

DHAKA CITY EXHIBITION IN THE UK 2005/6

Organised by Bangladesh Heritage

The Exhibition will celebrate the 100 year anniversary of Dhaka regaining the status of a capital city on 16 October 1905. It will provide highlights of the city's history and present day dynamism, through photographs, written texts, sounds and interviews.

Dhaka is the capital city of Bangladesh, situated centrally within the country. It first became a capital city in 1610 when Islam Khan Chisti, the Moghul Subahdar (viceroy), established Dhaka as the provincial capital of Subah-e-Bangla - which included Bengal, Behar and Orissa. Since then the city has been a major centre for culture, creativity, education, industry and trade.

THE PROGRAMME

Joint Reception with Bangladesh Cricket Team and Inaugural Launch of the Exhibition at the City Hall on 24 May 05, at 6pm. Event sponsored by Murad Qureshi, London Assembly Member

Display, public viewing and educational visits at:

◆ Mile End Park Arts Pavilion (5-14 Jun. 05), 10am -7.30pm, Ashcroft Rd, London E3 5TW

◆ Camden Bangladesh Mela (10 July 05, 11am-7.30pm), Cumberland Green, Regents Park, London NW1

◆ Stratford Library (3-16 Oct. 05, during library opening hours), 3 The Grove, Stratford, London E15 1EL

◆ Stephen Lawrence Gallery, University of Greenwich, during the October 05 Black History Month (17-23 Oct. 05, 10am-5pm), Old Royal Naval College, Park Row, Greenwich, London SE10 9LS

◆ Luton Central Library (7-18 Nov. 05, during library opening hours), St George's Square, Luton LU1 2NG

Details of other venues and dates are being finalized. These will include Camden, Bedford and other areas.



Supported by:

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The Muslim News
News and Views of Muslims in the UK



Vision for Bangladesh



LONDON ASSEMBLY

HISTORY & HERITAGE



Tara Masjid

A VISITOR'S ACCOUNT

Old buildings and monuments and also accounts of visitors who came to Dhaka many centuries ago clearly point to the city's significant and glorious past. For example, a Portuguese visitor, Sebastian Manrique, after visiting Dhaka in 1640, reported that

'many strange nations resort to this City on account of its vast trade and commerce in great variety of commodities, which are produced in profusion in the rich and fertile lands of this regions. These have raised the City to eminence of wealth which is actually stupefying... The finest and richest muslins are produced in this country. So fine... are these muslins that merchants place them in hollow bambus... carry them throughout Corazane, Persia, Turkey and many other countries.'

DIVERSITY

Dhaka is a historical city with a rich tradition and cultural heritage, gained from an intermixing of local elements and outside influences.

Buildings and influences of some of the outside contacts are still visible today.

For example, the present names of Farashganj and Armanitola in old Dhaka relate to the historical presence of the French and Armenians.



Satgambuj Masjid



Dhakashary Mandir



Lalbagh Fort Complex



Bara Katra



Ahsan Manjil

THE CYCLICAL FORTUNES OF DHAKA CITY

Soon after the British conquest of Bengal in 1757, Dhaka began to experience a dramatic decline. The process lasted for nearly a century before the city began to rise slowly again during the 1840s.

2005 will be the 100 year anniversary of Dhaka regaining the status of a capital city after losing that position in early 18th Century. In 1905 Lord Curzon, the Viceroy, partitioned Bengal and moved the capital of British India from Calcutta to Delhi. At the same time Dhaka was made the capital of the newly created province of East Bengal and Assam within the British Indian Empire. Although the partition was annulled in 1911, the city-building dynamism injected during the 6 six years continued to stimulate creativity and developments subsequently.

In recent years the pace of change and development has accelerated. New influences through new contacts and a new generation of men and women are having their own distinctive and creative mark on the city's forward march towards the future.

THE PROJECT

The project will trace the development of Dhaka City since the beginning of the 17th century, and focus on aspects of present-day life. It will also show how three events caused and stimulated renewed dynamism not seen since the 17th Century. Namely, the partition of Bengal, first in 1905 and then again in 1947, and the creation of Bangladesh in 1971 when Dhaka became a capital city again.

The Exhibition will comprise of:

- ◆ history and city developments
- ◆ changing city in terms of fashion, lifestyles and aspirations, buildings, shopping centres
- ◆ sport, leisure and recreation
- ◆ parks and gardens
- ◆ future of Dhaka

It will consist of 40-50 boards of different sizes with photographs and written texts. Edited sounds will be linked to a number of boards to recreate Dhaka experience as far as possible.



CONFERENCE

A major conference will be organised during October 2005 in partnership with *Vision for Bangladesh*. It will explore the causes and impacts of the first Bengal partition and the re-establishment of Dhaka as the capital city of the newly created province of East Bengal and Assam, within British India. It will also explore the potential for celebrating the 400 year anniversary of Dhaka City in 2010.

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

- ◆ increase interest in Dhaka and Bangladesh in general within the UK, and encourage people to become more actively involved in the future of the country
- ◆ inform and educate people in the UK of the rich history, developments and life of the dynamic city
- ◆ promote a greater degree of understanding between the UK's diverse communities, and thereby help build a better and more cohesive multi-cultural and multi-faith society
- ◆ improve and encourage a greater degree of connections between Dhaka and London
- ◆ become a catalyst for further studies and projects on Bangladesh and its heritage, involving both adults and young people living in the UK.



Lalbagh Fort Complex



Curzon Hall



Armenian Church





Cosmic Dome, Bashundhara City Shopping Centre



Fantasy Kingdom, a popular theme park in Ashulia, outskirts of Dhaka City



Nazimuddin Awlia Leepu's latest creation

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS UNIQUE PROJECT BY:

- ◆Sponsoring exhibition boards
- ◆Publicising the Exhibition and encouraging people to attend
- ◆Helping to take the Exhibition to the wider audience
- ◆Booking educational and motivational workshops for young people



Outdoor eating



Meena Barua, popular folk singer



Boats on Buriganga River



10th All Bangladesh Milk Vitta Dragon Karate Open Championship 04/05



Bangal School of Shotokan

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