

Postal Museum needs space

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

The Postal Museum at General Post Office (GPO) in Dhaka is unable to exhibit its entire collection due to the paucity of space.

The museum has only two rooms on the second floor of the GPO building.

"There are numerous mementoes like stamps and first day covers that were introduced after independence but we can not put them on display due to the lack of space," said Ahsanullah, supervisor of Postal Museum. He added that those items were kept in steel cabinets. "The authorities tried to start the museum by exhibiting old and exotic souvenirs thinking that would attract more visitors," added Ahsanullah.

The museum has postage stamps from around 98 countries under the Postal Union.

"I used to be a philatelist before I entered professional life. The stamps displayed here made me nostalgic," said Mohammed Milon, who works at the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board, while visiting the stamp galleries.

Stamps of different decades are not the only attraction. Letterboxes, weighing scales, franking machines also appeal to the visitors. The crown on top of the huge letterbox

announces clearly that it belonged to the regime of Queen Victoria. The oldest weighing scale displayed at the museum was made around 1885. The old lanterns and candle cases are a must-see also.

"I have read about them and now I can visualise how grand they looked in the old days," said Syed Ashraf, a university student while pointing at the model of a Runner (post man). Few lines on postmen from works of famous poets are inscribed behind it. Ashraf said he was also thrilled to see the badge of a 'Boy Messenger' given to those who joined as under-age postmen.

