



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Exploring the art and heritage of OLD DHAKA

## ‘Learning from Puran Dhaka’ inaugurated at Alliance Française

**Old Dhaka offers a range of architectural styles, drawing inspiration from the days of Sena and Mughal dynasties into the Indo-Saracenic and colonial era. During this project, the participating students will continue the documentation of the area, exploring its architectural heritage.**

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

*Learning from Puran Dhaka: The Urbanity of Occupations along the Buriganga Riverfront*, a living exhibition and open workshop, was inaugurated on Saturday at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka.

The opening ceremony was graced by the kind presence of Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation; His Excellency Charles Whiteley, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union in Bangladesh; Her Excellency Marie Masdupuy, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh and Thijs Woudstra, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of the Netherlands in Bangladesh.

Throughout the exhibition, a group of around 50 students from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Architecture, Ecole Supérieure Nationale d'Architecture de Paris-La Villette, and College of Architecture Trivandrum, will be investigating topics such as endangered heritage, circular economy, urban agriculture, innovation, corporate culture and much more, in the eight river docks of Old Dhaka.

Through this, they will sketch various architectural designs of Old Dhaka. Over the course of the exhibition, they will be adding new sketches, and changing previous ones, thereby presenting a cohesive interpretation of their findings by February 20.

*River Heritage: Learning from Puran*



*Dhaka* is a long-running heritage initiative currently in its third chapter. It is led by Alliance Française, Goethe-Institut, British Council, the Spanish Embassy and the EU Delegation in Bangladesh, with support from the Embassy of the Netherlands. The project is also being facilitated by a number of local partners, including Dhaka South City Corporation, BUET, Brihatta Arts Foundation, Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts and Pathshala South Asian Media Institute.

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Saracenic and colonial era. During this project, the participating students will continue the documentation of the area, exploring its architectural heritage.

Throughout the workshop and exhibition, participants will be exhibiting drawings, maps, sketches, observations, and photographs of Old Dhaka. The project will be followed by a number of cultural events to encourage reflection and interest about the area's existing and historic heritage.

The exhibition is open to all at La Galerie and will be continuing till February 20, from 3 pm to 9 pm.

## Kit Harington and Rose Leslie expecting second baby



Kit Harington and Rose Leslie are expecting their second child together, following the birth of a son in February 2021.

The *Game of Thrones* star announced the news on the Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon on Friday.

Kit Harington and Rose Leslie met on the set of Game of Thrones Season 2 in 2011. While Harington played Jon Snow in the HBO series, Leslie appeared as Ygritte on several occasions from seasons two to four.

It took nearly four years for the couple to confirm their relationship, after their first red carpet appearance in 2016.

## Exhibition of Ayub Bachchu's guitar collection held in Chattogram

An exhibition of rock icon Ayub Bachchu's guitars will kick-off in Chattogram on February 11. The exhibition will take place at Best Western hotel.

Guitars and other memorabilia of the late legend will be on display there. The exhibition will be open to the public from 9 am to 9 pm on that day.

On behalf of the organisers, Masood told The Daily Star, "The guitar exhibition will feature 18 guitars used by Ayub Bachchu, and other memorabilia. Throughout the day, various bands from the port city will pay tribute by performing his iconic songs. Hopefully, everyone will be with us in this event."

Before Chattogram, another exhibition featuring Ayub Bachchu's guitars were held at Shilpalay in Dhaka, which was titled *Harano Bikeler Golpo*.



# NEWS

## GM Quader can

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perform responsibilities as Jatiya Party Chairman.

The Appellate Division of the SC, however, ordered the Dhaka court concerned to hear and dispose of the case filed in connection with this issue.

## Per capita income

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percentage points lower at 7.1 percent.

The estimated growth in the industrial sector was projected to be 10.44 percent but it fell short. It was 9.85 percent.

Manufacturing grew 11.41 percent against the estimate of 12.31 percent and services rose by 6.26 percent, lower than the estimated 6.31 percent.

