

Liberation War Museum celebrates 10th anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conventionally, a museum is a building or institution where objects of artistic or historical importance and value are preserved and put on display.

But the Liberation War Museum, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary today, has an experience much different from the conventional idea of the museum.

The museum was established at the initiatives of only eight trustees on March 22 in 1996 to meet a historical requirement for preserving the memory and relics of the War of Liberation.

"The key success of this museum is that it has become an institution of all - participation of the people is its lifeline," says Dr Sarwar Ali, one of the museum's trustees. "People have started thinking that it is their own institution."

Not only all the mayors of Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet handed over the soil of the

killing grounds for the museum but also the common people have come forward spontaneously to donate mementoes as well as provide other supports.

"A freedom fighter of Khulna whose three-year-old daughter was killed by the Pakistani army when he was in the battlefield donated his daughter's clothing," Dr Sarwar, also the member-secretary of the museum, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Generosity of those who were directly or indirectly involved in the liberation war has made the institution more credible to people, he said. "And today, teachers of different schools and colleges are helping us in a big way by allowing us to go to their institutions to exhibit the mementoes."

A number of people, particularly school and college students, come to visit the museum everyday, but its activities are not limited just to entertaining the visitors. The museum located at the heart of the city at

Segunbagicha has a number of programmes and projects to reach out to the young generation through mobile museums and interactive sessions.

The Liberation War Museum, through its projects, is trying to focus on the multi-faceted aspects of the liberation war and link its relevance to the present realities of the country.

During its outreach programme, which started in 1997, the museum provides transports and other support to the students of educational institutions to visit it, arranges documentary show and a quiz contest and finally holds an interactive session. More than 75,000 students of 288 city schools have so far been brought under this programme.

For the students in rural areas, the museum authorities arrange mobile museums in the districts so that they can learn the history of the liberation war. More than four lakh students of 55 districts have been brought under this

project.

"Now we are trying to reach out to the students at Upazila level," said Dr Sarwar.

Under the project 'Human rights and peace education in the light of history of liberation war', mobile museum on a car reaches the Upazila-level schools where the students are shown illustrations with briefing on the history of independence.

Besides, under an oral history project, the students listen to the stories of liberation war from their elderly relatives and then write and submit those to the museum.

"This is an activity in which young boys and girls are involved emotionally. Through this, we also come to know about the contribution of the common people to the liberation war," Dr Sarwar says.

The institution is planning to introduce a computer programme 'Touch screen' this year through which the visitors can find and read related history by writing one or two words on the computer.

Through all these programmes, the institution aims to promote the spirit and values of the liberation war. "We don't make any compromise on historical truths, thus keeping the institution away from any controversy," said Dr Sarwar, who had worked with a medical team in a refugee camp in India during the liberation war.

With the contribution of people from all walks of life, the museum has collected nearly 15,000 mementoes, but it can display only 1,305 objects due to space constraints. The rest have been preserved in a special room.

"To exhibit all the mementoes, we urgently need our own building with enough space," he said. "For successful completion of our own building, we need cooperation of all concerned."

To mark the 10th anniversary, the museum has taken up a week-long programme, including discussions and cultural programmes, to be held on its premises. Renowned educationists will take part in the discussions and different cultural groups will also perform.



Students at Mastermind School in the city look at mementoes of the War of Liberation on a mobile museum, a project of the Liberation War Museum.

Two killed in city road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday.

Abdul Jalil, 35, an oil trader of Dolaipar in Shyampur, was injured critically when a truck hit his motorbike at Dholaipar at 1:00am.

He succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Victim's family members said the accident occurred when Jalil while he was going to Dholaipar riding a motorbike from Mir Hazirbagh.

Meanwhile, an unidentified man, aged about 30, was run over by a vehicle on Chittagong road near Shyampur at 3:00pm yesterday.

Uttara Club celebration concludes

UNB, Dhaka

Uttara Club, a prestigious social club in the capital, concluded its weeklong 15th

anniversary celebration programmes with a grand function on Monday night.

Presentation of crests to the founder members and former presidents of the club, prize giving ceremony and a colourful cultural function marked the concluding ceremony held on the club premises.

On this occasion, the club organised various activities, including swimming, tennis and snooker competitions among the members.

Besides, a friendly cricket match will be held between Uttara Club and Dhaka Club on March 24 at Gulshan.

Club President Bazur Rahim told the journalists that for the first time they presented crests to their all former presidents and founder members at the function for their contribution to the club.

Executive committee members led by the club president also distributed prizes among the winners of the sports competitions at the function on Monday night.

Uttara Club has emerged as a major social club in the city since its launch in early 1990s.