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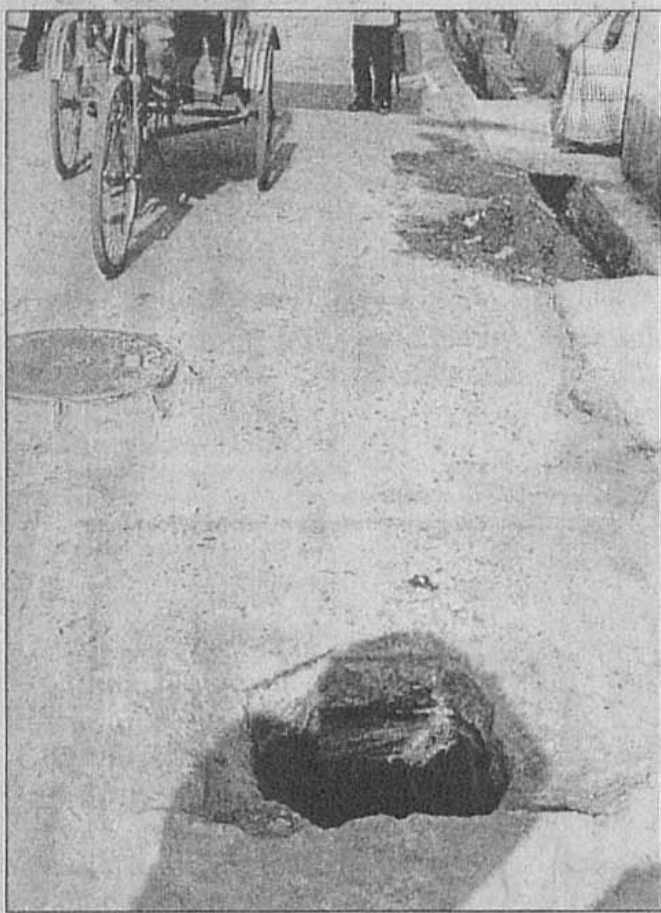
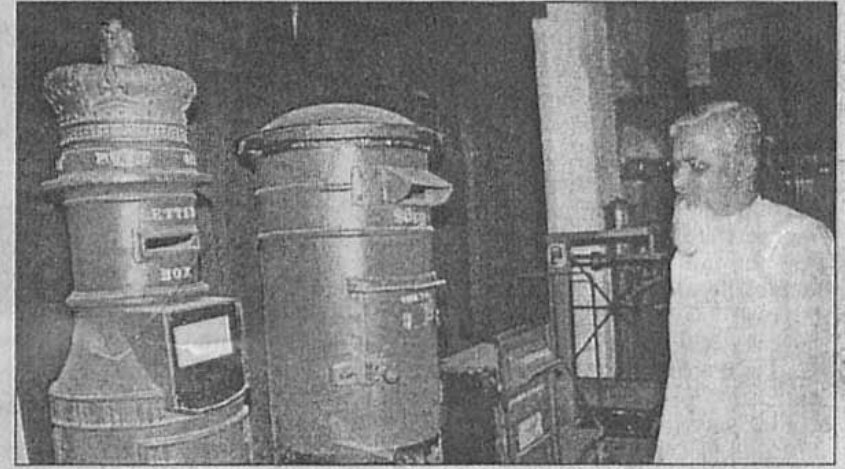
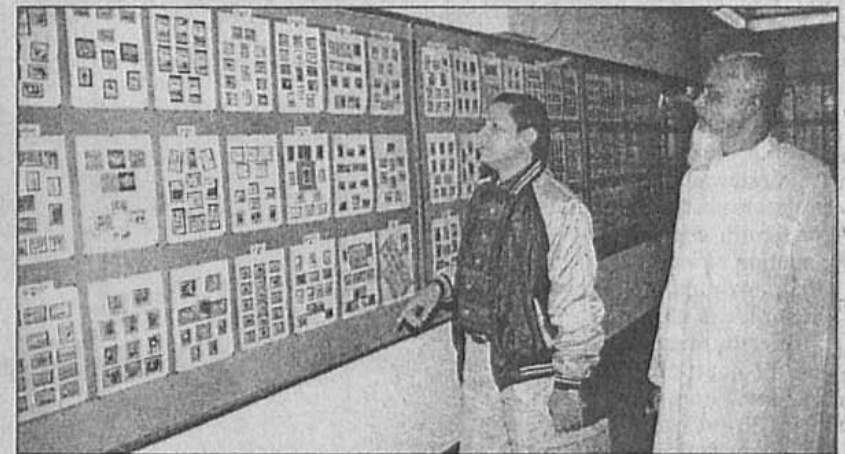
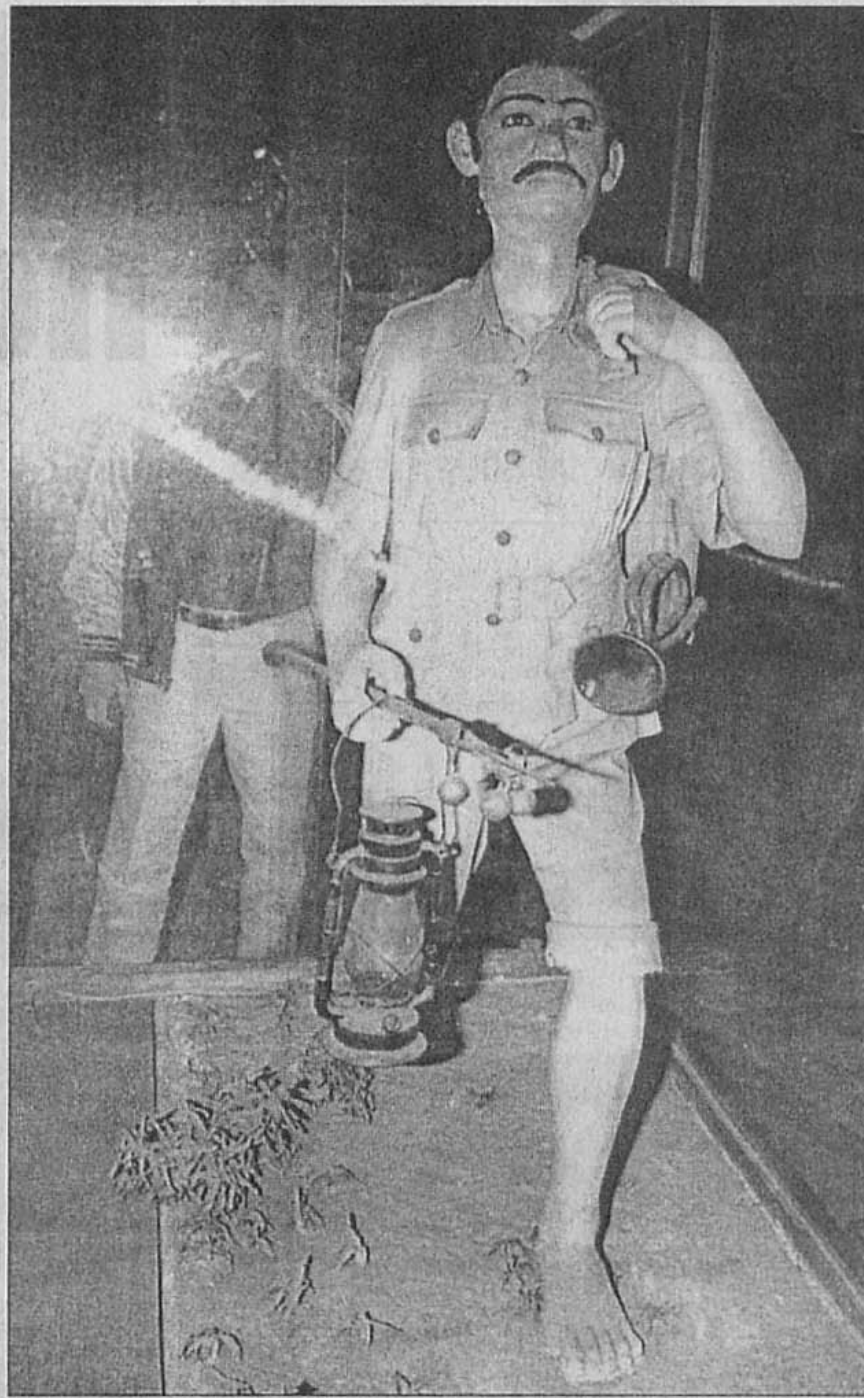
Inaugurated on January 30, 1985, the museum on an average gets about ten visitors a day. It is open everyday except on Fridays. No entrance fee is charged.

