

War history unfolds at museum

PM for learning correct history of Liberation War
UNB, Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Witness is the blood soaked soil of Bengal/ So will the moon and stars testify/ We have not forgotten memories of martyrs/ We shall forget nothing at all."

The mission statement of the Liberation War Museum is carved atop the entrance of its newly-built complex at the capital's Agargaon, proclaiming the nation's ultimate sacrifice during the 1971 Liberation War.

Yards away, there is a metal sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with four national leaders, recalling their contributions to the glorious achievement.

The museum, formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday, gives an opportunity to visitors to know the country's struggle for freedom in a new light.

It will provide a chance to walk down the memory lane through many untold stories of the war -- from battlefields to items used by freedom fighters.

"It's a giant tree now whose seed was sowed years ago," said Mofidul Hoque, a Liberation War Museum (LWM) trustee, referring to the museum's early days at a rented house in Shegunbagicha.

He said with their new effort they are hoping to integrate more people especially the school-goers to help them learn about the true history of the Liberation War and uphold its spirit.

The LWM was established in 1996 in Shegunbagicha. It commemorates the heroic struggle of the Bengali nation for their democratic and national rights.

In 2009, the museum acquired an acre of land for its new building at Agargaon. The construction of the museum started in 2011 while the architectural design was chosen by a jury board out of 70 entries.

The museum authorities held a special campaign to raise fund from people by encouraging them to buy bricks for the building.

"It was an effort to include people from all walks of life in the journey," said Ziauddin Tariq Ali, a social activist and LWM trustee.

Tariq said the museum has an international standard archive facility for preserving artefacts.

"Gallery-1 displays thousand years of history of this land beginning from the Gupta era to March 1971. The rest three galleries are dedicated to the historical evidences of the Liberation War," he added.

The organisers said the new building has a regular gallery space for displays, temporary gallery for exhibitions, library, research centre, amphitheatre, covered and open spaces for assemblies, an auditorium, three seminar rooms, archive and processing lab.

It also comprises two institutes -- Institute for Liberation War Studies and Centre for the Study in Genocide and Justice, according to its official website.

A minimum amount will be charged for each visit to the museum, which will remain open from morning till evening on weekdays.

"The newly opened museum is bigger than the previous one, and it will be able to attract more people from now on," said Md Yusuf Ali, a regular visitor to the museum.

"Also, artefacts are well displayed because of sufficient space," he said.



Clockwise from top, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina looks at a diorama of a battlefield after inaugurating the newly-built complex of the Liberation War Museum at the capital's Agargaon yesterday. A metal sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with four national leaders welcoming the visitors. Guests take a walk down the memory lane through many untold stories of the war -- from battlefields to items used by the freedom fighters at the museum galleries. The museum building built on about an acre of land.

PHOTOS: PMO, PALASH KHAN

Stressing the need for learning correct history, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would build the country on the Liberation War spirit.

"This is very important to know the real history of the Liberation War and the struggle for freedom... this is also necessary for building character," she said.

Hasina said this while inaugurating the newly constructed nine-storey Liberation War Museum (Muktijuddho Jadugar) building at Agargaon in the capital.

"There was a time people were fed distorted and tempered history... those who have grown up knowing the distorted history have turned perverted," she said.

Talking about the beginning of the distorted history, Hasina said this era began after the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

After 1975, "someone became proclaimer of the independence, one person blew the whistle and the Liberation War started... many kinds of history, imaginary history... our real history was distorted in the process."

Hasina said, "The goal of this killing (of Bangabandhu) was to destroy a spirit -- the Liberation War spirit."

The hidden agenda of the killing got exposed further when the four national leaders were assassinated in the central jail, she said.

Talking about the museum, Hasina said she was involved with the museum since 1995 when eight trustees planned to construct it.

She said her government had raised the monthly allowances for general freedom fighters to Tk 10,000 from Tk 900 as most of them are from poor families in rural areas.

Besides, the government has undertaken a project titled "Construction of Houses for the Landless and Insolvent Freedom Fighters" involving over Tk 227 crore, she said.

Separate agency will conduct Dawra exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Dawra-e-Hadith examinations in all Qawmi madrasas will be held under a separate organisation with unified question papers from May 15 to May 25.

The agency, Al-Hayatul Aulia Lil Jamiatul Qawmi Bangladesh has been empowered as the highest body, under which all the exams and certificate-related activities will take place.

The decision was taken yesterday in the first meeting of Qawmi Madrasa Dawra-e-Hadith Certificate Implementation Committee held at Darul Uloom Moinul Islam Madrasa known as Boro Madrasa at Hathazari upazila of Chittagong.

Chairman of the implementation committee Ahmad Shafi, who is also the Amir of Hefajat-e Islam and Director General of Darul

Uloom Moinul Islam Madrasa, chaired the meeting.

The committee was formed on Thursday through a circular which gave an official recognition to the certificates of Dawra degree, the highest degree of Qawmi Madrasa, as equivalent to the master's degree.

The committee does not have any representative from the government.

An 11-member sub-committee has also been formed at the meeting to conduct the exams, said committee member Maulana Mahfuzul Hoque after the meeting.

He said the sub-committee comprises six members from Qawmi Madrasa Education Board-BEFAQ and five from five other regional education boards. Twenty seven out of 32 members of the implementation committee were present at the meeting.

Govt to help get back genuine FB accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday said it will help genuine users get back their Facebook accounts which the social media giant blocked during its drive against fake accounts.

Posts and Telecommunications Secretary Shyam Sunder Sikder told The Daily Star that the ministry had earlier requested Facebook authorities to block fake accounts. But he said they are not sure if the current initiative has been taken as per their request.

