held every year, the Urdu audience have started celebrating *jushn* in honour of the popular poets by publishing grand and voluminous magazines on very fine art paper and rewarding the poets by presenting substantial amount of money as well.

In Pakistan there has been a social-cum-cultural organisation, namely Talents Guild, for more than 25 years. It has been serving arts and artists by promoting arts and helping the artists towards their recognition and appreciation. It was founded in 1974 in Karachi. The familiar newscaster of Pakistan Television, Zubairuddin, is the general secretary and Akhtar Adil is the programme organiser of this organisation which has held evenings with numerous artists of different fields and staged plays, the income of which has been presented to the artists or their widows. It has given awards to television artists and producers who worked in the dramatic serialisation of the famous novel *Khuda ki Basti* by Shaukat Siddiqi. It presented the famous actor Shahzad Raza for the first time as drama director; it held an evening with the popular artist Moeen Akhtar in 1975 when he was not at his zenith; it arranged a musical evening with the well-known singer Bashir Ahmed before he returned to Bangladesh. In short, this organisation has been rendering very valuable services.

some of the Pakistani poets, including Qateel Shefaee and Himayat Ali Shair, were invited on behalf of Prime Minister Nehru. It was on this occasion (1962) that the famous Indian educationist Khawaja Ghulamus Sayedain wrote a letter to Himayat to tell him that he looked a greater poet than his age. In short, Himayat has bagged a considerable number of awards and honours.

Introducing Talents Guild, Shafiquzzaman announced that the Guild proposes to compile a document every year on an important personality of the country which will cover his life. This document will be a voluminous magazine which will enable the intellectuals to know how a particular important personality managed to attain the stature and status he/she is enjoying. This magazine will aim at portraying what stages were crossed by a drop of water to become a pearl. To begin with, Talents Guild has selected Himayat Ali Shair.

In advanced countries these objectives are achieved by a continuing series of biographies and critical studies, one after another. Even collections of personal letters are published to throw light on the development of personality. I do not know and cannot speculate how many years a country like Pakistan will take to employ these techniques. In backward countries it is well-nigh impossible to write a good biography; critical study and objective evaluation of the work of a person offer no less difficulties. Publication of personal letters, reflecting human frailties, is considered obnoxious.

However, the Himayat Ali Shair number of *Shakhsiat* has attempted to scan Himayat's life from his birth to his present age. It tells us that his family name is Mir Himayat Ali while his literary name is Himayat Ali Shair. According to his matriculation certificate he was born on July 14, 1926, but according to his family in 1929 or 1930. He hails from Aurangabad, Deccan (India). He obtained his MA from Sindh University. He was married on February 14, 1949, and has four sons and four daughters. He taught at Sindh University from October 1977 to July 1986, and was appointed at Peking University in 1990 but due to ill heath could not join it. He wrote songs, dialogues and scenarios of numerous films. He produced the film *Lori* in 1966 and directed his film *Gurya* in 1973. He is a widely travelled writer. His travels include the US, Canada, Europe, Africa, China, Arab countries, India, Bangladesh and Mauritius.

Himayat has been publishing parts of his poetic autobiography in *Afkar* Karachi for the last about one year. Twelve parts of the autobiography have been included in this magazine. He is fond of literary experiments. Years ago when there was no talk of Japanese *Hico* in Urdu poetry, he composed what he calls *Sulasi* which resembles *Hico*, a Japanese form of poetry consisting of three lines. Similarly his poetic autobiography is an experiment in the art of autobiography which displays his classical command over poetry.

By virtue of his subjects Himayat is a modern poet belonging to the progressive tradition. His first collection of poems *Aag Main Phool* was reviewed by no less a progressive writer than Sajjad Zaheer. Similarly his second collection of poems *Mitti Ka Qurz* was reviewed, among others, by Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi. However, he has never been an orthodox progressive. He got his first volume of poetry reviewed even by Maulana Maherul Qadri, who belonged to Jamaat-e-Islami. This magazine includes impressions about his work by Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Raees Amrohwi, Mirza Adeeb, Ada Jaferi and others. Among his correspondents are Wajda Tabussum, Ahmad Faraz, Mustafa Zaidi, Saqi Farooqi, Prof. Rajender Singh Verma, Prof. Akber Rahmani and others. A selection of his letters has also been included. This magazine includes a large number of photographs as well. It brings to light almost all the salient features of Himayat's life. My congratulations on celebration of his 70th birthday in an enviable manner.

The latest performance of this admirable organisation is the presentation of a beautiful documentary magazine of 616 pages to the outstanding Urdu poet Himayat Ali Shair on the occasion of his 70th birthday. It is difficult to realise for many of us that one who looks so young and still handsome is 70 years old. God has been very kind to him. He was endowed with a very handsome personality and melodious voice, which helped him to be a first-rate *Moshaera* star. This is far from saying that his *Moshaera* success is only due to his charming voice.

Himayat has been many things combined in one. He is a poet, a prose writer, a story writer, a playwright, a research scholar, a critic, a journalist, an editor, a university teacher, a songwriter for films, a dialogue writer, a film-producer, a film director, a film actor, a broadcaster, a telecaster, a television-script writer, a radio-script writer and what not. By this time he has published five collections of poetry, two collections of critical prose, his 11 books of different subjects are under publication. His central position is that of a poet. Since 1959 he has won 15 awards in Pakistan, India and America, including the award of Lifelong Literary Achievement from Eastern Arts Forum 1994 by Mayor Peter Canto, New Jersey, USA, and Honorary Citizen of Boling Brook by Mayor Roger C. Clear, Chicago, USA.

Pandit Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India was not only a politician. He was also a man of letters, a distinguished writer in English and a lover of Urdu poetry because of his cultural background. He invited Faiz Ahmed Faiz more than once and heard his poems along with his cabinet colleagues. When an Indo-Pak *Moshaera* was held in his time,

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DAILY NEWS

Vol. 37, No. 131, Karachi, Monday, June 15, 1998, Safar-ul-Muzaffar 19, 1419, Price Rs.6.00

'Shakhsiyat' made Kamal's sorrows diminish

By Our Correspondent

KARACHI, June Some acts of others defy the pain already incurred on one's life and the same is the case with celebrated playwright, actor and director Kamal Ahmed Rizvi. The Talents Guild published an authentic volume of its journal 'Shaksiyat', which encompassed the multi-faceted personae of Rizvi, for the first time in print.

"Many of my sorrows have diminished after seeing Shaksiyat number featuring myself," Kamal Rizvi maintained at the launching of the same journal organised by Talents Guild on Friday. He said that the play which begun in his life must go on. "Drama begun in my life...I want it to be continued."

The veteran artiste, who has over 30 books to his credit, appeared very humble when said he was thinking whether he deserved that much appreciation or not. He apprised that most of his valuable works and blueprints were lost during flood in Lahore, however, whatever remained with him was extended to the compilers of the journal.