## ‘Oldest animal fossil’

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million years ago and that Dickinsonia might have also been present at similar temperate and subtropical latitudes.

"The find attracted the attention of The New York Times, The Weather Channel and the scientific journal Nature as well as many Indian newspapers," said scientists, including those from the University of Florida (UF) who were behind the latest research.

## Rohingya man

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"The victim's body has been sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy and in the meantime, police are trying to arrest the killers," the APBN officer added.

Contacted, Ukhiya Police Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Mohammad Ali said a case was being filed with his station in this connection.

## AL to finalise

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the AL has a single majority in parliament, only the nominated candidate will be elected.

Party insiders said at the ALPP meeting, the names who will propose and support the president candidate while filing the nomination paper to the EC will also be finalised.

ALPP President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting.

Awami League Parliamentary Party Secretary and Jatiya Sangsad Chief Whip Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury asked the party MPs to attend the meeting.

## MoU with Malaysia

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According to the expatriates' welfare ministry, under the MoU, the employers in Malaysia are obliged to bear Bangladeshi workers' migration costs incurred in that country.

The costs include the service charge of the Malaysian recruiting agency, travel to and from Malaysia, and accommodation.

Moreover, the employers will pay the immigration, visa, medical test, insurance, Covid-19 test, and quarantine fees in Malaysia.

Besides, the expatriates' welfare ministry has set the maximum cost of migration at Tk 78,990 at the Bangladesh end to send a worker to Malaysia.

Addressing reporters, Imran Ahmad said there was no fixed agenda for the meeting as the Malaysian minister was on a "working-visit".

However, various other issues regarding the migrant workers' wellbeing, including migration cost, were discussed at the meeting, he said.

"The only thing we were talking about is to send people through a smooth process and at a low cost."

Malaysian Home Minister Saifuddin said his country's position is to have a system to make things easier and achieve the "final objectives", which would fulfil the demand of foreign workers, reduce

the migration cost, and uphold their dignity.

He also said they have cut off the application approval process for foreign workers' recruitment from the previous 20-30 days to within three days at present.

"It's a major policy shift," he added.

Saifuddin also said in the first week of the ongoing labour recalibration programme, which started from January 27, Bangladeshi migrant workers constituted about 55 percent of those who were given approval.

He added that of about 1.5 million foreign workers in Malaysia at present, there are about 4,45,000 Bangladeshi workers, constituting the largest foreign workers community there.

This shows the importance of Bangladeshi workers' contribution to the Malaysian economy, he said, adding, Bangladeshi workers are mainly employed in manufacturing, construction, and service sectors there.

Also adding that there was no hidden cost on their part in workers' recruitment, the visiting minister said at present, apart from levy, they charge 20 ringgit for immigration, 100 ringgit for biomedical, 100 for visa processing that goes to the agent, and another 100 for health screening.

## Patient, 60, dies losing

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upazila, was admitted to a bed on the fifth floor on Saturday night.

He was suffering from multiple illnesses, including pneumonia, cardiac problems, and breathing difficulties, DMCH Director Brig Gen Nazmul Haque told The Daily Star.

"Jasim was in a critical condition and put under oxygen support. As he started getting down the stairs without his oxygen support, his condition worsened," said the official.

After noticing the smoke, everybody began taking the stairs in a panic to evacuate the building.

At one point, Jasim's relatives also started helping him get down, but he fell on the stairs and became unconscious.

His son, Mofiz Sarkar, said, "When

we left my father's oxygen supply behind, he started having breathing difficulties. Soon after, he collapsed getting down the stairs."

Jasim was taken to the emergency department, but doctors declared him dead on arrival around 3:30pm, confirmed Bachchu Mia, police outpost in-charge (inspector) at DMCH.

## Sri Lanka likely

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term funds from other donors.

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has conveyed his country's gratitude to the Bangladesh government and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the timely assistance as the country battles to rebuild its economy, Momen said.

## Ex-Pak president Musharraf dies in Dubai

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Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Arif Alvi and the chiefs of Pakistan's army, navy and air force each expressed condolences on his death.

