

Gasping for space

Liberation War Museum can not display most of its collections

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

The Liberation War Museum in Segunbagicha is unable to exhibit all its collections because of space constraint.

"Obviously no museum in the world can display its entire collection but we are not even in a position to showcase the items we want to," said one of the officials of the museum which has been running on a rented property for the past eight years.

The museum has collected 10,730 Liberation War related items until May 2004. These include rare photographs, documents, media reports and material used by freedom fighters and martyrs of the war. In 1999, it took the human remnants of the 1971 genocide after excavating the Muslimbazar and Jalladkhana killing fields with assistance from Bangladesh Army.

However, at the moment the museum can only exhibit around 1300 objects due to paucity of space.

"Rest of the items are kept in the

documentation cell of the museum. This is hampering an all-round display of local and international perspective on the war of independence," said one of the officials of the museum.

There are six galleries in the museum. The first one presents the rich heritage of Bengal, colonial rule and the uprisings against foreign domination and communal tension culminating in creation of Pakistan.

The second gallery displays the era under Pakistani rule from 1947 to 1971. It pictures the struggle of the people of East Pakistan to establish a secular democracy and victory of nationalist forces in the general election of 1970.

Denial of the popular verdict by the Pakistani rulers, non-violent non-cooperation movement, genocide by the military, refugee camps and establishment of the provisional government by elected representatives are featured in the third gallery.

The last three galleries concentrate on the armed struggle led by sector commanders, items used by

martyrs and freedom fighters, international support by governments, public leaders and the media. Roles of collaborators of the Pakistani regime, killing of intellectuals, the final thrust by the allied forces and victory on December 16, 1971 are vividly depicted here.

Museum authorities said that people all over the country have been sending items for displaying at the Liberation War Museum. "At least three items are received in a week," said Dr. Sarwar Ali, the trustee and member secretary of the museum.

"Mostly these are objects used by Liberation War martyrs or freedom fighters which have been treasured by their families for long. These items have emotional ties and family members are upset when we cannot put them on display for lack of space," said Dr. Ali adding that they have decided to exhibit such things in rotation as a compromise.

To deal with problem, the museum's authority now plans to purchase a piece of land in Dhaka for constructing a proper museum.

"We need an area of at least one third of an acre," said Dr. Ali.

He informed that the museum had successfully conducted the government approved national lottery from January to March 2003 and kept the money earned for purchasing the land. However, he added that the fund would partially meet the desired land's price. The rest has to be raised from local and foreign donations.

The museum has been receiving a token grant from the national budget since 1999.

"We have been lucky that no subsequent government has cancelled the allocation," said the secretary adding that this year the museum received a grant of Tk 28 lakh.

But that amount alone is not sufficient to run the museum and conduct its different programmes.

"We have to depend on the contribution from different sponsor members, chartered members and annual members to manage the rest," said Dr. Ali.



STAR PHOTO

Neglect scars Mohakhali road

NAIMUL HAQ

About two kilometre-stretch of the road on both sides of the Tk 113-crore under-construction flyover at Mohakhali in the capital is in a poor state for over a year now.

The World Bank-funded Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) that is implementing the project has allocated Tk 4.50

crore for any repair, carpeting and levelling to keep the road and its pavement smooth and operative irrespective of weather conditions. But the project director has not taken steps to that end, sources alleged.

The surface of the road is badly damaged at many points, including at the level crossing and cause a nagging traffic congestion most of the time.

"We cannot control traffic here as hundreds of vehicles pour in from three sides and get stuck up because of poor shape of the road," said a traffic sergeant at the site.

The contract for the project provides that the contractor is to maintain pavements on both sides of road and keep the road surface clean and free from any debris and obstruction.

The contractor is also to take adequate safety measures to reduce accidents, install traffic signboards and ensure operation of the road with minimum obstruction.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB), which is supervising implementation of the flyover project, on July 20 issued a letter to DUTP Project Director (PD) Shahabuddin bringing to his notice 'very bad shape of the road surface.' The letter said, 'The uneven road surface and the potholes are all left unattended.'

"We are indeed very concerned at the condition of the road on both sides of the flyover ... Despite several written reminders, the project officials are not complying with the contract rules," said Quamrul Islam Siddique, executive director of the DTCB.

Asked about this, the project director claimed the road was repaired on a regular basis. He however said the current floods have slowed down maintenance and repair work.

"The brick chipping plant at Amin Bazar in Gabtoli is now under floodwater and for this, our contractors cannot supply brick chips for repair work. This is the reality I am facing. But instead of realising the difficulties, DTCB officials are blaming me for violating contract rules. This is unfair," Shahabuddin said.

He has also informed the DTCB in writing the reasons for the delay in road repair, he added.

The project director however could not say how much of the allocated fund (Tk 4.50 crore) he has spent so far for maintenance and repair of the road.

DTCB Additional Executive Director Md Abdul Batin said he did not receive any written information from the project director on the delay in repair of the road.

At least 10,000 vehicles, including heavy lorries, ply the road every day.



Flyover road in bad shape.