Kamal Rizvi said that theatre was his first love and he would wish to die doing the same. "Now the number of theatre-goers is getting thinner everyday. TV can be a time-killing medium but theatre purify your best sensibilities. But what to do, when doing a theatre play in a year do not leave you with enough money to spend the next year. People who bought tickets of my play for front rows even did not turn up. My heart is turned-off in a city where the return of the ticket-holders to the plays is uncertain," he added.

Rizvi also regretted that the PTV had erased his black and white episodes of all-time-in-demand TV serial 'Alif Noon' owing to the scarcity of video tapes but acknowledged Talents Guild for putting him together in Shaksiyat.

Critic and writer Farman Fatehpuri, who presided over the ceremony, declared Kamal Rizvi as 'wholesome dramatist' ever produced by Pakistan. He juxtaposed Kamal Rizvi with Shakespeare to conclude that both blended their experiences with experiments in drama. He was glad to note that the scattered traits of Rizvi's personae were strenuously embodied in the second volume of Shakhsiyat, which deserved due accolade from the critics. Actor Talat Hussain said that the materialism hit the 60s hard and the same was perfectly reflected in Kamal Rizvi's 'Alif Noon'. He said Rizvi's play 'Hum key thehrey ajnabi' was his ever best creation with a statement that extremely honest lot of people have been dying after making worldly compromises.

Playwright Hameed Kashmiri termed Kamal Rizvi a 'man of stage' who was thrown into the tube with 'Alif Noon' and 'king of phrases' who employed his own satirical phrases in the script with great command.

Station Director Radio Pakistan Karachi Qamar Ali Abbasi,TV-producer Mohsin Ali, Talents Guild's President Shafiq-uz-Zaman, Secretary Zubairuddin, playwright Sabeeh Mohsin, actor Shakeel, poets Raghib Muraddabadi, Himayat Ali Shair, Sharshar Siddiqui and Ali Nawaz Wafai also spoke on the occasion.

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President of Talents Guild, Shafiqur Zaman presenting a copy of the Guild's journal 'Shakhsiyat' to veteran television playwright Kamal Ahmed Rizvi a the launching ceremony held at a hotel on Friday. Dr Farman Fatehpuri an TV newscaster Zubair Ahmed are also seen in the picture. —The News phot

'Shakhsiyat' made Kamal's sorrows diminish

By our correspondent

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DAILY NEWS, JULY 5,1997

KARACHI COLOURS



by ZOHRA ASHRAF NOORWALA

An evening with Hameed Kashmiri



Hameed Kashmiri recounting his journey through world of letters and thanking his friends for honouring him.

The Talents Guild established in 1973, has to be commended for its contribution to the literary arts by honouring writers and poets of impressive stature in their lifetime and for encouraging budding talents as well. Recently, the Guild organised an evening with fans of the great playwright of TV serials and dramas and short story writer Hameed Kashmiri at the Arts Council auditorium. There, tributes were paid to this prolific writer of prose.

The function was presided over by Dr. Jameel Jalibi, ex-chairman of Karachi University and recipient of Sitara-e-Imtiaz and Sitara-e-Hilal. Dr. Jalibi reconstructed a verbal picture of the scenario at Hameed Kashmiri's bookshop on Elphinstone Street where all kinds of people came to buy or to talk about books they could not afford to buy. He spoke of the arrival of the young Hameed to the town with his love for literature but no one to guide him as to what to read and where to obtain the books. In his long, well worded discourse he traced his journey to his introduction to Radio and TV. Talat Hussain, who regretted he was not selected by producers to play in more than a mere few of his dramas, spoke of his professionalism and his honesty of purpose.

Dr. Professor Abul Khair Kashfi, the man who can speak for hours and yet hold his audience spell-bound by the magic of his silver tongue, paid the most glowing tributes to him and his ability to spin a story around imaginary characters that are extremely real. He attributed Hameed Kashmiri's character's true to life portraiture to his deep insight into human hearts and minds.

Akhlaque Ahmad, the writer and journalist, appreciated his dramas and short plays but wished he did not neglect the genre of short stories for which he had as natural a flair as for plays.

Others who eulogised him were writer Shahid Kazmi and producer Haider Imam.

As Hameed Saheb took the mike and his gentle voice floated to our ears, I could not help being impressed by him calm, reposeful manner. He spoke reminiscently of his childhood and his father, calling him a 'Mard-e-Mujahid", who rarely stayed home. He spoke of the tribulations of a childhood spent in need and his great yearning for what he knew not then. It was this search for the self and of course livelihood that brought him to Karachi.

Hameed Kashmiri thanked all his friends and well wishers for their appreciation and acknowledged the great support and patient forbearance with which his wife had always stood beside him in these words," Meray aagay tau boohat aurtay raheen, laikin meray peechay bus aik hi aurat mairi biwi hai". Hameed Kashmiri continues to write and entertain.

The auditorium which was packed to capacity included writers and poets Shakila Rafique, Auj-e-Kamal Raghib Muradabadi, TV artiste Kulsum Sultana, Dr. Zakia Zeba, Mr S.S. Jaffery, Naqqash Kazmi.



The audience at the

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Himayat Ali *Shair*: a visionary poet with deep commitment to human values

By Aftab Ahmad Khan

Himayat Ali Shair whose 70th birthday was celebrated on 14 July, 1996 is a multi-dimensional creative artist of Pakistan. He is a leading contemporary poet with a melodious voice and a charming personality. He has been a noted writer of plays and songs for Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television. He adorned the profession of journalism with distinction for a number of years. He was also distinguished Professor of Urdu literature in Sindh University, Hyderabad. He is the author of about two dozen published and unpublished books. He has received a number of literary awards in Pakistan and abroad. The three score and ten years of his life have been well spent and what Robert Browning said in his poem "In a Balcony" applies to him:

'I count life just a stuff
To try the soul's strength on'

Himayat Ali Shair is a committed poet. He says: "So long as poetry does not brighten the consciousness of history, it is like the glow-worm in the darkness". His poetry also reflects his profound love for humanity. Like Rousseau his message is: "Men be human; that is your first duty." In many of his poems there is a poetic protest against the cruelties, contradictions and iniquities of our age and he tries to 'harmonise the sadness of the world.' The idealist in him looks forward to a new international political and economic order free from war, hatred, exploitation and poverty. In some of his poems he raises meaningful questions about man's place in the universe and his ultimate destiny. Tennyson very aptly said in his well known poem, 'In Memoriam':

'There is more faith in honest doubt
Believe me, than in half the creeds'.

Himayat Ali intellectualises his emotions like the English metaphysical poets whom he resembles in some respects. His is the poetry of controlled passion. He quite often universalises his grief and mourns for the ills of humanity. He considers struggle essential for development. Life without struggle has no meaning. Life is one prolonged continuous effort. It is the ideal, not fulfillment, that gives zest to life. To quote Browning again:

'What I aspired to be
And was not, comforts me'.