"We do not want to earn any revenue from it but just want to continue displaying the items," said the supervisor. He said the museum does not get any funds from the government or the private sector.

He informed that the authorities were thinking of making more space for the museum.

"Maybe there will be a bigger building where the museum can be shifted from this office of the post master general," said Ahsanullah.

Letter boxes of various sizes and shapes used at different times are displayed. Those interested in stamp collecting can feast their eyes on the numerous stamps that had been issued throughout the years. An image of a 'Dak Harkara' (one who collects letters from one post office to the other) stands depicting one stage of the postal era.



Wasa initiative to check theft of manhole covers

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is replacing the existing easily recyclable lead-made manhole covers with 'spheroidized' covers in order to check theft.

The spheroidized covers are made of high-carbon steel. As this metal cannot be recycled easily, it will discourage the manhole cover thieves, Wasa officials said.

The Wasa has already replaced 18 manhole covers with the new ones.

"This project is still in an ex-

Due to the theft of manhole covers, there have been numerous accidents in empty manholes that cause injuries to pedestrians and even death. During rainy season and waterlogging situation, the empty manholes turn into death traps

perimental phase, and we will hopefully proceed with the replacement of other manhole

covers soon," said an official of Dhaka Wasa. With about 70,000 manholes

in every zone of Dhaka Wasa, there are over 360,000 manholes spreading throughout the

city.

According to Wasa, the price of each lead manhole cover is around Tk 3,000. But the new ones cost Tk 12,000 each. It will cost over Tk 43 crore to replace all the covers.

The theft of manhole cover is a regular phenomenon as lead is a recyclable material. The thieves sell them to hardware stores and workshops who use those to make other objects.

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to pedestrians and even death. During rainy season and waterlogging situation, the empty manholes turn into death traps.

Even though the replacement is very expensive, the city residents will welcome the initiative as this will ensure their safety, a Wasa official said.

"We are still waiting to see whether the new covers are also stolen.

If they are not stolen within a certain period, we'll go for replacement of all the covers," said the official.

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Intl (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Intl Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223

National
Asian Courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd.- 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751
World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4, Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 955640
The American Centre (IRC)- 8813440-4, 9886395
The Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141, 8850142
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

OUTING

Museum and Zoo
National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday Closed

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahabagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahabagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtolli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahall
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khligoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahabagh-New Market-Jigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahabagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan