

Seminar

Dhaka's architectural scenario

Prospects of a cleaner atmosphere for Dhaka dwellers dealt at a seminar on architecture

FAYZA HAQ

A recent day-long seminar on architecture in Dhaka, focusing on transformation of the city, took place at the Goethe Institut.

The subjects dealt with at the seminar were Swadhinata Stambha, Dhanmandi Lake, Uttara Third Phase, public housing, Basundhara city, Scholastica School etc.. Among the speakers were Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, Dr Sharifuddin Ahmed, Dr Syed Mansoorul Islam, Mazharul Islam, Dr Perween Hassan, Bashirul Haq, Saiful Huq and Syed Fahim Munaim. The speakers, including architects, planners and people from other disciplines critically examined the present architectural and planning scenario of Dhaka and presented their recommendations on how more sunlight, air and space could be brought in for the Dhaka dwellers.

Dhaka today is a bustling urban agglomerate and at the beginning of this millennium Dhaka will be one of the top ten cities in the world. But this will mean it will be even more populated and congested. Efforts have to be made to stop turning Dhaka into an urban apocalypse.

Saiful Huq in his opening remarks said, "Dhaka may be providing its inhabitants opportunities for employment and wealth but the public realm of the city is being rapidly eroded. A glance though the daily newspapers will show the thriving of apartment blocks, office towers, shopping malls; but at the same time we come across stories of encroachment of the river, shrinkage of parks and open spaces, the plight of pedestrians, overcrowding in schools etc. The spaces that encourage interaction and participation are gradually disappearing. The society is getting polarised and alienated. Isolation, congestion, pollution, fear of crime has replaced community participation."

Speaking about the 'Shadhinata Stambha' at Suhrawardy Udyan, MS Chowdhury said, "The landscaping is addressed more on a revitalization theme considering the 6000 trees in the 68 acre 'udyan'. New trees are being planted with consideration to form, spread, colour and scent and their appropri-

ateness to a particular location or season.

The approach to the 'Shadhinata Stambha' itself has been arranged as a sequence of events. People first arrive at the 'Shikha Chirantan' from where they move through a mesh of trees to a vast place. The joy of freedom is translated into a large circular pool, encountered halfway through the journey whose water, at level with the paving, is drawn into itself and through the vacuum at the centre it falls into an inner sanctum. Here the only light coming in through the oculus in the ceiling is filtered and dispersed by the water that falls through it.

"The glass tower or the Tower of Light is to be a symbol for man's urge to be free. The mysterious travel of light through the section of clear, thick glass is a desired effect. Although clad around an inner reflective steel vertical space frame structure, glass begins visually, an in technique of construction, to take on the quality of masonry."

Iqbal Habib, presenting his paper on 'Dhanmandi Lake' said, "The Dhaka City Corporation initiated this project and this encompasses an area of almost 86 acres of land with multifarious entertainment facility. It appears to be quite unmanageable for any individual government organization to run the facilities of this magnitude and maintain the whole area at the same time due to inadequate resources and manpower." He added that swimming and health club with separate ponds for beginners, shower and changing locker facility will be there. There will also be a sitting plaza and "ghat" along with designed plantations with landscape area adjacent to the walkways. This applies to Sector 1. In the second sector there will be parking areas with sitting plaza at the entry point of Road No 32. Here there will be a souvenir shop and ticket counter for the "Bangabandhu Smriti Museum".

The paper said that in the third sector there will be a public toilet, rental parking area, skating arena, sitting plaza with kiosk for food, floating decks and footbridges, and plantations with landscape area for walkways to the footpath. The fourth sector, one was told, will contain a boat club with a souvenir shop and a floating coffee shop. There will be a walkway for footbridge, designed



Boating club at Dhanmandi Lake. Architects: Utti Sthapati Brinda Ltd.

plantations with landscaped area adjacent to the walkways and a rental parking area. The fifth section, one was informed, will include fast food restaurant with kitchen and toilet facilities and there will be more landscaping here with designed

plantations. Selina Afroza in her paper on "Public Housing: Transformation from bungalows to flats" with its case study of lawmakers' residences at Minto Road, said, "In Dhaka city the public sector has

probably contributed directly or indirectly to not more than 10 per cent of all urban housing activity during the last 40 years. Despite the limited number of sites and services projects, public housing has primarily catered to the needs of govern-

ment servants...At present altogether 11,678 dwelling units fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. They are located at Eskaton, Garden Road, Minto Road, Hare Road, Bailey Road, Green Road, Gulshan,

Dhanmandi, Uttara, Azimpur etc.