As regards Himayat Ali's commitment to progressive human values, it has to be emphasised that no one was ever a great poet without some commitment to progressive human values, it has to be emphasised that no one was ever a great poet without some commitment. But basically he should be a poet as Himayat Ali Shair is and his ideological commitment takes care of itself. Unfortunately many progressive poets became ideologues first and poets afterwards and this degraded their art.



Here it brings me to another futile controversy between 'Art for Art's sake' and 'Art for Life's sake'. Art is for both. It is for art's sake in as much as it is an autonomous activity. Let us first make sure that it has no ulterior purpose and is the expression of the artist's own soul. If that soul is great and the expression adequate, it is bound to be for life's sake too. But if we start the other way about and try to make it for life's sake before making it for art's sake, it will be for neither; it will be no art. Art must be art first, before it is great or small. Art, most critics tell us, is meant to delight as well as to instruct. But it must delight before it instructs. If it does not delight, it is no art at all, however noble it's instruction.

Goethe was of the opinion that poetry should be unnoticeably didactic. "The reader must draw instruction from it himself, as he does from life... A work of art can have moral consequences, but to ask moral of an artist means to spoil his trade. "The poet comes in contact with life, has his experiences and, if there is any poetry in his soul, is inspired and is possessed, he speaks out. The value of his poetry depends on the quality of his experiences and the greatness of his soul, not on the ideology/philosophy that he has acquired and developed.

It is the great merit of Himayat Ali Shair that despite being possessed by a 'philosophy of history', he always maintains high poetic standards. His poetry not only instructs and intensifies our awareness of life in it's varied manifestations but also delights and moves us. T.S. Eliot has quite rightly observed: "If we are not moved, then it is, as poetry meaningless."

I would like to conclude by quoting Faiz Ahmed Faiz, the greatest Urdu poet of this century after Allama Iqbal, on Himayat Ali Shair's poetry:

"These days people are fond of breaking older traditions which is definitely a healthy sign; but to trample those very traditions is not good. Shair does not trample the traditions of the past." Faiz Ahmed Faiz further said: "Himayat Ali Shair writes with brevity. When he writes with brevity, it become rhetoric. A reader finds multi-faceted meaning within the framework of such brevity."

DAWN

Vol. XLIX No. 210 Karachi, Rabiul Awwal 23, 1417 Friday, August 9, 1996 54 PAGES Rs. 12.00

A function was recently held to honour Himayat Ali Shair

LITERARY ROUNDUP BY ARIEL

writing in Urdu, said that what distinguishes an Urdu writer — if he be a serious one — is that he is unable to sell his books — one after another in a row . What then? Rather he has to give away his books (more so if they are of the 'vanity' vintage) to his fans as soon as they keep on calling on him or, conversely, he happens to be on the socialising spree . The sole objective is that every one from amongst his clientele (backed up by purchasing power) should somehow have his prize book otherwise he would have to cut a sorry figure on the day of judgement.

On a separate note, our writers who have either turned seventy or are soon going to reach that charmed circle have every reason to be happy over the Talents Guild function in honour of Himayat Ali Shair. Himayat Ali Shair has been presented with a commemoration volume of *Shakhsiat's* well-produced publication — 618 pages— comprising everything which concerns Shair's life and literary career. Anwar Jabeen Qureshi has shown his class as editor. Well done Anwar Jabeen and well-done Shair for deserving this evening!

I have always enjoyed Shair's company and poetry. For long he didn't let us know that he was approaching sixty. It was only a few months back that someone told me that Shair was turning seventy. I laughed at this insinuation. Aali Bhai was quite used to treating Shair as his junior — by many years — got the shock of his life when Shair shared with him jocularly the news that he was about to turn seventy. Aali Bhai calculated and found out that he was still six months senior to Shair.

Shair has many collections of poetry to his credit — *Aag Mein Phool, Mitti Ka Qarz, Haroon Ki Aawaz, Harf Harf Roshni, Bengal Se Korea Tak* and an English translation of his long poem *Flowers in Flames.* He is the first writer of Urdu to introduce Shaikh Ayaz, perhaps the greatest living Sindhi poet, to the Urdu reading public. His friend Nikhat Barelvi has provided a good selection of Shair's poetry.

Shair's poetry has been eulogised by such great names as Baba-i-Urdu, Niaz Fatehpuri, Asar Lucknawi, Khwaja Ghulam-us-Saiyyidin, Prof Ehtasham Hussain, Makhdum Mohiuddin, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, etc. It is surprising that there is hardly any schism which has ignored him. Poets and writers of all schools of thought are unanimous in praising him and his poetry.

Born in Aurangabad (former Hyderabad Deccan and now Maharashtra), what has particularly struck me about Shair is the way he has faced life. I know that it was a very difficult road he had to traverse.

Father of eight children, each one of them a highly educated and well-placed member of the society, he appears at the age of seventy as if he is still the best friend of his children. Many a writer has disproved the familiar notion that writers are generally bohemian and obsessed only with their 'egos,' leaving all other things to chance.

Shair's commemorative volume (*Shakhsiat's Shair* Number) is so complete in every respect that it looks, God forbid, a memorial volume. Nothing has been left to chance, by the way.■

Daily Star

Monday, September 20, 2004



Talents Guild in collaboration with arts council organised a meeting to pay tribute to well-known artiste Syed Kamal. Inset: Nadeem speaks on the occasion. — STAR photos

TALENTS GUILD

The Leader
ONWARD WITH THE PEOPLE
FOUNDED BY FAKHR MATRI
The only independent english evening daily of Pakistan
KARACHI, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1996 RABI

HONOURING HIMAYAT ALI SHAIR

BY SABA EKRAM

TALENTS Guild, an organisation of local writers, launched a voluminous edition under the title "SHAKHSIYAT" which comprises articles on the renowned poet, Himayat Ali Shair's work and personality. The launching of the volume, was held at a local hotel to celebrate his 70th birthday and pay him tributes for his contributions to Urdu literature.

The introductory ceremony was chaired by the eminent poet, Jamiluddin Aali while the panel included Dr. Farman Fatehpuri, Prof. Sahar Ansari, Dr. Alia Imam, Qamar Ali Abbasi, Anwar Jabin Quraishi (compiler) nd Shafiq Zaman. Agha Masood Hussain performed the function of the master of ceremonies.


HIMAYAT ALI SHAIR

LITERAMA

The publication of 'Shakhsiyat' is a comendable act in view of the multi-diamensional calibre of Himayat Ali Shair. He is an accomplished poet and a noted critic and a dynaic literary figure of Karachi. He has also written for electronic media and is a competent compere and moderator.

Born on July 14, 1926 into a Syed family of Aurangabad, Andhra Pardesh, Himyat Ali Shair's real name is Mir Himayat Ali. He did masters in Urdu from Sindh University. He is a progressive critics. He is adept in all sorts of poetry. His grand vision has enabled him to give poetic rythm to whatever he has experienced in life and has observed in the social milieu.

