



CU Museum sinks into obscurity

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



SHAHADAT HOSSAIN

Chittagong University Museum, one of the richest museums in the country, remains unknown to students, teachers as well as to people for over 38 years.

The museum started its journey with four cannons of medieval period and a few clothes of Mughal period. Prof Dr A R Mollik, first vice-chancellor of Chittagong University, had played a pioneering role in this regard.

Erstwhile National Bank of Pakistan donated these cannons and clothing to the history department of the university.

Formally established in June 14, 1973, it has now a rich collection of things that take us back to the individuals and episodes of the past and help us develop a sense of history.

The museum was temporally established on the first floor of Arts Faculty. Few days later it was shifted to Shilpakala Academy in the port city and again to the CU campus in 1988. And, it was installed on the third floor of the academic building.

It found its own place in the central library in 1992.

Prof Shamsul Hossain was its first assistant curator. History department donated 30 artefacts. Of them, 14 war arms, two pieces of stone inscriptions, two sculptures, one piece of a monumental and two brass plates are notable. Managing director of the then National Bank of Pakistan Momotaz Hasan donated most of these.

The museum has a huge and rare collection of archaeological articles, sculptures, coins, stone inscription and materials on culture. There are five galleries in the museum on archeology and pre-historic, sculpture, Islamic art, folk art and art.

In the archeology and pre-historic gallery, there are a huge number of pictures, fossils, clay idols and plaques of burnt clay of ancient times. In the sculpture gallery, there are touchstone idols, wooden idol, idols related to Hindu religion like Bishnu Murti, Shib Lingo, Suriya Murti and many other idols ranging from 8th century to 12th century.

Cannon of Mughal period, gold and silver coins of Mughal emperors, inscriptions on papyrus paper, hand written Quran, arms of medieval age, pictures of ancient mosques and their ruins, Islamic calligraphic picture, stone inscriptions and decorated stone with Terra Cotta are available in the Islamic art gallery.

In the folk art gallery, there are huge collections of household utensils made of brass, copper and aluminum of 17th to 18th century. Basket made of cane, lanterns Hukka (tobacco pipe), clay plaque, tribal ornaments, clay sculpture, clay puppet, palanquin, Pathi and Nakshi Kantha (embroidered quilt) of 17th to 18th century are also available in the gallery.

Paintings of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Kamrul Hasan, Rashid Chowdhury, Zia Uddin Chowdhury and Nitun Kundu are available in Art Gallery. Syed Abdullah

Khaleed's sculpture is also available in the art gallery. There has a part of mural picture titled 'Abahoman Bangla and Bangalee' in the art gallery. But due to want of visitors, art gallery remains closed.

Most of the university students don't have any idea about a museum in the central library and furthermore, it has no nameplate, Mamun-ar-Rashid, a student of Communication and Journalism Department said.

The students are being deprived of knowing the past glory despite a museum on the campus of rich collection of ancient times due to indifference of the university authorities, Mamun added.

Besides, the museum is not functioning properly for lack of human resources as it runs without curator. Two attendants work for five galleries.

The museum is now vulnerable as most of its windows are broken, said staff of the museum. Assistant display manager Ziauddin Chowdhury said the poor budget and inadequate human resources are obstacle to running the museum.

Prof Dr Imran Hossain, director of the museum, said they need four more gallery attendants for the smooth running of the museum on an emergency basis.

Dr Imran said as part of the publicity they arrange meetings and seminars frequently. Nevertheless, if the students don't know about the museum, it is very much regrettable.

He said they will put up a nameplate soon to attract the students.



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Chittagong Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound Centre.

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Rizwana Hasan, 65, was sitting for around two hours on the floor in the Centre for Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound (CNMU), Chittagong, for ultrasonogram.

Rizwana, suffering from various old-age complications, was waiting for the doctor. She expressed her frustration for non-availability of benches to sit on and of female doctors for treatment in the centre.

Most of the doctors were seen absent till 10:00am on Wednesday at CNMU, scheduled to start functioning at 8:00am.

The CNMU provides diagnostic and therapeutic services to the indoor patients of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and the outdoor patients. Its services are comparatively cheap.

Sources said the patients are to wait for

hours for diagnosis due to lack of adequate doctors and technologists. Sometimes they are told to come the next day after waiting for hours. Besides, the duty doctors come late to the centre occasionally.

A patient, requesting anonymity, said the doctor goes out of the room during the duty hours for several times, leaving the patients to wait for hours.

Imtiaz Uddin, who took his father there for ultrasonogram of upper abdomen, said they came here to save money but had to come the next day due to non-availability of sufficient doctors.