PM for common water

FROM PAGE 1
access for Bangladeshi goods to India saying this would help narrow the widening trade gap between the two countries and "help us base our economic relations on an even more solid foundation".

"The fact that we share many common rivers implies that we should have a common approach towards sharing the waters of our common rivers," Khaleda said at a banquet hosted by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in her honour.

She said "constructive engagement in result-oriented solution to water-related issues would certainly contribute to consolidating and strengthening" the bilateral ties.

"We should also not allow the natural courses of our major rivers to be altered as that would cause unmanageable economic and ecological consequences," she said after her hour-long one-to-one talks with Singh.

Describing the talks with Khaleda as "intensive and useful exchange of views on the full range of issues that are important in our bilateral ties," Singh said, "Our dialogue was most useful in understanding each other's point of view and in making progress on various issues."

He said it is in India's "fundamental interest" to see Bangladesh as a "strong, stable and economically strong" country making its full contribution to regional development.

Manmohan Singh said the agreements signed yesterday will provide the right framework for guiding and expanding economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Khaleda said one of the foremost objectives of her trip has been to "constructively contribute to promotion of trust, understanding and cooperation" between the two countries.

"This spirit was adequately reflected in the formal discussions between our two sides earlier," she said. Noting that Dhaka wanted to strengthen friendly ties with New Delhi, she said, "We owe it to ourselves to do our best to narrow down differences."

She said Bangladesh is "trying to deepen democracy and combat extremism and terrorism in order to ensure orderly progress and preserve the liberal ethos of our nationhood".

Expressing confidence that despite the "odds and problems before us, the true Bangladeshi spirit will always prevail", Khaleda said, "I also assure you that in a vibrant, dynamic and forward-looking Bangladesh, you will always have a close friend, valuing your friendship and working hand in hand with you to actualise the true potentials of our relations."

She said the economic and social challenges before the two countries are very similar.

Noting that the trade ties between the two countries have grown over the last three decades and Bangladesh is

India's largest trading partner among the Saarc countries, she said it spoke volumes about the important economic underpinning of bilateral ties.

The Bangladesh PM said Dhaka will encourage trade-creating Indian investments in her country.

She said the potential of bilateral cooperation in human resources development, science and technology, education, agriculture, people-to-people contact and such other areas are enormous and her country is eager to promote cooperation in these areas.

KHALEDA MEETS KALAM
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday raised the water sharing issue of common rivers when she called on Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam, sources said.

The Indian president told Khaleda that there was no dearth of water in the subcontinent. He underscored the need for water management, the sources added.

Kalam suggested more connectivity between India and Bangladesh and said: "Physical connectivity will lead to more connectivity of mind."

The Indian president said there should be more links between the two countries by road, rail and air, a Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesman said.

During the 30-minute meeting at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Kalam also offered assistance to Bangladesh in its rural health programme, including telemedicine.

Khaleda invited Kalam to visit Bangladesh.

World Water Day today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

World Water Day will be observed in the country today as elsewhere around the globe.

This year, Department of Public Health Engineering, NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, the World Health Organisation, Unicef and WSP, the World Bank are jointly observing the Day with due importance.

To observe the Day nationwide different programmes have been chalked out, including national seminar, symposium, rally, cultural programmes highlighting the water issues.

A national seminar entitled "Water and Culture: Where we are" will be held at 10:00am at IDB Bhaban (3rd floor) on the Day. The key issues to be discussed in the seminar will focus on cultural aspects of water with special reference to safe water supply.

15 injured in Chittagong garment factory fire

BDNEWS, Ctg

At least 15 people, including three fire fighters, were injured when a devastating fire broke out at a garment factory at Dewanhat under Double Mooring Police Station in the port city last night.

Workers of the factory said two of their colleagues are missing.

The officer-in-charge of the Double Mooring Police Station, however, said there is no possibility of any worker being trapped in the factory.

The fire fighters were continuing their frantic efforts to control the blaze till filing of the report at 9:30pm.

According to witnesses and fire fighters, the fire broke out at around 7:45 pm at six-storey 'Crissand Sweater Factory Limited'.

Receiving information, 13 units of the fire brigade rushed to the spot and engaged in controlling the blaze. They rescued about 600 garment workers.

During the rescue operation about 15 people were injured. More units from the fire brigade were asked to join the operation.

DHAKA TODAY

Symposium

United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) organises a symposium on 'Water, River and Culture' to mark the World Day for Water. Venue: Scout Bhaban, Kakrail. Time: 5:00pm.