Himayat Ali Shair is seriously concerned with the pursuit of social and economic truth. He has used thoughtful symbols in his poetry and has saved it from becoming nebulous. He is also known for his imagistic salasi (triplets), a new genre of Urdu poetry of which he is the pioneer. It is note-worthy that despite his being wedded to the progres- his literary career about four decades back when his first collection of verse, "Ghan Garaj" appeared. He then wrote a long poem, "Bengal Se Korea Tak" in the backdrop of Korea war. It was widely acclaimed and was rated as a masterpiece by the

and a successful meeting, but the performance of some of the speakers did go to prove that they had not done their home work. Some were jovial and evasive while Dr. Alia Imam deferred to talk about Hmiayat Ali Shair's person or poetry. However Dr Farman Fatehpuri and Prof. Sahar Ansari as usual were on the pulpit.

Jamiluddin Aali in his presidential address criticised the Government for it's discriminatory attitude towards



Karachi writers. He warned that the situation will further worsen in the Urban Sindh if the prejudice continued. Aaliji demanded of the concerned authorities to include the names of Himayat Ali Shair and Sahba Akhtar in the list of nominees for the 'Pride of Performance' award.

Poetic tributes were paid to the guest of honour by Raghib Muradabadi and Maqbool Naqsh

THE STAR

INSIDE COLOUR

Vol. XXXII No. 130 Regd. No. SS-021, Price Rs. 6.00, Pages 12, Karachi, Saturday, June 13, 199



Talents Guild celebrated its silver jubilee yesterday at Hotel Pearl Continental yesterday. The guild, on the occasion, printed a book featuring eminent playwright and comedian Mr Kamal Ahmed Rizvi. Picture shows the author Shafiquz Zaman presenting a copy of the book to Mr Kamal Ahmed Rizvi. Chief guest Dr Farman Fatehpuri and Mr Zubairuddin are also seen in the picture. STAR photo.

THE STAR

Vol. XXX No. 329 Regd. No. SS-021 Price Rs. 6.00 PAGES 6 Karachi, Monday, July 15, 1996 Safar 28, 1417



The 70th birhtday of poet Himayat Ali Shair (left) was celebrated at a function by Talents Guild at Avari Towers on Sunday. Picture above shows Poet Jamiluddin Aali presenting a gift to Himayat. — STAR photo

DAILY NEWS

Vol. 35, No.160, Karachi, Tuesday, July 16, 1996, Safar-ul-Muzaffar 29, 1417, Price Rs. 6.00



Prominent poet Jamiluddin Aali who was chief guest at the launching of 'Shakhsiat' a book on poet Himayat Ali Shair here yesterday, is being presented a copy of 'Shakhsiat'.

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS 15-7-96



KARACHI: The president of Talents Guild Shafiquz Zaman presenting a book compiled by Anwar Qureshi to Himayat Ali Shair on his 70th birthday. —The News photo

'City literati being ignored for Pride of Performance'

The News 11/07/199

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Prominent intellectual, columnist and poet, Jamil-ud-Din Aali, has strongly criticised the state functionaries at the Federal Capital "for deliberately ignoring the intellectuals and literary personalities of Karachi for the selection of Pride of Performance Award".

He was delivering presidential address at the launching ceremony of 'Shakhsiyat', organised by Talents Guild in honor of Himayat Ali Shaer on the occasion of his 70th birthday at a local hotel on Sunday.

Aali said that Karachiites had duly contributed their share in all walks of social, cultural and national life but the past as well as the present governments never admired their role and contributions. He specifically mentioned Sehba Akhtar and Himayat Ali Shaer in this regard.

He said that the government was earning major chunk of revenue from Karachi and spending the same on various national activities but unfortunately the authorities were completely ignoring Karachiites when it comes to the distribution of awards and laurels.

Aali said that the services of Himayat Ali Shaer in different fields of Fine Arts deserve all praises as he always served the nation as well as the literature with unshakable commitment.

Himayat Ali Shaer brought out 18 books, whereas 12 more books were in the process of making, Aali said by adding, Himayat Ali Shaer contributed immensely in the fields of films, radio, television and literature.

He asked the government to include the names of Himayat Ali Shaer and Sehba Akhtar in the list of next Pride of Performance nominations.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Farman Fatehpuri said that Himayat always spoke for the cause of oppressed masses and the mankind.

Sehr Ansari and Dr Aaliya Imam also spoke to the gathering, whereas the messages of Iftikhar Arif and Ilyas Rashidy were read on the occasion.

Raghib Muradabadi and Maqbool Naqsh paid poetic tribute to Himayat Ali Shaer.

Book published

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The Talents Guild has published a book on the personality and work of famous Urdu poet, Himayyat Ali Shair.The book compiled by Anwar Jabeen Qureshi will be launched on July 14 at 5 pm at Avari Hotel. Jameeluddin A'ali will preside over the meeting, whereas Dr Farman Fatehpuri, Ilyas Rashidi, Prof Sehar Ansari, Iftikhar Arif, Dr Alia Imam, Qamar Ali Abbasi, Shafiquz Zaman and Raghib Muradababdi are to speak.

INTERNATIONAL

THE NEWS

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PO Box 52
Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Kashmiri — a genuine writer who focuses on social issues

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Hamid Kashmiri is a genuine writer who mostly focuses on social issues because he is from among the common people and has seen nature closely.

This was stated by speakers while paying rich tributes to Kashmiri at an 'Evening with famous short story and drama writer — Hamid Kashmiri' organised by Talent Guild at Arts Council of Pakistan on Monday.

In his presidential address, Dr Jamil Jalibi said the characters introduced by Kashmiri in his stories were living characters who met him during the days when he was running a bookshop in Saddar. He requested Kashmiri to write a short story on Karachi to point out its pains and sorrows as he had known it for decades.

Dr Abul Khair Kashafi was of the view that Abdul Hamid, known as Hamid Kashmiri in the literary world, had done justice with all the three fields of literature — short story, novel and drama.

General Manager PTV Karachi Centre, Abdul Karim Baloch said Kashmiri had been writing TV dramas since 1967. "He wrote about 1,000 plays but each one is totally different which is a rare quality in a writer."

Kashmiri was born in Kashmiri Bansrah Gali, District Rawalpindi, on June 1, 1930. He married Khurshid Begum on July 8, 1958, and has three daughters and one son.

His short story collections 'Deewarain' and 'Sarhaddian', drama collections 'Coffee House' and 'Munto Adbi Adalat Main' and novels 'Kashkol', 'Adhore Khawab' and 'Shakist-e-Arzoo' are very popular with the literature lovers.

Kashmiri's TV drama 'Patjhar Kay Baad' won a special prize in the Munich Festival in 1973. 'Saibaan', 'Mera Naam Mango', 'Emergency Ward', 'Rozan-e-Zindan', 'Padash', 'Raang-e-Heena', 'Dosri Larki' are some of his TV series.

