

Architecture for the people

Exhibits at Manik Mia Avenue, Gulshan become public attractions

|| AANILA KISHWAR TARANUM ||



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA, DOLON, CORPOVISUALS

DHAKA VIBE

On the occasion of Architects Regional Council Asia forum, multiple programmes are happening across Dhaka, including the public exhibitions at Manik Mia Avenue and Shaheed Tajuddin Smriti Park in Gulshan.

If you have passed through Manik Mia Avenue recently, you may have noticed six shipping containers sitting right outside the parliament complex -- each depicting the unique architectural landscape of Dhaka in different seasons. Designed by artist Reesham Shahab Tirtho, the vibrant graffiti on the container walls have caught the attention of all commuters, many of whom stopped to check out the exhibit.

The insides of the containers have been transformed into makeshift galleries, showcasing over a hundred genre-defining projects of Bangladesh -- from the iconic Curzon Hall and Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to award-winning residential and commercial designs. This exhibition will conclude on Wednesday (November 6).

"I've actually learned a lot through this exhibition, and I enjoyed walking along this street and exploring each shipping container," said Sobnom Lopa, a second-year student of architecture at Bangladesh University.

Her classmate Saddam Hossain chimed in: "It would be great if more details and photos of the interiors were displayed, as the optimisation and use of indoor

space is a crucial part of our lessons."

This public exhibition is part of ARCASIA Forum 20. Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) is hosting this year's forum of Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA), and this year also happens to be the latter's golden jubilee. On the occasion, multiple programmes are happening across Dhaka, including another public exhibition at Gulshan's Shaheed Tajuddin Smriti Park.

Titled "An Enclosure of Permeability and Aperture", the exhibit at Gulshan was designed by architects Saiqa Iqbal Meghna and Suvro Sovon Chowdhury. It offers an entirely different experience from that of Manik Mia Avenue.

"The set-up made of large bamboo sticks create an open-to-sky gallery. The idea behind this translucent pavilion design is deeply rooted in the desire to engage people with ease and simplicity," the organisers explained. This exhibit will be open till November 15.

"Architects work for social good. Our designs and constructions are very people-centric, and it ultimately contributes to the making of a great city," said

Ehsan Khan, vice president of international relations at IAB.

"These exhibitions are open to all, and situated in very accessible locations so that the public can get an idea of what architects do and how they contribute to society," he said.

The organisers of the public exhibitions also ensured that their works remain sustainable. "Shipping containers were a great choice for a temporary exhibition. We did not have to construct anything new on the streets, and the containers are reusable," said Ehsan.

The exhibit has certainly managed to stir conversation among Dhaka dwellers, as people thronged the venue on Manik Mia Avenue for selfies and photos. Meanwhile, there is a play-area for children at the Gulshan park site, as the designers want to ensure that the exhibit does not take away the essence of the park, rather enhances people's leisure time.

Open exhibitions are a great addition to Dhaka, a city that is notorious for having little to no recreational facilities for its citizens. It is also the perfect weather for such events, and truly goes to show how art and architecture can enhance the lives of people.



GK SHAMIM'S COMPANY HC upholds govt decision to freeze bank accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld a government decision to freeze bank accounts of SM Golam Kibria Shamim's business organisation, GKB & Company (Pvt) Ltd.

The court rejected a writ petition filed by GKB & Company (Pvt) Ltd recently, seeking its order on the government to withdraw the decision of freezing the bank accounts.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Md Mahmud Hassan Talukder passed the rejection order, on grounds that the petition was not placed before it properly.

The bank accounts of GKB Company Private Ltd will remain frozen following the HC order, Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told The Daily Star.

Advocate Md Ozi Ullah appeared for the writ petitioner. Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has ordered all banks to freeze accounts of GK Shamim and his company.

Meanwhile, investigation officials of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday quizzed expelled Jubo League Dhaka South Organising Secretary Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan and contractor Golam Kibria Shamim.

On October 21, ACC filed two separate cases against Khaled and Shamim respectively for amassing Tk 5.58 crore and Tk 297.08 crore wealth beyond the known source of income.

Khaled was brought to ACC at about 3pm while ACC quizzed Shamim for the second consecutive day from 10am.

According to the FIR, Khaled showed his movable property worth Tk 1.66 crore. However, ACC believes the value of the property would be Tk 4.50 crore.

Besides, Khaled in his 2018-19 income tax file showed having immovable property worth Tk 1.32 crore. Of these, ACC did not find legal source of Tk 90.16 lakh.

According to case statement, Shamim amassed immovable property worth Tk 50 crore and movable property worth Tk 39.69 crore in 2018-19. However, ACC did not find any legal source of the wealth.

ACC also did not find legal source of Tk 43.57 crore wealth of GKB Company Private Ltd which is jointly owned by Shamim and his mother. The FIR reads that during the September 20 raid, Rab recovered Tk 1.81 crore cash, USD 9,000 and Fixed Deposit Receipts of Tk 165 crore from Shamim's house.

