



'PoroCity': Architecture and art explored through urbanism

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The inauguration of *PoroCity- Enabling Structures by Graber & Steiger Architects*, a site-specific spatial intervention by the Swiss architecture studio Graber & Steiger, and supported by Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia took place at Kala Kendra, Lalmatia on May 8, 2023. Present at the event as guest speakers were Eros Robbiani, Counsellor, Head of Political, Economic & Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, and Bangladeshi Architect Saif Ul Haque.

Architects Niklaus Graber and Christoph Steiger founded their architectural studio at Lucerne, Switzerland in 1995. In search of permeability and sustainability, the studio has chosen Dhaka city which thrives with diversity, and is full of enabling structures. The idea behind this exhibition is based on porous structures that enable vivid social interaction and futuristic transformation.

The installation in the Kala Kendra premises invites the general mass to the venue and creates a welcoming place, connected with the urban spaces.

The exhibition also opens space for discussions, encouraging dialogue by presenting structures made far away from their origins. This way, people can reflect and talk about the universal aspect of architecture



PHOTOS: COURTESY

and the relatability these exhibited pieces have, with the local architecture.

Architect Niklaus Graber explained that structure is constant, non-changeable, whereas the skin can be altered. To create resource-optimised, sustainable shelters—came the idea of local but also universal structures that follows the flow of gravity, ensuring free appropriation of users. Thus, the modular exhibition furnishings are available to any citizen who is willing to reuse them.

In one room of Kala Kendra, the steel bars stand on the ground perpendicularly with one another, creating a composition of straight lines whereas in another room, they simply

hang from the ceiling. These two rooms display architectural projects done by studio Graber & Steiger.

Residential Building in a Tree Grove, one of the displays, is a structure that was designed in a way that could incorporate the idea of living in tree groves, the way the client had wanted. Thus, the narrow, elongated zigzag form leaving spaces for vegetation. The sectional perspective of the building model also resembles the trunk and branches of trees.

The third room with diagonally standing frames holds several proposals from the students of Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Switzerland resulting in skilful design possibilities for the Multi-Model Transportation Hub in Narayanganj, Bangladesh.

The two smaller spaces of Kala Kendra were reserved for videos, one of which was compiled photos from several architects and artists who sent the images of spaces and structures along with the quotes they relate to.

The structure of the exhibition itself is embedded in such a way that goes as far as to inspire reusing the modular exhibition structure, in context of Dhaka's micro-urbanism.

This marvellous exhibition is open for all to visit and will run till May 29, 2023.



Mosharraf Karim's 'Golok Dhadha' to air on NTV today

Shamim Zaman's new series *Golok Dhadha* will commence on NTV from today. The plot is set in a village and Mosharraf Karim will be seen essaying an integral role in the series.

The series revolves around Shundor (Mosharraf Karim) and Ontor (Nahiyon) who try to trick people by snaring them in their 'golok dhadha' (maze). After doing so, a series of events ensue that changes their lives forever.

The series also stars Robena Reza, Shamim Zaman, Sujat Shimul, in pivotal roles and will air Sunday-Tuesday on NTV at 8:20 pm.

'MR-9: Do or Die' poster revealed at Cannes

Asif Akbar's *MR-9: Do or Die* posters were revealed at the Marché du Film at Cannes Film Festival yesterday. The filmmaker announced the exciting news on his official Facebook account.

The film posters are available at the Cannes Film Market at the Avail Entertainment booth at the Riviera J8.

Earlier on, the makers revealed the teaser in April which left the fans mesmerized by its stunning visuals and action sequences. The film is slated to be released on Eid-ul-Adha.

MR-9, is a film based on the novel, *Dhongsbo Pahar*, from the popular Bangladeshi spy thriller series, *Masud Rana*. It is jointly produced by Jaaz Multimedia and Silver Nine. The film stars ABM Sumon, Frank Grillo, Sakshi Pradhan, Michael Jai White, Niko Foster, among others in prominent roles.

COUNTRYWIDE

Zahir's love for medicinal plants

S DILIP ROY

The story of Language movement hero Zahir Uddin Ahmed, who died at his home at Naodabash village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on Friday evening, is quite encouraging, especially when people have been cutting trees for personal interest and financial gain.