Kashmiri said he took up the pen as it did not kill people but evils.

Talat Hussain, Haider Imam Rizvi, Kazim Pasha, Yawar Mehdi, Shahid Kazmi, and President of Talent Guild Shafiq-uz-Zaman were the speakers. The event was attended by a large number of TV artistes and writers.

TG TALENTS GUILD
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Phone : 8117652

Ref. No. _____ Date 12/6/98

THE TIMES
OF KARACHI
Vol. NO. 126, Safar-ul-Muzaffar 16, A.H. Friday, June 12, 1998

Special number on Kamal Ahmad Rizvi

KARACHI: "Shaksiyat", a magazine of Talents Guild, is bringing out a special number on Kamal Ahmad Rizvi this year.

The playwright, actor and man of all seasons is being honoured by the magazine at he Avari Towers on Friday at 5 p.m. Friends, associates and admirers of the evergreen "Allan" will gather and speak about his personality and contribution. Amongst the speakers are Senator Jamiluddin Aalik, Farman Fatehpuri, Hameed Kashmiri, Talat Hussain and Shakeel.

Khaleej Times, Tuesday, April 8, 1997 V

Features PLUS

A POET'S PRISM

HIMAYAT Ali Shair is one of the finest contemporary Urdu poets who is widely respected for his myriad roles as a poet, broadcaster, filmmaker and teacher. Karachi's Talents Guild has devoted the maiden issue of *Shakhsiyat* (personalities) to highlight his contribution to literature and media. The 618-page magazine was presented to Shair at a ceremony in Karachi to mark his 70th anniversary.

Born in 1926 in Aurangabad, Andhra, Shair made his mark as a poet at an early age but he had to follow a tortuous road to success, making use of every ounce of his creative energy to hit the big time. His chequered career reflects his flirtations with all professions that could in some way satisfy his literary passion. He served the radio, edited magazines, produced films, hosted TV shows and finally retired as a university teacher. But even in his retirement he seems to be more active than many working writers. If he is not working on any project he is invariably globe-trotting to hoist the flag of Urdu poetry in the remotest parts of the world, thanks to the spreading cult of international Urdu mushairas in the Middle East, Europe, America and Africa.

As a poet, Shair has notched up a distinguished place in Urdu poetry for himself by virtue of his contemplative nature and verses pregnant with philosophical ideas. His ghazal is thought-provoking and his poems reflect his penchant for meditation that has added *ghambeerta* (profundity) to his works in the words of Makhdoom Mohiuddin, the renowned revolutionary poet from Andhra. His verses, according to Dr Syed Abdullah, not only raise questions but also provide answers to them. Shair has produced four collections of verses — *Aag Mein Phool, Mitti Ka Qarz, Tishnagi Ka Safar* and an anthology *Harf, Harf Raushni*. Two of these books, *Mitti Ka Qarz* and *Haroon Ki Awaaz*, won awards from the Pakistan Writers Guild and the Pakistan Academy of Letters. In all, Shair has bagged 14 prizes and honours for his works. Twice he won the Best Song Writer Award from a presitigious film weekly during his stint in the film world. A long poem, *Bengal Sey Korea Tak*, and his innovative three-liners *Sulasian*, are considered a significant contribution to Urdu poetry. One of his popular triplets is reproduced here.



پتھر

یہ ایک پتھر جو راستے میں پڑا ہوا ہے
اسے محبت سنوار دے تو یہی صنم ہے
اسے عقیدت تراش لے تو یہی خدا ہے

A stone straddling the path reflects the image of
the beloved if seen through the eyes of a lover; and
turns into an idol if stumbled on by a worshipper

SHAKHSIYAT: HIMAYAT ALI SHAIR NUMBER
Chief Editor: *Shafiq-uz-Zaman*
Compiled by: *Anwar Jabeen Qureshi*
Published by: *Talents Guild, Karachi*
Price: *Rs 300*

Currently Shair is composing his autobiography in verse which is regulary being serialised by a Karachi literary magazine, *Afkar*. His works have been translated into English, Hindi, Sindhi and Telgu. He is a serious researcher too and occasionally takes time off from poetry to try his hand at prose to make his point on some important literary issues. These articles have also found way into a number of books. His research work on the history of *Naatia Urdu Poetry* (poems in praise of the Holy Prophet), protest verses and Sindhi poets have served as a fountainhead for a number of famous TV programmes such as *Aqidat Ka Safar, Ghazal Us Ne Chhedi, Muhabbatton Key Safeer*, etc.

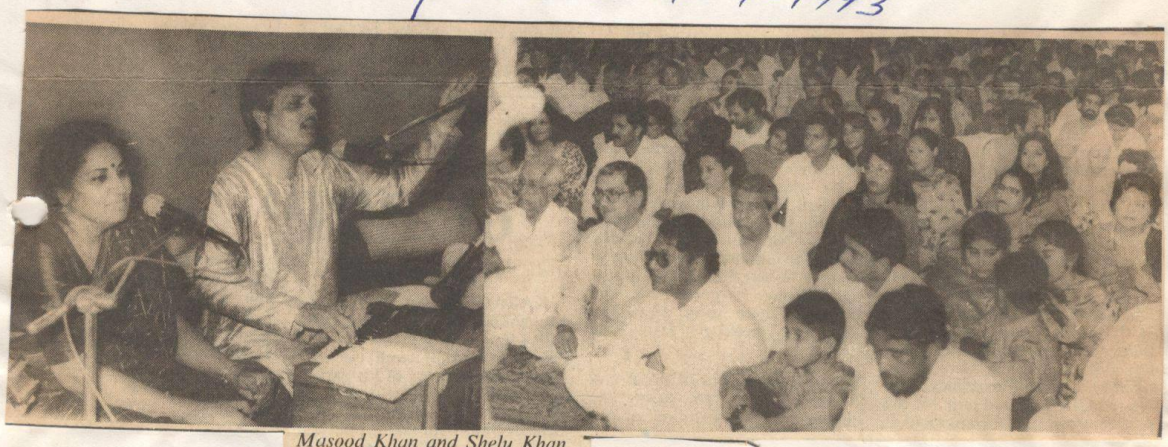
Shakhsiyat's Shair Number has provided us a prism to observe all colours of his personality. The magazine contains comprehensive information about the poet's life and works in the form of interviews, letters, experts' comments and literary articles by some of stalwarts of Urdu poetry and literature. An anthology of his significant works, a section devoted to pictures depicting the various phases of his life, and a number of English language articles immensely contribute to the understanding of Shair's poetry and personality. The magazine is a gift for researchers and those interested in studying the growth of Urdu poetry in Pakistan since 1947.

Writing with the flute

URDUNAMA

NAJMUL HASAN RIZVI

Daily News 19-4-1993



Masood Khan and Shelu Khan enthralling the audience in Mehfil with their Ghazal at the Arts Council on behalf of Talents Guild. The chief guest Mr Amir Khan and Shafiuz Zaman are seen sitting in the front row.