"It is a fact to be understood by all that housing programmes similar to those which have been very successful in other countries may not be so in our case. This is because the success of every programme depends on its acceptability, which in turn is related to the people's socio-economic, moral, religious and psychological needs. Therefore instead of copying directly from successful foreign examples it is more reasonable to apply the knowledge learnt from those examples with the context of our own culture and environment."

Jalal Ahmed in his paper on "Scholastic Senior School Campus at Uttara Model Town" said, "The client required a large number of classrooms to accommodate the presently enrolled senior class students as well as a library, a few labs, teachers' rooms, art rooms, cafeteria etc. Due to the limited size of the site, the architect attempted to design a campus where there would be ample open space for the young students to interact outside the classrooms. The elevated ground floor has activities and games. The exterior of the air-conditioned building facing the front road and having different functions are treated with a combination of bare bricks, reflective glasses and to reduce the noise from the nearby highway. Regular shaped naturally ventilated classroom blocks are located away from the highway."

Md Rafique Azam in his paper "Appropriate Apartments Architecture in the Context of Dhaka", said, "Unplanned urban development, particularly building apartments, without foresight, have been making the environment unfriendly and unliveable. The buildings of our time are the result of bad building construction rules, crisis of values, unjustified indifference of individuals with and alarming drying-up of the sources of inspiration."

Syed Fahim Munaim, managing editor of The Daily Star said in conclusion that the media is doing its part to offer the citizens better living facilities.



Walkway at Dhanmandi Lake. Architects: Utti Sthapati Brinda Ltd.



Seating area and walkway at Dhanmandi Lake. Architects: Utti Sthapati Brinda Ltd.

TV GUIDE

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement
3:20 Open University
3:45 Shashatathya
4:00 Khabar
4:05 Cartoon: Casper
4:20 Shukhi Poribar
4:40 Documentary: Wild Nature Japan
5:20 Niramoy
5:45 Pushtitathya
6:00 Khabar
6:10 Kendrabindu: development programme
6:35 Programme from Chittagong station
7:00 News Headlines
7:05 Geet Bitan
7:30 Nupur Nikkon
8:00 News in Bengali
8:30 Drama Serial: Sorol Shitangshu
9:00 News Headlines
9:05 Film Show: Young Hercules
9:30 Drama Series: Aloukik
10:00 Serial: Carlie Chaplin
10:30 News in English
10:55 Geeti Bichitra
11:30 Khabar / The News
11:45 Closing
EKUSHEY
12:00 Ekushey Midday
12:20 Bangla Movie: Shamir Shohag
2:40 Drishti
3:00 Ekushey Headlines
3:05 Bubuner Baba
3:30 Jononi
4:00 Chat Show Ek Cup Cha
4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
5:00 Circus Circus
5:30 Drishti
5:50 Aikar Potrikay
6:00 Ekushey Headlines
6:05 Classic Cartoons
6:30 Chardike
7:00 Bolte Chai
7:30 Ekushey News
8:00 Drama Serial: Bondhon
8:30 Drama
9:30 Shorashori
10:30 BTV News
11:00 Ekushey Nightly News

HBO

6:30 Almost Heroes
8:30 Lethal Weapon 4
11:15 Stepmom
1:45 The Affair
4:00 The Guardian
5:45 If Looks Could Kill
7:45 McHale's Navy
10:00 Fortress 2
12:00 Fierce Creatures
2:00 The Guardian

3:45 Lethal Weapon 4

STAR GOLD

10:30 Woodland Bollywood News
11:00 Geet Bahar
11:30 Geetanjal (Jeetendra, Rekha)
3:00 Woodland Bollywood News
3:30 Dil Daulat Duniya (Rajesh Khanna, Sadhana, Om Prakash)
7:00 Geet Bahar
7:30 Rang Birangi Laila Majnu (Rishi Kapoor, Ranjeeta)
11:30 Woodland Bollywood News
12:00 Daadi Maa (Ashok Kumar, Bina Rai)
12:30 Daadi Maa (Contd...)
3:00 Geet Bahar
3:30 Vardhan (Vinod Mehra, Reena Roy)
6:30 Trilok Sundari (Madhavi, Narsimha Raju)