Latif Siddique gets six-month bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted six-month bail to former textiles and jute minister Abdul Latif Siddique in a corruption case, filed on charge of misusing power in selling a government property.

There is no legal bar for Latif Siddique to walk out jail following the HC order, his lawyer Advocate Shah Monjurul Hoque told The Daily Star.

The court also issued a rule asking the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the government to explain why Latif Siddique should not be granted permanent bail in this case.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice AKM Zahirul Huq came up with the order and the rule following a petition filed recently by Latif Siddique, seeking bail in the case.

Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told this correspondent that the commission will move an appeal before Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the HC order that granted bail to Latif Siddique.

ACC Assistant Director Aminul Islam lodged the case with Adamdighi Police Station in Bogura on October 10, 2017. Jahanara Rashid, wife of late Harunur Rashid, was also made accused in the case.

According to the case statement, Jahanara Rashid leased a piece of land in Adamdighi upazila -- owned by Bangladesh Jute Corporation -- for three

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DHANMONDI MURDERS

House help confesses to killing both women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The house help, who was arrested on Sunday night in the Dhanmondi double murder case, killed the elderly woman and another domestic worker in the house as the duo did not allow her to leave, police said.

Police disclosed the information after Surovi Akhter Nahida (19) confessed her involvement in the murders during primary interrogation yesterday, three days after the killings.

During primary interrogation, Surovi told police that she killed Afroza Begum (65) and Bithi (17) as they stopped her from leaving the flat after she told them she did not want to work there, Abdulla Hill Kafi, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Dhanmondi zone), said.

Surovi also said she took a knife from the kitchen and slit Bithi's throat in the guestroom, later stabbing her in the chest too, the police official told The Daily Star.

Later, she also slit Afroza's throat in another room and stabbed her several times, leaving her dead on the spot.

Afroza and Bithi attempted to confine her in a room and did not allow her to leave the house until Atikul Haque Bachchu's arrival, the ADC quoted Surovi. Bachchu, bodyguard of Afroza's son-in-law Kazi Monir Uddin, apparently brought Surovi to the house.

After the murders, she took a mobile phone from the house and left, said Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station.

On the day of the incident, Bachchu brought Surovi to the house around 3:30pm and left around 5:30pm for work, police said.

Surovi said she first met Bachchu on October 26 and maintained regular communication with him since then.

Bachchu, who also lives in a room of the flat, allegedly sexually harassed her on the day of the murders, Surovi claimed during primary interrogation.

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'Up to next generation to protect constitution'

Says Speaker Shirin Sharmin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday said the expectations from the country's constitution will be fulfilled when there will be no exploitation and discrimination, and rule of law will be established.

Speaking as the chief guest at a discussion in the capital, she said the founder of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dedicated his life to earn people's rights, and he formulated the constitution thinking of it.

"Now it is the responsibility of the future generation to protect and implement the constitution properly, as Bangabandhu bestowed this duty on us. His expectations will be fulfilled if the constitution's fundamentals are established," she added. Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, a pro-liberation organisation, arranged the discussion at Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium, marking the day of the constitution formulation.

Shirin said November 4 is a glorious day in the country's history, when the constitution was ratified upholding the dreams and expectations of about 30 lakh martyrs and demands of general people. "The constitution of 1972 is one of

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Adopt motion declaring 'planetary emergency': JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended that the House adopt a motion declaring "planetary emergency".

The parliamentary standing committee on environment at its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban said different countries, including Bangladesh, are facing huge risks centring climate change.

These climate change prone countries might have to face issues such as loss of biodiversity, food security, water stretch, planetary overshoot and ocean related damage.

"All these factors support life on earth. All these factors allow life on earth to be sustained. We are at the convergence of a number of crises all at once," ruling Awami League MP Saber Hossain Chowdhury, also chief of the committee, told reporters after emerging from the meeting.

He said the parliamentary watchdog has already sent a letter to Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, requesting her to take measures in this regard so that the motion can be adopted in the upcoming session of parliament.

The next session is scheduled to sit on November 7. This

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DHAKA TODAY

DISCUSSION

Ban Terrorism, Not Student Politics
Organiser: Socialist Students' Front
Venue: RC Majumdar Auditorium, University of Dhaka
Time: 3:30pm

LECTURE

Portrayal of the 1947 Partition in Films
Organiser: Dhaka University Visual Anthropology Club
Venue: Social Science Building, University of Dhaka
Time: 10am

SEMINAR

Marking the Jail Killing Day
Organiser: Sampriti Bangladesh
Venue: VIP Lounge, Jatiya Press Club
Time: 10:30am

MEMORIAL PROGRAMME

On Artist Syed Jahangir and Kalidas Karmakar
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay
Time: 5pm

INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Classical Guitar Concert
Artist: Thibault Cauvin
Organiser: Alliance Française de Dhaka
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 6:30pm

TALK

Core Talk on Entrepreneurship
Organiser: CORE Global
Venue: EMK Center
Time: 3pm

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