BOOKS & AUTHORS, DAWN, July 24, 2001

Reviewer's choice

Hasan Abidi reviews in brief new titles from a broad spectrum of recent publications

HAMEED Kashmiri is a well known story writer, who is also popular for his serial dramas on the television. Admired for his talents in Pakistan and abroad, he was the recipient of a coveted award at a Dubai literary moot recently. This special number covers the person and art of Hameed Kashmiri.

The special number focuses on the writer's many qualities, and includes essays written by noted writers, mostly his admirers. Some of his TV plays are also found in these pages. A short story by the master writer, late Ghulam Abbas, *Bhanver* and its televised version by Hameed Kashmiri, add to the readability of this special number, apart from his interview recorded by Jamal Naqvi.

The compiler, Shafeequzzaman, had earlier compiled two such numbers, one on the senior poet, Hemayat Ali Shaer and the other on writer/actor, Kamal Ahmad Rizvi. The sheer volume of all these special numbers, coloured title covers and the material contained in these speak a lot about the talent of the compiler as well.

Shakhsiat: Hameed Kashmiri number
Compiled by Shafeequz-Zaman
Published by Talents Guild
11-C, Commercial Lane I,
D.H.A. Phase VI, Karachi-75500
480pp. Price not listed

TALENTS GUILD

Vol. XIV No. 16, April 22 - 28, 1993

The Weekly

KARACHI DIARY

By AYUB JAN SARHANDI



Singers Masood Khan and Shelu Khan performing at the Mehfil-e-ghazal held at Arts Council by Talents Guild last week.

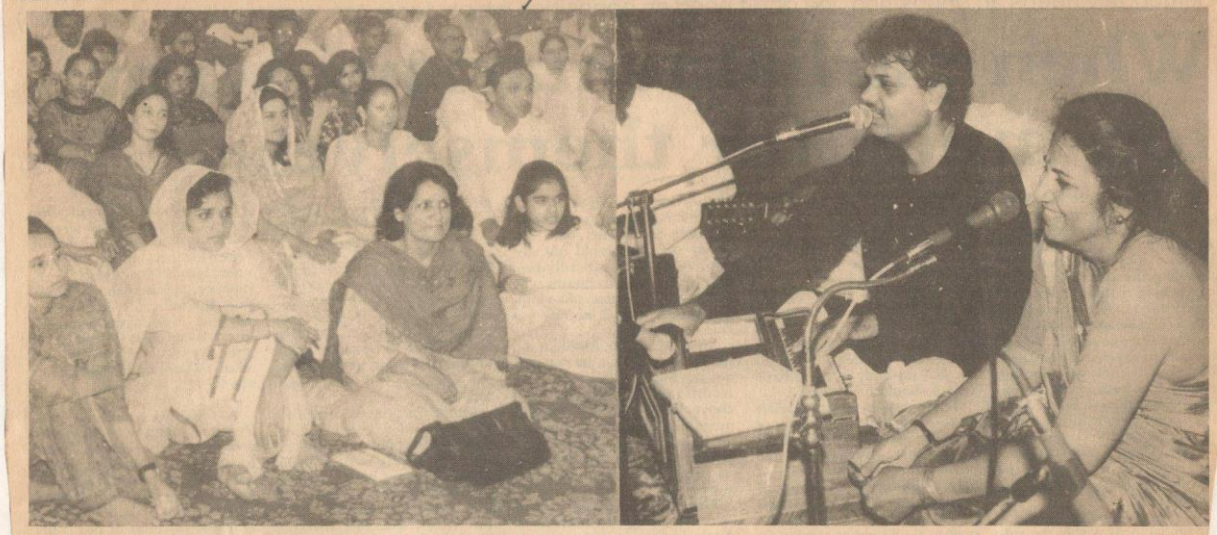
MEHFIL-E-GHAZAL

On the social front, last week was not so heavy, as there were only few entertaining programmes, while mostly seminars and other gatherings were held.

Talents Guild held a Mehfil-e-Ghazal at Arts Council of Pakistan. Ghazal singers Masood Khan and his wife Shelu Khan was the couple who enthralled the guests with their songs. The Chief Guest was Amir Imam. Large number of town. The couple sang few ghazal's different poets at the occasion and really entertained the guests with their melodious voices. Both husband and wife are now not new in the singing world, they do selective shows but in every show their performance is always superb. Both singers are matured in singing and their continuous *riaz* made them perfect and they are becoming popular day by day. Previously they were known in a limited circle but now the couple is well known in the city. They achieved their popularity step by step, but still they were not honoured which they really deserved. The couples performance at the Arts Council has put a lasting image on the guests and due to their selective ghazals they forced the guests to give them loud applause on each and every ghazals. Their selective of ghazals are superb and they have really composed them nicely. The guests always request them to sing their famous poem *Woh Kaghaz Ki Kashti Woh Barish Ka Pani* which was sung by the Indian couple "Jagjeet and Chitra Singh" they sang it in every function and really sang marvelously.

This couple previously also gave their performance at Arts Council a year ago, but then they were not known among the guests, but this time they have made lots of friends and fans among the audience. Masood and Shelu performed for more than three hours at the show and the guests didn't want them to stop singing, but as both were little bit tired they stopped it. The news of their divorce published by a weekly really shocked them and they clarified that there is nothing going wrong between them and both are still husband and wife and living a happy married life.

The MUSLIM 16 May 1992 HOME NEWS



Sheelo and Masood Khan performing at a function organised by Arts Council, Karachi, with the cooperation of Talent Guild—Staff Photo

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Saturday, June 13, 1998



President of Talents Guild, Shafiqur Zaman presenting a copy of the Guild's journal 'Shakhsiyat' to veteran television playwright Kamal Ahmed Rizvi a the launching ceremony held at a hotel on Friday. Dr Farman Fatehpuri an TV newscaster Zubair Ahmed are also seen in the picture. —The News phot

'Shakhsiyat' made Kamal's sorrows diminish

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Some acts of others defy the pain already incurred on one's life and the same is the case with celebrated playwright, actor and director Kamal Ahmed Rizvi. The Talents Guild published an authentic volume of its journal 'Shaksiyat', which encompassed the multi-faceted personae of Rizvi, for the first time in print.

"Many of my sorrows have diminished after seeing Shaksiyat number featuring myself," Kamal Rizvi maintained at the launching of the same journal organised by Talents Guild on Friday. He said that the play which begun in his life must go on. "Drama begun in my life...I want it to be continued."

The veteran artiste, who has over 30 books to his credit, appeared very humble when said he was thinking whether he deserved that much appreciation or not. He apprised that most of his valuable works and blueprints were lost during flood in Lahore, however, whatever remained with him was extended to the compilers of the journal.