BBC WORLD

6:30 World Business Report
7:30 Asia Today Inc Asia Business Report
8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
10:30 Talking Movies
11:30 Earth Report
12:30 Hardtalk
1:30 Holiday
2:30 Reporters
3:30 Hardtalk
4:30 PHYS WRLD
5:30 Reporters
6:30 Wheels
7:15 World Business Report
7:30 Click Online
8:30 Reporters
9:30 Asia Today
10:30 Face to Face
11:30 World Business Report/World Sport
12:30 Hardtalk
1:30 Top Gear
2:30 World Business Report
3:30 PAN

STAR PLUS (INDIA)

6:30 Star Geetmala
7:30 I Love My India
8:00 Hit Ya Fit
8:30 Good Morning India
9:30 Star Morning Show: Ek Mutthi Aasman
12:30 Hit Ya Fit
1:00 TSN
1:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
2:00 Sanskruti-11
2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

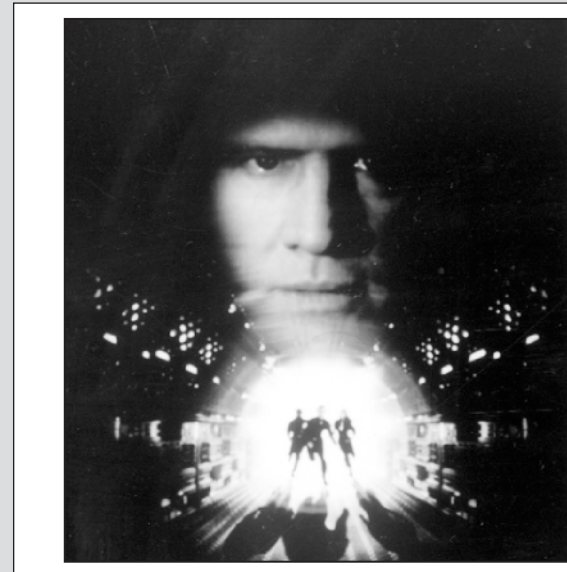
Bahu Thi
3:00 Shagun
3:30 Shanti
4:00 Meri Saheli-220
4:30 Kaathin Kissii Roz
5:00 Hit Ya Fit
5:30 Sewlal Mewawala
6:00 Small Wonder
6:30 Fox Kids Daily
7:30 Sanskruti
8:00 Tu Tu Main Main
8:30 Sonpari
9:00 Kahin Kissii Roz
9:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi
11:30 Aaj Ki Baat
12:00 Shagun
12:30 Telebrands
1:00 Hit Ya Fit
1:30 Star Movie Show: Ek Mutthi Aasman
4:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi
5:00 Shanti
5:30 Hit Ya Fit

STAR WORLD

6:00 Murder Call
7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 Home Improvement
9:00 Happy Days
9:30 JAG
10:00 The Pretender
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
12:00 Law and Order: Special Victims Unit
1:00 Things People Do
1:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
2:00 Mork & Mindy
2:30 Happy Days
3:00 Baywatch
4:00 The Simpsons
4:30 Home Improvement
5:00 Star News Asia
5:30 Friends
6:00 The Drew Carey Show
6:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway?
6:55 Star News Asia (5 mins)
7:00 Ally McBeal
8:00 The Practice
9:00 Friends
9:30 Star News
10:00 The Drew Carey Show
10:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway?
11:00 Ally McBeal
12:00 The Practice
1:00 The Drew Carey Show
1:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway?
2:00 Ally McBeal
3:00 Creflo Dollar Daily
3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries
4:00 Life In The Word With Joyce Meyer
4:30 World News
5:00 Fashion TV
5:30 Mork & Mindy

STAR PLUS

6:30 Star Geetmala
7:30 I Love My India
8:00 Hit Ya Fit
8:30 Good Morning India
9:30 Star Morning Show: Ek Mutthi Aasman
12:30 Hit Ya Fit
1:00 TSN
1:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
2:00 Sanskruti-11
2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi



STAR MOVIES

8:30 Action: Three Fugitives 92
10:15 Drama: Bright Lights Big City 101
12:00 Drama: Bitter Suite 88
1:45 Drama: What's Love Got to Do With It 115
3:45 Comedy: Noises Off 99
5:30 Action: Chance 85
7:00 Hollywood Action Night: Final Descent 88
8:30 Action: The Contract 89
10:30 Action: Three Fugitives 92
12:30 Action: Resurrection Man 104
2:30 Action: Chance 85
4:30 Action: The Stray 90
6:30 Action: Red Sonja 84