"If the genuine users address the issue to the government, we can take steps to unblock the accounts again," said Sikder.

Facebook authorities started blocking accounts from Friday saying, "accounts made up inauthentic likes and comments that appear to come from accounts located in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and a number of other countries."

Following that, many Facebook users of

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Dhaka proposes twinning of Ctg with Russian port city

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Citing the historic value of St Petersburg's architectural beauty and its role as a major port city of Russia, Bangladesh has proposed Russia to make Chittagong as its twinning city.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali made the proposal during his meeting with the Governor of Leningrad Oblast Alexander Drozdenko on Saturday at the Governor Mansion in St Petersburg.

Ali, who is now on a visit to Russia, said Bangladesh export items like pharmaceuticals, ocean-going vessels, leather goods, tea, especially organic tea, potato and fragrant rice were quite popular in the

Huge Yaba haul in Bay, nine held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion during a drive in the Bay of Bengal yesterday early hours seized around 20 lakh pieces of Yaba pills from a fishing trawler.

Rab also arrested eight persons from the trawler -- Moktul Hossain, 50, of Shahporir Dwip in Teknaf; Nur, 37, Helal, 21, Abdul Khaled, 60, Jane Alam, 32, Md Lokman, 59, and Nurul Mostafa, 26, of Anwara upazila in Chittagong, and Enayet Ullah, 72, of Noakhali.

Later gleaning information from them, Mozaher, the kingly of the syndicate, was arrested from Sugandha residential area under Panchlaish Police Station in Chittagong city, said Lt Col Miftah Uddin Ahmed, commanding officer of Rab-7, at a press conference at Rab-7 headquarters in the port city's Patenga yesterday afternoon.

Home Minister Asazuzzaman Khan Kamal was present at that time.

Being informed that an Anwara-based syndicate was smuggling a large consignment of Yaba pills into the country from Myanmar by a trawler, the Rab team conducted the drive and seized the huge cache of pills from a trawler named "FV Mohosen Aulia" in Katalia area, and arrested eight persons, Miftah said.

During interrogation, the smugglers admitted that they had earlier brought around 70 lakh Yaba pills in four consignments since December last year, the Rab official said.

Rajshahi kabiraj 'rapes' woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A kabiraj (herbal medicine practitioner) allegedly raped a woman after she went to him for treatment in Bagmara upazila of Rajshahi on Thursday night.

Following the incident, Saidur Rahman Dewan, 45, of Gopalpur village, fled the area after being chased by an angry mob.

The woman, 25, who is undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, submitted a complaint at One-stop Crisis Centre yesterday, said Nasim Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Bagmara Police Station. Her complaint will be recorded as a case once it reaches the station today, said the OC. Her husband said he took his wife to Saidur on Thursday night as she was suffering from lower back pain and was behaving "abnormally".



Prof. Dr. AKM FAZLUL HAQUE honoured in India for his contribution to Colorectal Surgery

Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque (Pioneer colorectal surgeon of Bangladesh & Subcontinent, Founder, colorectal surgery dept. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University) was recently (22.02.2017 to 26.02.2017) invited to the world conference of International Society of Coloproctology (Surgery of large intestine, rectum and anus) in Gujarat, India, as chief guest/International faculty. In this conference more than 600 specialist surgeons from across the world including 10 from Bangladesh took part. Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque was one of the 12 internationally reputed specialist colorectal surgeons who were invited as international faculty. Also invited was the world-renowned Italian surgeon & inventor of Longo Operation, Prof. Dr. Antonio Longo. Other international faculties were Dr. R. Sherer from Germany, Prof. Scott Melvin & Prof. Kamacho Diego from USA, Prof Alexie Karachun & Prof Sergei Petrov from Russia, Prof. Kotato Myeda from Japan, Prof. Jain David & Prof. Ali Shafiq from UK, Prof Ronan O'connel from Ireland & Prof Adam Dziki from Poland. The conference authority selected Prof Antonio Longo & Prof. Fazlul Haque for live MIPH or Longo operation. Prof Longo was the inventor & Prof. Haque has the worldwide highest record of successful operation for piles, fissure and fistula. Prof. Longo, the inventor himself, was present as moderator during Prof Haque's operation. He & the 600 colorectal surgeons keenly observed and asked questions about the procedure. Dr. Asif Almas Haque, MRCS (England), FCPS (Surgery), the eldest son of Prof. Haque, assisted during the operation. Prof. Haque successfully performed the procedure on a 4th degree piles without any blood loss or external surgery, which was greatly appreciated by everyone. Later Prof. Haque performed a complex fistula operation and displayed his skill how to use seton to cure fistula. After Prof. Haque, Prof Longo performed another Longo Operation. Out of 12 international faculties, only 2 were given the honor of performing live surgery in this conference. Later Prof. Haque was invited to chair the prestigious Dr. Shivalingam oration symposium.

On 25th February the conference authority honored 12 international faculties with memento and a short description on their experience and contribution to colorectal surgery was read out. Prof. Briz B. Agarwal, the chairman of the program, described Prof Haque as the pioneer colorectal surgeon of the subcontinent, who has performed the highest number of successful colorectal surgery in the world.

On 26th February Prof Haque was invited as a specialist panel speaker in another international conference in Mumbai. Chairman of the meeting Prof. Roy Patankar described Prof. Haque as the most experienced surgeon with highest number colorectal patients worldwide and requested him to share his vast experience with the audience.

This unprecedented success is a pride for Bangladesh. We wish him more success, good health & long life.

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