Kamal Rizvi said that theatre was his first love and he would wish to die doing the same. "Now the number of theatre-goers is getting thinner everyday. TV can be a time-killing medium but theatre purify your best sensibilities. But what to do, when doing a theatre play in a year do not leave you with enough money to spend the next year. People who bought tickets of my play for front rows even did not turn up. My heart is turned-off in a city where the return of the ticket-holders to the plays is uncertain," he added.

Rizvi also regretted that the PT had erased his black and whit episodes of all-time-in-demand TV se rial 'Alif Noon' owing to the scarcit of video tapes but acknowledged Tal ents Guild for putting him together i Shaksiyat.

Critic and writer Farman Fateh puri, who presided over the cere mony, declared Kamal Rizvi as 'whole some dramatist' ever produced b Pakistan. He juxtaposed Kamal Rizv with Shakespeare to conclude tha both blended their experiences wit experiments in drama. He was glad t note that the scattered traits of Rizvi' personae were strenuously embodie in the second volume of Shakhsiyat which deserved due accolade fro the critics. Actor Talat Hussain sai that the materialism hit the 60s har and the same was perfectly reflecte in Kamal Rizvi's 'Alif Noon'. He sai Rizvi's play 'Hum key thehrey ajnabi was his ever best creation with statement that extremely honest lot o people have been dying after makin worldly compromises.

Playwright Hameed Kashmir termed Kamal Rizvi a 'man of stage who was thrown into the tube wit 'Alif Noon' and 'king of phrases' wh employed his own satirical phrases i the script with great command.

Station Director Radio Pakista Karachi Qamar Ali Abbasi,TV-pro ducer Mohsin Ali, Talents Guild' President Shafiq-uz-Zaman, Secretary Zubairuddin, playwright Sabeeh Mohsin, actor Shakeel, poets Raghib Muraddabadi, Himayat Ali Shair, Shar shar Siddiqui and Ali Nawaz Wafa also spoke on the occasion.

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Chief guest Dr. Farman Fatehpuri and Kamal Rizvi sitting on the dais.

The Times of Karachi Friday, June 12, 1998



Mr. Qamar Ali Abbasi and Nelofar Abbasi and others.



Group photo taken at launching ceremony of sovenir "Shaksiat" based on Syed Kamal Ahmed Rizvi's life and his achievements held here recently at Avari Towers hotels. (From right to left) Hemayat Ali Shair, Sarshar Siddiqui, Hameed Kashmiri and actor Shakeel.



Picture shows few guests

DAWN 10, MAY 1992



KARACHI: Up and coming ghazal singers Sheelo Khan and Masood Khan performing at a function organised jointly by the Talent Guild and Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi here on Saturday night.—Dawn photo.

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Picture shows few guests

ONWARD WITH THE PEOPLE

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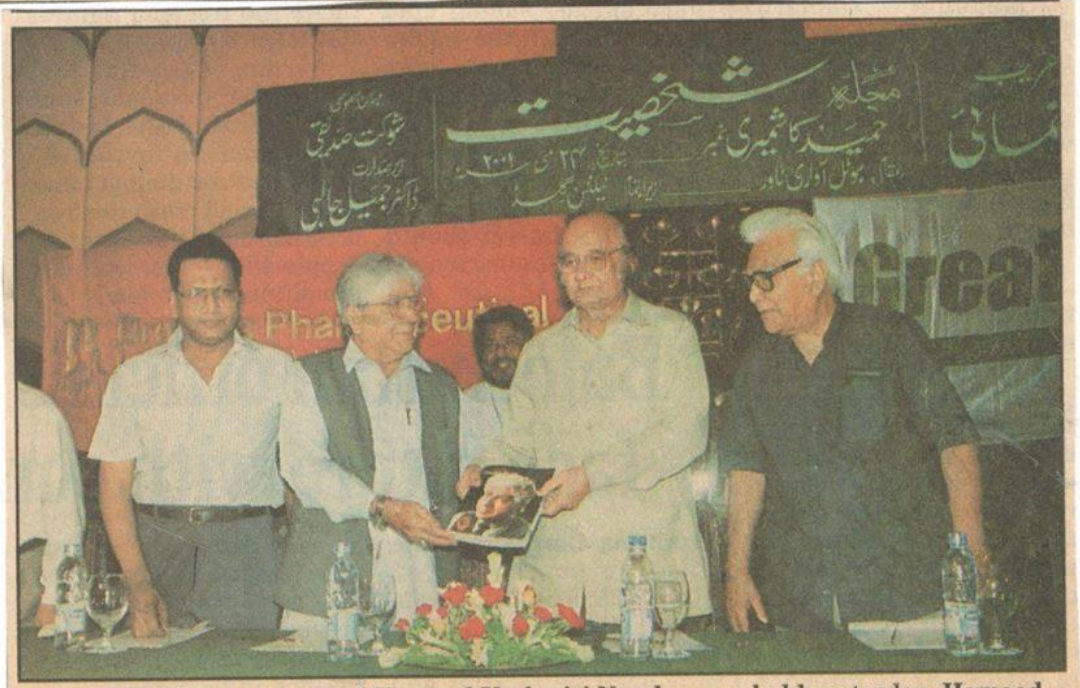
KARACHI, MONDAY, JULY 15, 1996



President Talents Guide Shafiquz Zaman and chief guest Jamiluddin Aali presenting book compiled by A[illegible]ar Qur[illegible] on Himayat Ali Shair to Himayat Ali on his 70th birthday.