ZEE MGM

9:00 When Harry Met Sally
11:30 Blood Red
2:00 Boundaries of The Heart
4:30 Land of Doom
7:00 Club Fed
9:30 When Harry Met Sally
11:30 Blood Red
1:30 Boundaries of The Heart
4:00 Land of Doom
6:30 Contemporary Gladiators

ZEE ENGLISH

6:30 Benny Hill Show
7:00 Capitol
7:30 Music Zone
8:00 Late Show With David Letterman
9:00 Three's Company
9:30 Here's Lucy
10:00 Dave's World
10:30 Police Academy
11:30 Full House
12:00 Capitol
12:30 All My Children
1:30 Dave's World
2:00 Three's Company

PICK OF THE DAY

Fortress 2

On HBO at 10:00 p.m.
A sequel to the original movie, Brennic and family are still on the run finding themselves again imprisoned in another fortress by the Mental Corporation. Brennic fights back as his 10 year old son is waiting for him on earth.

9:45 Movie Fare

10:00 Jaani Dost
1:00 Chatpati Chat
1:15 Madhyantar
1:30 Misal
5:00 Darpan
5:15 Tara Rum
5:45 Film Time
6:00 Eeshwar
9:45 Cine News
10:00 Superhit Hamesha
10:30 Nafrat Ki Aandhi
2:15 Kuch Lamhe Kuch Nagme
2:30 Superhit Hamesha
5:30 Chehren
5:45 Film Time

ZEE MUSIC

6:00 Zee Music Plus
7:00 Aalap
7:30 Tararun
8:30 Hit Pe Hit
10:30 Hit Mix
11:00 Blue
11:30 Zee Music Box
12:00 Zee Music Plus



Sarasari features Sangbad's chief editor Ahmadul Kabir on Ekushey television at 9:45p.m.

1:00 Hit Pe Hit

2:00 Jharokha
2:35 Dil Se
3:05 Tararun
4:00 Hit Pe Hit
5:00 Zee Music Box
5:30 Hit Mix
6:00 Cool-Age
6:30 Zee Music Plus
7:30 Hit Pe Hit
9:00 Best of Best
9:30 Zee Music Box
10:00 Sizzlers
10:30 Jharokha
11:05 Just Jammin
11:35 Phoren Maal
12:35 Shabab
1:35 Zee Music Box
1:30 Jharokha
2:00 Hit Pe Hit
3:00 Compact Disc
3:30 Tararun
4:30 Phoren Maal
5:30 Sizzlers

ALPHA TV

6:30 Choker Kahli
7:00 Jeelon Rekha
7:30 News in Bengali
8:00 Aalaap
9:00 News Bulletin
9:05 Bharat Bhromon
9:30 Purobi
10:00 Aanyaa
10:30 Omanisha
11:00 Swapnoneel
11:30 Gnihasajja
12:00 Bahari Ahaar
12:30 Ebar Jomba Mawja
1:00 Ingeet
1:30 Ek Akasher Niche
2:00 Nayanantara
2:30 Moner Mato Mon-Feature Film
5:00 Shesh Prashna

5:30 Half Chocolate/Disney
6:00 Alpha Khabor
6:25 Jhankar
6:30 Foot Ball
7:00 Swapnoneel
7:25 Jhankar
7:30 Surer Ei Jhama Dhara
7:55 Jhankar
8:00 Nayanantara
8:30 Ek Akasher Niche
9:00 Chena Mukh Achena Manush
9:30 Bristi Megher Akash
10:00 News Bulletin
10:05 Ek Palake
10:10 Ingit
10:40 Ek Palake
10:45 Foot Ball
11:20 Alpha Khabor
11:45 Ek Palake
12:00 Bideshini Bodhu
12:40 Surer Ei Jhama Dhara
12:30 Purbib
1:00 Bharat Bhraman
1:30 Bengali Feature Film
4:00 Ek Akasher Niche
4:30 Nayanantara
5:00 Ingeet
5:30 Football
6:00 Ananya