The language movement veteran, who left behind four sons and three daughters, had been suffering from various old-age complications for the last four years, his wife Jamila Khatun said.

Born on March 23 in 1935, Zahir passed his SSC and HSC exams from Lalmonirhat High School (now Lalmonirhat Government Boys' High School) in 1953 and Rangpur Carmichael College in 1956 respectively.

Although Zahir, who was a Class X student during the Language Movement in 1952, had several job opportunities, he didn't join any of those.

The language hero established three educational institutions in his locality, but used to run his family by farming different crops.

Moreover, Zahir, also a local herbal medicine practitioner, planted different types of herbal plants around his homestead for medicinal use.

He was fond of medicinal plants since childhood and used to take care of the herbs every day till his death.

Zahir planted around 50 species of different medicinal plants at his homestead and often used to provide herbal treatment to the villagers for common illness.

Besides, Zahir never took any aromatic medicines, except the herbs, in his entire life.

While talking to this correspondent, Abdul Quader Bhasani, the only language movement veteran in Lalmonirhat alive, said he is mentally upset by the demise of Zahir Uddin Ahmed.

"Zahir was my classmate during the school and college life. We joined the language movement together and fought for the country's freedom," he said.

Zahir's wife Jamila said though her husband had been suffering from illness, he never forgot to take care of the medicinal plants he planted.

"There was a financial crisis in the family, but my husband was always there for the villagers," Jamila added.



PHOTO: STAR

Drying up Kaptai Lake hampers life in the hills

Power generation, fish production badly affected

LALTANLIAN PANGKHUA, Rangamati

Though the summer season has just begun and the heat wave is expected to continue for another two months, the water level in the Kaptai Lake has already started to decline, hampering livelihood of people in the hill district.

Besides, people living in different remote areas are the worst sufferer as they are facing immense trouble in going to and from the district headquarters through waterways.

Locals cannot bring their agricultural products to the district town as the goods-carrying trawlers often gets stuck in the drying up lake.

Moreover, due to a decrease in the water level power generation has been badly disrupted, causing frequent load shedding in different areas of the district.

Mentionable, only one out of the five units is currently generating 35 to 40 MW electricity.

On the other hand, production of various fish species has also decreased, which is hindering the livelihood of hundreds of local fishermen.

More than 5,000 five thousand fishermen earn their livelihood by catching fish in the lake water.

Rangamati Boat Malik Samity President Moyin Uddin Selim said due to a drastic fall in the water level in Kaptai Lake local people are facing great difficulties in reaching five upazilas—Belaichhari, Barkol, Langudu, Jurachhari and Baghaichhari—of the district by trawlers.

Gyanamoy Tanchangya, a farmer from Farua union in Belaichhari upazila, said due to lack of water in

the Kaptai Lake they have to travel several kilometres more to bring their agricultural products like ginger, turmeric and Jujube to Rangamati town and Kaptai Bazar.

According to Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC), they have a target to bring 9,000 tonnes of fish at the BFDC Marketing Centre in 2022-2023 fiscal year.

But, only 709 tonnes, which is only 52.33 percent of the target, have been deposited at the marketing centre so far.

Dr Robiul Awal Hossain, chief scientific officer at Rangamati Fisheries Research Institute, said due to the siltation and mindless dumping of toxic waste many fish species in lake are on the verge of extinction.

Usually, fish needs three to four months to get mature, he said, adding

that seven out of the 72 fish species have already vanished.

ATM Abduzzaher, manager at Kaptai Hydroelectric Power Plant (KHPP), said usually water level in the Kaptai Lake starts declining in the middle of the year, but it started decreasing since February this year.

Out of the five units, only one unit is currently generating 25MW electricity instead of 230MW due to the drastic fall of water level in the Kaptai Lake.

If such situation continues, they may have to close the only power generating unit in near future, he added.

In 1960, the then Pakistan government built the Kaptai Hydroelectric Dam, covering 1,036 square kilometres area.



Many boats are kept idle due to lack of adequate water in the Kaptai Lake. The photo was taken from Samata Ghat near Banorupa Bazar in Rangamati town.

PHOTO: STAR