THE STAR

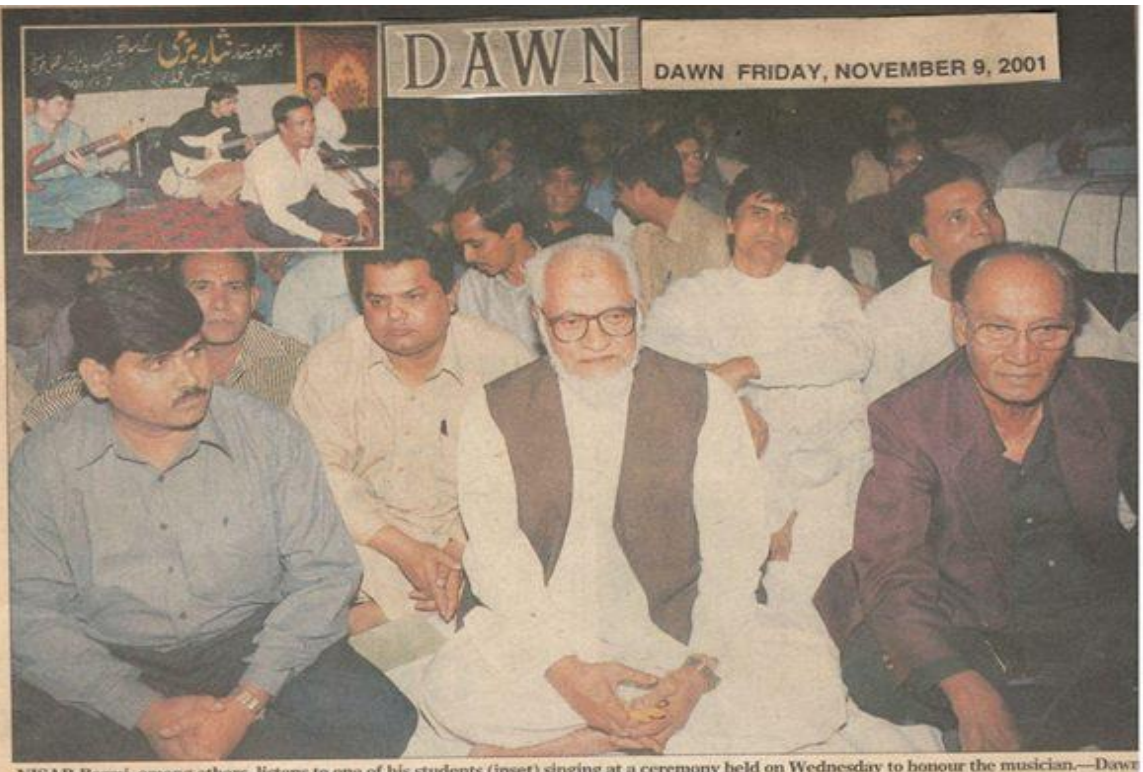
XV No. 118 Regd. No. SS-021, Price Rs. 6.00, Pages 6, Karachi, Friday, May 25, 2001, Rabi-ul-Awwal 1,



The launching ceremony of Hameed Kashmiri Number was held yesterday. Hameed Kashmiri presenting a copy of the magazine, published by Talents Guild, to Dr Jameel Jalibi. —STAR photo

DAWN

DAWN FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001



NISAR Bazmi, among others, listens to one of his students (inset) singing at a ceremony held on Wednesday to honour the musician.—Dawn

An evening with Nisar Bazmi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Nov 8: Some young trainee musicians and singers gave a captivating performance on old and melodious film numbers, originally composed by music maestro Nisar Bazmi, in a ceremony on Wednesday.

The event, aimed at paying tributes to the Pakistani film music wizard and the pride of performance award winner, Nisar Bazmi, in recognition of his excellence services to the music industry, provided an opportunity to many young and old males and females to get nostalgic for scores of glittering film personalities who were involved in the making of the many hit songs during the 1960s to 80s.

You name a tune or song and the organizers would answer in the shape of video clippings or live performances by the young singers, being trained by Bazmi saheb. The renowned musician, who specially graced the occasion, was presented with bouquets, souvenirs and gifts by his shagirds (students) at the beginning of the programme, which was held at the Arts Council.

Bazmi, who came from India and settled in Karachi in 1962, during a span of 30 years scored musics for hundreds of songs sound backed by numerous male and female singers and their class in throbbing hearts of their fans.

Now 76, Bazmi started his career in films in 1944 at Bombay and continued till mid 80s in Pakistan and then switched over to television, composed music for about 100 Indian and Pakistani films, and has numerous awards, including PTV award, national film award, Nigar award and pride of performance award, to his credit.

PTV producer, Amir Imam, said that Naushad in India and Bazmi in Pakistan were the two great musicians who had no parallells. Bazmi would be praised for his skill and strength for long, he noted.

Organizer of the programme, Akhter Aadil, said that Nisar Bazmi was the undisputed maestro, who could be placed at the highest podium for his distinguished craftsmanship and personality. His admirers and lovers had no two opinions about his art, he viewed.

Nisar Bazmi said that his art was a blessing of God and a result of his parents' well wishes. He hoped that good singers would born in future also, who would work for the promotion of classical music as well. He was optimistic about a bright future of music in the country. People from good families field in future and therefore, we should not be worry about the art, he emphasised.

The president of The Talents Guild, Shafiquzzaman, expressed the view that it would be in the fitness of things that tributes were paid to artistes during their life time, instead of admiring them after their death.

He was critical of the Arts Council for not having coordinated with the organizers in a true sense.

He urged the council to come up with its gesture to promote arts and culture and extend support for upbringing of the talents.

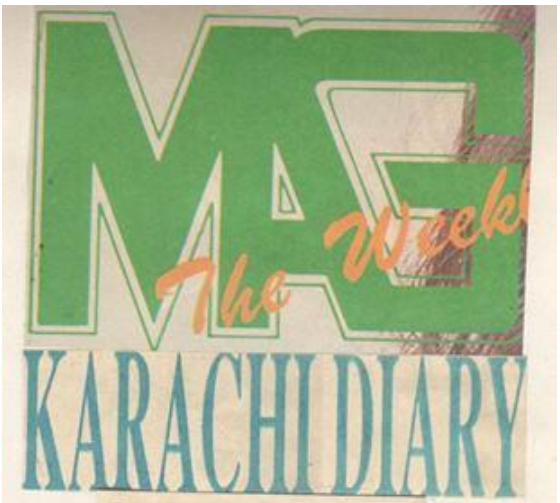
The video clippings of the songs composed by Nisar Bazmi, including Anjuman, Anmol, Jagir, Tehzeeb, Lakhon main aik, Andlib, Meri Zindagi Hai Naghma, Muhabbat, Naz and Aag, evoked the memory and admiration for dozen of Pakistani film stars, playback singers, poets, producers, directors and cameramen as well as famous sites of the country.

Later, the students, including Faisal Latif, Beenish, Shamim Ahmed Bazal, Khalid Usman, Marjan Syed, as well as Shahid Moin Farooqui, sung over a dozen of film songs and ghazals, originally composed by Nisar Bazmi. The music master of the

Inside...



An evening with Bazmi: Page 18



KARACHI DIARY

By AYUB JAN SARHANDI

MASOOD & SHELO AT ARTS COUNCIL

Talents Guild in collaboration with the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi arranged a show of *ghazal* singer Masood Khan and his wife Shelo Khan at the premises of The Arts Council of Pakistan.

Nowadays this couple is very popular among musical circles due to their outstanding performances in different shows. The couple is just like Jagjeet and Chitra Singh of India. They have all the qualities which is a must for a good duo.

Both the husband and the wife performed endlessly for hours and sang the *ghazals* of different poets so perfectly that they were given loud applauses at the end of each and every ghazal.

The President of the Talents Guild Shafiq-uz-Zaman highlighted the activities of the Guild, while the General Secretary the (famous newscaster) Zubairuddin, Akhtar Adil were busy receiving the guests at the show.

By the way, I must add that this couple deserves to be on TV. I predict great things ahead for the duo!

Well done Talents Guild for doing some good hunting (of exceptional talent).

Masood and Shelo, you are A-1 singers who though not yet in the top-slot, but still much better than the hordes and hordes of popular singers who get away with so-called singing. This humble journalist wishes you all the best in your future endeavours.