ZEE TV

6:15 Yaadon Ke Pal
6:45 Old Is Gold
7:00 Bhakti Geet
7:30 Jagran
8:00 Morning Zee
8:30 Nickelodeon On Zee
10:00 Guldasta
10:30 Filmi Chakkhar
11:00 Highlight Zee
11:15 Chatpati Chat
11:30 Ek Nazar
12:00 Koshish... Ek Aashaa
12:30 Sangini
1:00 Dastaan
1:15 Jhalak
1:30 Hasratein
2:00 Chandan Ka Palna Resham Ki Dori
2:30 Amanat
3:00 Gharana
3:30 Yeh Dil Kya Kare
4:00 Kaise Kahoon...?
4:30 Samander
5:00 Nickelodeon
6:00 Ek Nazar
6:30 Banegi Apni Baat
7:00 Hip Hip Hurray
7:30 Ek Nazar
8:00 Yeh Hai Mumbai Meri Jaan..
8:30 Babul Ki Duayeen Leti Ja
9:00 Mehendi Tere Naam Ki
9:30 Chandan Ka Palna Resham Ki Dori
10:00 Ankahee
10:30 Yeh Dil Kya Kare

11:00 Kaise Kahoon...
11:30 Manzilein Apani Apani
12:00 Gharana
12:30 Gardish
1:00 Jai Ganesha
2:00 Dastaan
2:30 Ek Nazar
3:00 Bees Saal Baad
5:45 News In Hindi
6:15 Yaadon Ke Pal

HALLMARK TV

1:00 Sea Change
2:00 Danger Bay
3:00 The Killing Mind
5:00 Sesame Street
6:00 Redwood Curtain
8:00 The Steel Call Me... Bruce
10:00 Sea Change
11:00 The Boys Next Door
1:00 Danger Bay
2:00 Sesame Street
3:00 Clifford
3:30 The Feed You Need
4:00 Road To Avonlea
5:00 Cupid & Cate
7:00 True Women
9:00 True Women
11:00 Reunion

AXN

6:30 Grandeur Musashi/Starship Troopers
7:30 El Hazard : The Alternative World/Samurai X
8:30 Big Sky II
9:30 Exploring the Unknown
10:30 Grandeur Musashi/Starship Troopers
11:30 El Hazard : The Alternative World/Samurai X
12:30 The Net/Chem Lab
1:30 Exploring the Unknown
2:30 Pensacola III/Return to Glory
3:30 Movie: Jaged Edge
5:30 Who Dares Wins
6:30 Grandeur Musashi/Starship Troopers/ El Hazard : The Alternative World
7:30 Samurai X/Who Dares Wins
8:30 Ripley Believe It or Not
9:30 VIP II/Val Point Blank
10:30 Movie : Operation Delta Force II: May Day
12:30 Profiler II/Root of all Evil
1:30 Movie: Operation Delta Force II: May Day
3:30 VIP II/Val Point Blank
4:30 Profiler II/Root of all Evil
5:30 Big Sky II/Down the Slot
ESPAN
8:30 Nba Playoffs Conference Semifinals Conference Semifinals Game 2 (L)
11:00 Tennis Masters Series By Mercedes-Benz Tennis

RECOMMENDATIONS

Theatre

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has organised a week-long theatrical shows from May 6 to 12 at Shawkat Osman Auditorium of the National Public Library Directorate, Shahbag. Seven theatre groups from across the country are due to take part in the programme.

Photography Show

A solo photography exhibition by Albert Khan is now being held at Atrial Centre, House # 15, Road # 7, Dhanmondi. The show runs from 2 to 8 p.m. daily till May 12.

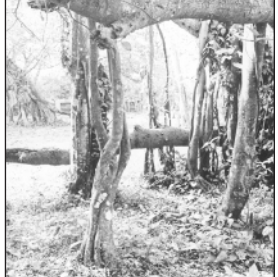
Photography

A photo show featuring works of noted photographer and author of two important books on photography Mohammad Rafiqul Islam is now being held at National Photographic Gallery at 63/2 Science Laboratory Road, Dhaka.

Satyajit Ray Retrospective

Satyajit Ray Retrospective organised by Zahir Raihan Film Society is now being held at the auditorium of the High Commission of India at Road No. 2, Dhanmondi. Screening schedule: Mahanagar(The big city) and Pratidwandi(The Adversary) on May 11 at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. respectively. Seemabaddha (Company Limited) and Jana Aranya (The Middle Man) on May 12 at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. respectively. Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne(The adventures of Goopy and Bagha) and Hirak Rajar Deshe (The Kingdom of Diamonds) on May 18 at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. respectively.

Photoaraphy



Show

A week-long photography exhibition featuring natural beauty of the Sunderbans is now being held at International School, Plot# 80, Block# E, Basundhara, Dhaka. The show runs till May 10 daily from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.