Dr Tamizuddin Ahmed, director of the centre, said the patients who come after 12:00 noon are told to come the following day. On an average 2,000 to 3,000 patients visit the centre a month. In the summer it increases to 3,000, of whom, 70 percent

Nuclear medicine centre exhausts with patients

are women, he added.

He said they have enough sitting arrangements for the patients in the waiting room.

Dr Tamiz said they are trying to appoint at least one lady doctor in the centre.

The CNMU, Chittagong is situated on the CMCH campus.

Dr Abdul Karim, former director of the

centre, said the CNMU is one of the country's most well-equipped diagnostic and therapeutic centres.

Dr Hossain Rasel, a medical officer, said the centre possesses some facilities which are very rare in the country. There include thyroid scan facility, bone scan facility and Bone Mineral Densitometry (BMD) facility. "We are providing the facilities at a very cheap rate," he added.



Hormone lab in Chittagong Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound Centre.

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the week that was

Film for children stressed

Speakers at a seminar on Sunday emphasised the need for making new films for children so that they can learn about their culture.

They urged the government to give funds for production of children's film and its development, they said.

They were addressing a seminar titled 'Children's film: Context Bangladesh' organised by Children Film Society, Chittagong on the occasion of the weeklong 4th International Children's Film Festival - 2011 at Theatre Institute Centre (TIC) in the port city.

Writer Gias Ahmed presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

Mustari Safi, architect Bidhan Barua, Shaibal Chowdhury, Pinaki Chowdhury, Saikat Dey and children's representative Labonya Barua spoke at the seminar with film critic Prof Abul Mansur in the chair.

Award giving ceremony held

Speakers at a function recently said all should maintain sanctity of the universities as they are the holy places where students learn education; conduct research and practise open thinking.

Chittagong University acting Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammad Alauddin said this while he was addressing as the chief guest A F Mujibur Rahman Foundation award (Fourth) giving ceremony at Social Science Faculty auditorium.

Paying tribute to late A F Mujibur Rahman, Prof Alauddin said Mujib was extraordinarily talented in his student life and he played a vital role to encourage next generation to do bright result in mathematics.

Congratulating the recipients of gold medals, he expressed hope that their (students) glorious role in the workplace will help greatly to build a developed nation.

Prof Dr Abul Kalam Azad presided over the function. Dr Jaman Nazrul Islam, Prof Dr Jyoti Prokash Dutta, Dr Nuroal Anwar also spoke at the ceremony.

Bangalee cultural fair ends

A three-day Bangalee Cultural Fair-2011 ended in the port city with much fanfare and festivity.

Abasar Sangskritik Gosthi, a literary and cultural organisation, organised the fair with a slogan "Let's go, in search of Bangalee's roots" on the city's DC hill premises.

Fifty-five personalities, including freedom fighters from five departments, inaugurated the fair.

Noted scientist Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam, Chittagong University acting Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammad Alauddin and Premier University Vice Chancellor Dr Anupam Sen were present as the chief guests at different sessions of the fair.

Prof Dr Md Abul Kashem of Bengali Department of Chittagong University (CU) presented a keynote paper on "Regional song of Chittagong" in the festival.



Artistes perform Tagore song at a programme marking the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, organised by Raktakarabi.

Advice to children with diabetes

President of Bangladesh Diabetic Association (BADAS) Prof Dr AK Azad Khan on Sunday said the children with diabetes should take diabetes as their companions of life.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a free clinic titled "Changing diabetes in children (CDC) programme" in Chittagong Diabetic Hospital Complex in the port city.

The clinic will provide free treatment and medicine facilities to the children of 01-18 years of age group. Novo Nordisk Pharma (Pvt.) Ltd, an insulin production company, will fund the programme.

Prof Azad urged the doctors and the family members of the children with diabetes for helping the children taking diabetes as their companions of life as it is a life-long disease.

He said, "People use spectacles life-long for eye-disease but they do not think they are in disease. Diabetic patients too should not think themselves are in disease rather they should take diabetes as a companion of life".

Prof Dr Kishwar Azad, CDC project director, and BADAS Secretary General Sayef Uddin spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

General Secretary of Chittagong Diabetic Association Prof Jahangir Chowdhury presided over the inaugural ceremony.

Govt to buy six vessels

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) announced a 10 percent dividend for the fiscal year 2009-2010 at the 33rd annual general meeting of the corporation here on Wednesday.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, also president of BSC Board of Directors, while presiding over the AGM said the government has taken a project to buy six vessels, including two bulk carriers, one container vessel, one mother tanker and two product carriers.

Shipping Secretary Md Abdul Mannan Hawladar, BSC Managing Director Commodore Moksumul Kader were present on the occasion.

Shahjahan said the current year would be golden year for BSC as the present government has taken steps for development of the state owned organisation.

BSC earned a net profit of Tk 13.34 crore in 2009-2010 FY, he said.