A special flight will be made to Dubai today to bring Musharraf's body back to Pakistan for burial, local TV channel Geo News reported.

The former four-star general, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999, oversaw rapid economic growth and attempted to usher in socially liberal values in the conservative Muslim country.

Musharraf enjoyed strong support for many years, his greatest threat al Qaeda and other militant Islamists who tried to kill him at least three times.

But his heavy-handed use of the military to quell dissent as well as his continued backing of the United

States in its fight against al Qaeda and the Afghan Taliban ultimately led to his downfall.

"He is called a military dictator, but there has never been a stronger democratic system than that under him," said former close Musharraf aide Fawad Chaudhry, a leader of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party.

"He gave Pakistan a free media and he stressed on diversity of opinion in Pakistan," Chaudhry said in a video message.

History will always remember him," he said. "Pervez Musharraf, we will miss you."

Musharraf joined what Washington called its "war on terror" after the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. Pakistan provided US forces ground and air access to landlocked Afghanistan to chase down the al Qaeda militants

identified as being behind the plot.

The support was contrary to Pakistan's longstanding policy of support for the Taliban, who then as now controlled neighbouring Afghanistan. This made Musharraf a target for militants in Pakistan as well as causing him to lose support among conservative elements in Pakistan.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, an umbrella group of Pakistani militant organisations formed in reaction to Musharraf's crackdown on extremist elements, celebrated his death, criticising his policy of siding with the West.

"This was the infamous army chief who sold off the country's honour and respect," it said a statement. The group, which has launched a fresh spate of attacks across Pakistan in recent days, warned the current military leadership against following Musharraf's policies.

## Adani plant to begin transmission

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Recently, the government sought to revise the power purchase agreement signed with Adani Power in November 2017 after the Indian company quoted a high price for coal. The letter was sent following a request they received from Adani in relation to opening LCs (in India) to import coal.

"There is no scope for discount. The coal price for each power plant depends on the agreement and the index we are following according to the agreement," Hamid told The Daily Star yesterday.

Adani's coal price is valued at \$347 for 4,600 calorific grade metric

tonnes of coal, according to the Power Cell report.

When asked about the price disparity between the Adani and Payra power plants in the Power Cell report, Hamid said: "Why do you bother with the Power Cell? It's all about the power purchase agreement and the price of coal that day."

Hamid maintained that electricity transmission from the Godda plant would begin from the first week of March even though the Indian financial daily Mint yesterday reported that there would be a delay of another six months as the transmission line is yet to be completed.

Quoting a senior official from Adani's lenders, Indian business news site MoneyControl said a delay is likely after PDB voiced concerns regarding the electricity price.

"We have fixed the commercial operations date on February 28 and all are fixed to get electricity by the first week of March," he said.

M Shamsul Alam, senior vice-president of the Consumers' Association of Bangladesh, criticised the overall deal with Adani.

"The agreement has been made to favour Adani, turning a blind eye towards stakeholders who will be consuming the electricity," he said.

## Fresh CID probe finds 30 involved

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although their involvement was mentioned in more than one confessional statements.

The court order also said the investigating agency cannot exclude from the charge sheet those mentioned in more than one confessional statements.

This newspaper found that names of at least 20 people are mentioned in more than one confessional statements.

An earlier investigation by this

newspaper found that six people who were excluded from the charge sheet made financial gains as they were members of the syndicate.

The ongoing CID probe has already found evidence of involvement of the six, said officials. An additional superintendent of police is now investigating the case as per the court order.

The previous charge sheet caused quite a stir in the police department and also among the local politicians who had long known about the

"aggressive" tender manipulation by this syndicate.

Two superintendents of police and an additional SP earlier told The Daily Star that they suspect some of these syndicate members were let off the hook in exchange for money. All three officials had direct knowledge of the investigation.

Mahbubur Rahman, who was the CID chief at the time of the charge sheet submission, however, denied that his officers took bribes from any suspects to give them a clean chit.