Discussion

Islamic Foundation Bangladesh organises a discussion on 'Spirit of Independence and Nationalism' to mark the Independence and National Day. Venue: Foundation auditorium (Baitul Mukarram). Time: 3:00pm.

Post card sending

On the occasion of the World Day for Water, Angkor Bangladesh Foundation will send post cards to Indian Prime Minister protesting construction of Tipaimukh Dam that will result in drying up of the waters of Surma-Kushiyara-Meghna. The opening of the programme will be held. Venue: High Court Shrine gate. Time: 10:00am.

COP MURDER

Hearing on charge framing against Mirza Abbas, 5 others adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing on charge framing against Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, his brother Mirza Khokan and four others in connection with the constable Abu Naser murder case.

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court issued the order following an oral submission from the prosecution and defence lawyers in presence of Abbas and four others.

Four other accused are Shahab Uddin Lattu, former president of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal, student wing of ruling BNP, Yusuf Bin Jaill, Abu Iqbal and Sumon. Of them, Sumon is still at large and the trial is proceeding in his absence.

The case was stayed for a long time following a court rule. High Court vacated the stay order on the case clearing the way for the trial to begin.

Constable Abu Naser, 27, was killed at Razorbagh Police Lines in Malibagh on February 13, 2001.

According to the prosecution, over 150 activists led by former Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas brought out a procession during hartal hours called by the then opposition BNP around at 11:30am on February 13, 2001.

They attacked a procession of the then ruling Awami League near Razorbagh Police Lines. Bullets were fired at the police barracks from the constable who was standing on the corridor of a building at Rajabagh Police Lines.

The constable died on the spot and another Constable Partha Roy was injured seriously in the incident.

Subedar Jamal Uddin filed a murder case with Motijheel Police Station the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against Mirza Abbas and five others on July 11, 2001.

Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, Sanaullah Miah, Masud Ahmed Talukder and Khorshed Alam appeared for the accused while Public Prosecutor Abdullah Mahmud Hassan for the state.

However, 14 other accused were acquitted.

According to the prosecution, the convicts entered the house of Kamal Hossain, Manikchhari correspondent of the daily Ajker Kagoj, at village Tintohari breaking open the door and



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sakib, a two-year-old baby boy, is fighting for life at the intensive care unit (ICU) of Asian Cardiac and General Hospital in Lalmatia.

He has been suffering from Guillain-Barre Syndrome which has paralysed his hands and legs. He also has severe breathing problem.

Sakib was admitted to the hospital on February 2. He has to stay at least four more weeks in the hospital for his recovery.

But the treatment is highly expensive - Tk 6,000 per day. The hospital authorities are now bearing the cost as his father is a poor day-labourer. They are also providing milk for the baby and food for his mother.

Tk 2.5 lakh more is needed for the baby's treatment. His parents appealed to the generous people to extend a helping hand to save their son.

Contributions can be sent to the following account: A/C No. - 11015123, Mercantile Bank, Dhanmondi Branch, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also contact the Asian Cardiac and General Hospital authorities at 3/3, Block- B, Lalmatia. Telephone: 8123086 and 8122697.



NDF executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A K M Shoab and Partho Sanjoy have been elected chair and secretary general of National Debate Foundation (NDF) for two years.

The committee has been unanimously elected in an extended meeting of NDF where presidents and secretaries of leading debating clubs of the country attended.

The 43-member committee consists of eight co-chairmen and seven additional secretary generals along with other regular office bearers.



Chairperson of India's United Progressive Alliance and Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi, right, shakes hands with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at Gandhi's residence in New Delhi yesterday. Khaleda Zia is in India on a three-day official visit.

JOURNALIST KAMAL MURDER

One to die, 11 get life term

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Speedy Trial Tribunal in Chittagong yesterday sentenced one person to death and 11 others to life imprisonment for killing journalist Kamal Hossain in Khagrachhari about 19 months ago.

Judge HM Mostak Ahmad handed down the death penalty to Mohammad Siraj, son of Musa Mia of Manikchhari upazila in Khagrachhari. He was tried in absentia.

The lifers are Zakir Hossain Siraj, Hanif Member, Rafique Mia, Masud Parvez, Montaz Hossain, Babul Mia, Chan Charan Tripura, Milan Tripura, Taher Ahmad, Abul Kalam Azad and AbulAhad.

However, 14 other accused were acquitted.

According to the prosecution, the convicts entered the house of Kamal Hossain, Manikchhari correspondent of the daily Ajker Kagoj, at village Tintohari breaking open the door and

kidnapped him at midnight on August 21 in 2004.

Sensing the presence of criminals, Kamal hid himself on the false ceiling of his tin-shed house but was forced to come down as the criminals threatened to kill his baby boy.