STAR PHOTO

Bikes for a better deal

A new motorcycle bazaar makes its debut

FAIZUL A TANIM

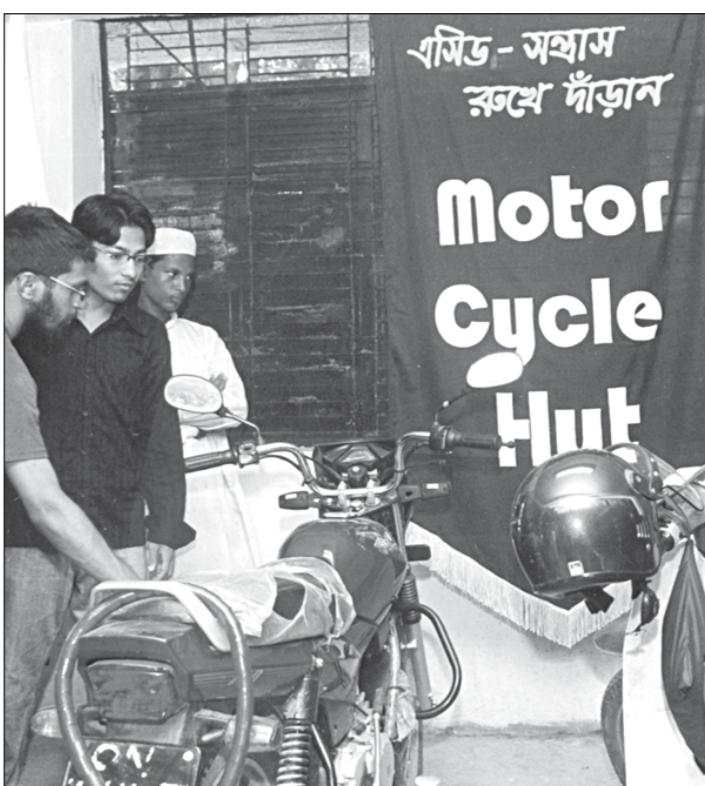
After the launch of a car bazaar, the turn is now for a motorcycle market.

Bikers can wheel into Motorcycle Hut at 6/23 Block-F Lalmatia either to sell their motorcycles or buy one.

The choice is unlimited. You can buy a second-hand or a new machine. It can be a 50CC Honda or a 250CC Yamaha. And prices? You can get them for a bargain, too.

The bazaar is open every day and will remain so for at least a year.

Four youths -- Khalid Ibne



STAR PHOTO

coming from the business to the aid of acid victims.

Motorcycle Hut has picked up a befitting slogan to go with -- 'Notun kinar taka nai, cholo ebar hutey jai'

(If you can't afford new bikes, then Motorcycle Hut is the place for you). The bikes on display are in the price range of Tk 18,000 to Tk 140,000. Buyers can always bargain.

Motorcycle Hut acts as the intermediary, charging 2 percent of the price from the buyer and 5 percent from the seller.

The procedure is simple. Anyone interested to buy or sell a motorcycle has to register with Motorcycle Hut by filling out a form stating the asking price of his motorcycle or how much he is willing to pay for one. A fee of Tk 50 is taken for the registration. Motorcycle Hut then scans the specifications, and if it finds a buyer and a seller have quoted similar prices for a similar machine, it contacts them both.

In a way, it acts like a matchmaker between the buyers and sellers.

In case of secondhand bikes, customers are requested to examine the machines before making the purchase, and Motorcycle Hut cannot be held responsible for any faults in the merchandise.

It also facilitates bank loans for clients. However, this service is not offered to students and those having salary of less than Tk 15,000 a month.

The car bazaar sits in a school compound at Manik Mia Avenue. In a similar move, a painting hut takes place every Friday near the Fine Arts Institute.

health outing, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Heart
National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59

Burn
Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6

Cancer
National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9

Diabetes
Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM) - 9661551-5, 8616641-50

Mother & Child Care
Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
Azimpur Mother & Child Health

MARKET CLOSED

TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab

Shamarita Hospital- 9131901
Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69
Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR,B)- 8811751-60
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday

Elephant Road-Friday

Bishal Center-Friday

Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday

Polwell Market-Friday

BCS Computer City-Friday

Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday

Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday

Stadium Market-Friday

Bangabazar Market-Friday

National Museum-Thursday

Ahsan Manzil-Thursday

New Market-Tuesday

Gausia Market-Tuesday

Mouchak Market-Sunday

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Eastern Plaza-Sunday

Farmview Super Market-Sunday

Muktijuddha Jagduhar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Shishu Jagduhar-Sunday

Union

8130485

Kool 017126731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401

Cabline 8321162

Nihon 8824741-2

Orion 9347277

Anudip 8125285 and 8127611

Capital 9352847

JBS Cab 019364575

Sajan 018126036

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

KGN 8620011

Cab One

7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGN 8620011

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 am

Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm

Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm

Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 pm

Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm

Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15

Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am

Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
Mahanagar Prabhati Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
Mahanagar Godhuli Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm
Turna Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm
Parabat Express Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Joyantika Express Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm
Upabon Express Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm
Tista Express Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
Ekata Express Leaves Dh