

Heritage

A museum needs urgent attention

Mymensingh museum, that could be an institution for preservation of historical evidence, lies in a desolate state

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MYMENSINGH museum is the only museum in Mymensingh region. But due to lack of proper maintenance and care it is losing its attraction day by day.

In view of preservation of the rare and unique relics of local architecture, sculpture, metal works utensils and commercial products collected from zaminder palaces of Mymensingh Region, the then Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh established the Museum in 1969. This was at the garden house of Zaminder Madan Babu at 17 Amrita Babu Road of the district town. Initially the collected relics from the Zaminder palaces were put on display in the museum.

The articles collected from Muktagachha Zaminder Palace were sports items, a flower case made of white stone, a compass, a sea snail, a tiger head, a model of house made of wood, four show-cases, a head of a wild cow, two wall clocks set on wooden frames, two statues of goddess Swaraswati, three Bishnu statues made of black stone, one statue of Mahashreedar made of wood, Bakhharee (a kind of an ornament); sculpture of a dragon, three swords and two big cutters (Balchhiras). Besides these, earthen plates, weaving machines, two heads of deer, three iron shelves and six candle clusters were collected from the palace.

The articles collected from Gouripur Zaminder Palace are five heads of elephants, a sofa set made of wood and the tusk of an elephant, two statues made of white stone by an Italian sculptor, the cover of two Chinese coconuts, a statue made of plaster of Paris, a cable made of white stone and a large sized umbrella used in hunting.

The articles brought from Athara Bari landlord's palace included one piece skin of rhinoceros and a big round table made of marble stone. There were also some collections of manuscripts from different landlords' homes including that of Dewan Bari in Kishoreganj. Coins of different ages and varieties were also there in the collection of the



Besides the authority of Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) presented a Mummer of a peacock to the museum. A set of image of mother and son made of earth by late artist Abdur Rashid was also on display in the museum.

Since the establishment, the museum was under the charge of Mymensingh Municipality. The government took the responsibility of the museum in August 1989 and it

was enlisted in the gazette in April of 1995 after the department of Archaeology took over the charge of it.

Following construction work, the museum was kept closed for about three years and it was reopened in October 2001 for visitors.

People from different places used to visit the museum in search of our ancient tradition and heritage. But now the number of visitors has gone down sharply. Visitors have to



face problems due to lack of catalogue and identification mark of the relics in the museum. Space constraint has also affected the fair display of the collections. The outside wall of the museum is often covered with wall writings and posters giving it a shape of an average building and for this reason, the newcomers and the pedestrians remain in total doubt whether it is a museum at all. According to

sources, now on average 10 visitors visit the museum daily. This number is very pitiable for an Archaeological Museum in a district town. But authorities have not taken any action in this regard.

When contacted, Assistant Custodian Rowshan Ara Akhtar told The Daily Star that "We received 214 articles when we took the charge. Many valuable articles including bamboo and cane articles,



preserved birds, rare photographs, earthen utensils have been damaged during the construction work". However, no actual figure is available.

Due to space constraint, manuscripts, coins and other articles are not being displayed. Many collections have been kept simply on the floor, for lack of proper care, the mummified peacock has now turned into a hen, while some artistic bricks

of forts and mosques collected from Boail Bari in Kendua upazila of Netrokona district have also been destroyed. There are no silver coins in the museum now, official sources added.

However, the Assistant Custodian denied any problems apart from the space constraint of the showcases. Two rooms out of seven are now being used for office purposes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Anniversary

September 1 to 5 Chalachitram Film Society and Goethe-Institut of Dhaka have organised a 5-day special programme titled, 'A Bondage of Partnership' on the occasion of 20 years of Chalachitram Film Society (1982-2002) and 40 years of Goethe-Institut in Bangladesh (1961-2001).

Dr. A.R. Khan, President of Chalachitram Film Society and Markus Litz, Director of Goethe Institut in Dhaka, on behalf of the two organisations, invite all to attend the events of this programme to be held at the German Cultural Center (Hse # 10, Rd. #9, Dhanmondi R/A.) in the city.

Virtual art show

August 25 November 01 Artist A. Rahman holds a virtual art exhibition at www.flipstudiobd.com/arahman. The virtual display is first of its kind in Bangladesh by artist A.Rahman.

Architectural designs' show

Aug. 17 Sept. 09 An exhibition goes on at the National Museum at Shahbagh in the city to reveal the design and construction of Sher-e-banglanagar. Timetable: 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. (Saturday to Wednesday), 3:30 7:30 p.m. (Friday). The show is closed on Thursday.

Dance festival

September 15-17 Nriya Dhara, a leading dance institution of the country hosts 'Bangladesh Dance Festival', a three-day event that schedules to display dance disciplines of several origins from across the country, in cooperation with the Bengal Foundation. State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Begum Selima Rahman inaugurates the festival at Bangladesh National Museum at Shahbagh in the city.

Table with TV channels and their respective programs, including ATN Bangla, Channel-i, and Star Plus.

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Today's Highlights section featuring the movie 'Operation Dumbo Drop' and 'The Substitute IV'.

Pick of the Day section featuring the movie 'My boyfriend's back'.

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