In the next morning, the police recovered the beheaded body of Kamal at an arum field.

Kamal's younger brother Zahir Hossain lodged a murder case with Manikchhari Police Station. The police framed charges against 26 people. The case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal on August 21 in 2005.

Kamal's mother Bibi Kulum and brother Zahir, who were present at the courtroom yesterday, expressed satisfaction over the judgement.

They, however, said that Hanif Member was one of the masterminds of the brutal murder and he should be given capital punishment.

Sanitation services for city slum dwellers launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Coalition for Urban Poor (CUP), a coalition of some NGOs, has launched sanitation and hygiene services to ten thousand slum dwelling families in the city through their newly constructed sanitation establishments.

On completion of a significant portion of their project titled 'Water and Sanitation Rehabilitation Support to the Flood Affected Slums in Dhaka City', they formally opened up the establishments yesterday at Korail Basti Gulshan for the use of people living in low-lying slums.

Under the project, CUP divided the city-slums in 13 groups and set up 40 two-chambered community sanitary latrines, 2300 general latrines, forty tube-wells and four water plants with the financial assistance of Unicef.

They also organised 13 hygiene-education sessions as part of awareness raising programme under the project.

Speaking as chief guest, Major (Rtd) Mohammed Quamrul Islam,

state minister for expatriates' welfare and overseas employment, said such steps should have been taken much earlier, which was made possible by the joint effort of CUP-Unicef.

Birendra Sreshtha, project officer of WES section of UNICEF-Bangladesh, and AUM Abdul Alim Naki, commissioner of Ward no-19 of DCC, also spoke on the occasion.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Syeda Afifa Fatima, wife of engineer Tori qu i Hossain, says a press release.

On this day in 2005, she passed away at the age of only 49.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held and foods will be distributed at the orphanage.

All have been requested to pray for eternal peace and salvation of the departed soul.



WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 36.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 12.4 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm today and rises at 6:00am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.6	18.0	34	24
Chittagong	33.4	17.8	49	67
Rajshahi	35.0	16.5	56	--
Khulna	35.0	18.2	73	48
Barisal	34.0	17.0	--	55
Sylhet	32.7	17.4	50	35
Cox's Bazar	32.6	20.5	--	72

WASA STAFFS' ELECTION

10 injured in clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten people were injured as pro-BNP and Awami League-backed employees clashed over results of Dhaka Wasa Karmachari Bahumukhi Samabaya Sanny election at Karwan Bazar in the city last night.

Four of the injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

During the half an hour clash that erupted at 8:10pm, supporters of two panels damaged election camps and chairs on the ground floor of Wasa building. They chased each other with chairs in their hands.

Witnesses said the clash ensued following a scuffle between two supporters of BNP backed Manzu-Mizan panel and AL-supported Hafiz-Harun panel.

The pro-BNP employees attacked the AL-backed panel supporters after hearing that pro-AL panel is going to sweep the election. Around 3,000 voters cast their votes.

Police went on action around 15 minutes into the clash and chased supporters of both the panels to bring the situation under control.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members took position in the middle of the feuding groups in front of the Wasa building until 9:30pm.

March towards Phulbari tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'National Committee to Protect Oil-Gas-Mineral Resources-Electricity and Ports' goes for a three-day bus-march from Dhaka to Phulbari in Dinajpur tomorrow demanding scrapping of the contract with the Asia Energy Corporation on coal extraction from Phulbari Coalmine.

The march will begin through a brief rally at 10:00am at Muktangan followed by a procession on different city streets. The committee will leave for Dinajpur at 12:00noon and hold rallies at different points on its way tomorrow and the next day.

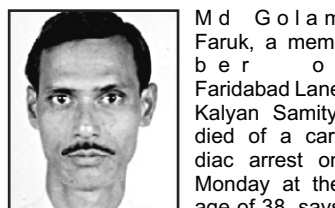
The march will end through a grand rally at Phulbari on March 25 through adopting 'Phulbari Declaration' and announcing the next course of action, the committee members told newsmen at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

Declaring the bus-march programme, Professor Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the committee, said Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman, who had earlier denied existence of the contract with Asia Energy, has recently said the contract with the company on Phulbari coalmine is against the national interest.

Muhammad, a renowned economist of the country, also said Bangladesh will count a loss of eight billion dollars in 30 years if Asia Energy is allowed to extract coal from Phulbari Coalmine.

The loss will be much more if biodiversity, environment, uncertainty of the life of the locals, physical damages and energy security are considered in the calculation, he added.

Obituary



He was the second son of local BNP leader Alhaj Golam Mohammad.