



Lokayan: a museum bringing traditional life alive

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT with TANBIR UDDIN ARMAN

Got fed up finding no new place in your domain or failing to decide where to go during your vacation? When you are engrossed in thinking about your next travel destination, Lokayan museum in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila should come up as a good option.

Typically, the term "museum" refers to places where historical artefacts are preserved, which give ideas about lifestyles and memorabilia of rulers and other renowned personalities of a certain period, but not about the general masses. However, going a bit beyond the conventional definition of a museum, Lokayan tells its visitors of stories about lifestyles and livelihoods of people of all strata living for hundreds of years in the northern part of the country, which has a huge wealth of folk traditions.

Established in 2006 by Eco-Social Development Organisation (Esdo), the museum has already accumulated 3,000 traditional tools and materials of different types used by rural people, for instance, farmer's hat, fishing and hunting equipment, plough, rural attire, palanquin and etc.

It receives a good response from people across the country. Every day around 100-150 visitors throng it,



and the number mounts during holidays and vacations, according to the museum authorities.

During a recent visit to the museum, this correspondent saw parents mainly from urban areas taking their children to it with a view to introducing their kids to the items rarely seen in cities.

While visiting around the museum with her daughter, Badrun Nahar Liza, who was from Dhaka Cantonment area, said, "The objects representing the grassroots help us know about our roots."

Anjumanara Parvin, another visitor from Kalibari in

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Mohitul laid to rest

BSS, Jessore

The body of the complainant of Bangabandhu murder case, AFM Mohitul



Islam, who played a pivotal role in bringing the killers of Bangabandhu to justice, was laid to eternal rest with state honour at his family graveyard in Kashimpur village of Monirampur upazila in Jessore yesterday.

Mohitul, a valiant freedom fighter, was buried following the Juma prayers after the fourth namaz-e-janaza at village home, where hundreds of people and admirers bade farewell to him, expressing their profound shock, respect and love.

Awami League central organising secretary for Khulna division BM Mozammel Haq and central leader SM Kamal Hossain were present on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

District Administrator Sheikh Harrunur Rashid and Narail District AL President and District Administrator Subhash Chandra Bose were also present, among others.

A milad mahfil will be organised today in his Kashimpur house after the Zuhur prayers on behalf of Sheikh Hasina. Mohitul was a personal assistant of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman when he and most of his family members were assassinated on August 15, 1975.

He filed the case on October 2, 1996 with Dhanmondi police as a witness. The body of Mohitul, who died of kidney complications at the age of 63, reached Monirampur yesterday.

Grocer sold land to invest in gold smuggling

Says Rab; recovers 12kg of gold in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A grocery store owner of Old Dhaka sold his ancestral lands to invest in gold smuggling and has been trafficking gold to India through the border for about five years, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) said yesterday.

Caught during a drive on Thursday, Tapas Malakar, 32, and his wife Monty Malakar, 26, admitted that they carried gold bars from Dhaka to Benapole point of Bangladesh-India border in their van.

While the grocery store was a front for trafficking gold bars, Tapas invested Tk 60 lakh to become a trafficker by selling his lands in Manikganj.

In two separate drives Thursday, Rab-1 recovered 12kg of gold bars -- 8kg from Tapas, Monty and their associate Dulal Chhandra Das, 32, and the rest from

Dinbandhu Sarkar, 39, an associate of the ring, who owns a store of silver ornaments in Old Dhaka.

Tipped-off, Rab officials in a drive at Turag Bhanga Bridge area of Savar searched a white van and found 24 gold bars in different purses and backpacks and detained

Tapas, Monty and Dinbandhu, Rab-1 commanding officer Tuhin Mohammad Masud told a press conference at Rab-1 headquarters.

He added that there were children in the vehicle who did not know about the gold.

On information from the trio, a Rab team raided Tantibazar area of Old Dhaka at night and found over 4kg of gold at Dinbandhu's apartment, Masud said.

Rab is looking for associates of the ring Hridoy Das, 55, Nilkrishno Ghosh, and Sumon Dey, who are all businessmen based

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The seized gold bars at Rab-1 office.

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A mother's hope dashed under waterfall



MINHAJ UDDIN, Cig

When Namita Dey, 53, lost her husband five years ago, her only son had become her sole resort to overcome grief and a hope in her struggle. With her meagre income as a family welfare assistant of the health directorate's Hathazari upazila office, she afforded his education in engineering.

But all of a sudden, her hope was shattered when her beloved son died after falling from a waterfall in Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong on August 15.

Animesh Dey, 27, son of Niranjan Dey of Poddarpara village in Fatikchhari upazila, who passed his BSc-in-engineering in petroleum and mining from the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology two years ago, was trying to get a scholarship for his master's study from a college in the US, said his family and friends.

"Mother, once I ... complete my higher studies your miseries will be over," Animesh's only elder sister Anamika Dey quoted him as saying, adding that by saying this he tried to console their mother very often.

"Since my father's demise in May 2011, my mother had been taking extra care of my brother. He (Animesh) used to roam around different places with friends. Although my mother did not like that, she did not forbid him. She maintained regular communication to know about the update of his stay," she said.

On that fateful day, after leaving his Oxygen area residence, Animesh told her mother over the phone around 11:30am that he was crossing Sitakunda and asked her not to worry.

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