

WHAT'S LEFT OF THE LUSTROUS PAST... left unprotected and unmaintained during years of legal battle over its ownership rights, the remnants of the Baishroshi zamindar mansion, in Faridpur's Sadarpur upazila, still fascinate visitors from far and away.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

BAISHROSHI ZAMINDAR MANSION

'Heritage site' losing lustre while govt clings to legal battle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Caught in the middle of a long tug of war between its heirs and the government, an age-old building located in Baishroshi area of Sadarpur upazila, with magnificent aesthetic features from the past, is in ruins.

Unfortunately, the authorities concerned in the government did nothing till date to protect and preserve the 50-acre property -- consisting of 14 intricately crafted buildings, two temples, five ponds with brick staircases and a large garden -- that could be preserved and showcased as a heritage site for future generations.

The mansion was built in 1864 by Raghuram Saha -- the founder of Baishroshi zamindar dynasty, according to locals.

The family once ruled 22 parganas or mahals in Faridpur and Barishal regions. The then British rulers of India later bestowed the family with the title 'Roy Bahadur Chowdhury'.

All of the family members except Sukumar Roy Bahadur moved to Kolkata in India after the zamindari system was abolished in 1950, when the family lost all their estates, including the Baishroshi mansion, to the state.

Sukumar Roy Bahadur took his own life after the independence of Bangladesh. Amaresh Roy Chowdhury, a successor of

the family, resides in Rajshahi.

Currently, only 30 acres of the property including the ponds and the structures remain in dilapidated state under the possession of the government. Influential locals over the years encroached on the remainder of the land that belonged to the

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compound of the mansion.

Buildings for land offices of the local union as well as the upazila have been built on the premises of the zamindar mansion and its five ponds have been leased by the government for fish farming.

All the valuable components, such as doors and windows, had already been stolen from the buildings and the few remaining components, especially metal works, are being stolen almost every day, said a number of visitors.

Zahir Hossain, a student at Government Rajendra College in Faridpur town, said, "I

visited the zamindar house three times. The first time I visited the house, I saw many things like doors and windows. During my second and third visits, some of the doors and windows were missing."

"If we don't save structures and houses of bygone ages, our next generations will not

resorted to the 'Special Establishment and Protection of Government Property Act' to file a writ petition with the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, claiming ownership rights on 16.45 acres out of the 22.01 acres of the property. The verdict on the petition is still pending.

Locals said a good number of visitors come to see the Baishroshi zamindar mansion and the government has a responsibility in protecting the heritage site and its antiquities.

Contacted, Sadarpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Purabi Goldar said, "It was listed under 'A' category of vested properties... People come from faraway places to see this house. In order to preserve local heritage and history, it is imperative that this house is preserved."

Amit Roy Chowdhury, son of Amaresh Roy Chowdhury, regretted that the property under the long possession of the government had never been maintained and was left to be plundered by thieves and land grabbers.

Although they won inheritance rights to the property at the court, the government is withholding its handover by filing a counter case, he said, adding that once all the legality is settled, his family would hold discussions with locals as to how the property should be preserved.



A number of Covid patients are increasing but an ICU is yet to be set up at Tangail 250-bed Tangail General Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

One year into pandemic: ICU at Tangail General Hospital still elusive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Although the Covid-19 situation is deteriorating and the number of patients is increasing, an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) could not be set up so far at the hospital in Tangail.

The works to set up a central oxygen plant at the hospital also remain incomplete.

The 250-bed Tangail General Hospital is the main centre of the treatment for around 40 lakh people of the district. However, the hospital has not yet been equipped with necessary treatment facilities to manage Covid-19 patients despite a year has been passed since the onset of the pandemic.

As a result, conscious citizens have expressed their grave concern over the increasing number of the Covid-19 patients in the district and the lack of necessary treatment facilities at the local hospitals.

Meanwhile, after the outbreak of coronavirus, the prime minister on April 18, 2020 in parliament said her

government would take step to set up ICUs at every district hospital.

Asked about the matter, Dr Khandakar Sadiqur Rahman, deputy director (DD) of the Tangail General Hospital, said works to set up the ICU at the first floor of the main building of the hospital are going on. He also said the ICU at the hospital will be functional soon.

He, however, could not say exactly how many days will require before the unit commences operation.

Responding to another query, the DD said the works of setting up the central oxygen plant at the hospital are at the final stage.

According to the Civil Surgeon's Office in Tangail, the first corona patient was detected in the district on April 8 last year. Now the number of the patients stands at 4453 (till April 16). Of them, 70 patients have died so far.

Setting up an ICU at Tangail General Hospital is a long demand of people in the district. However, it is a regrettable matter that the

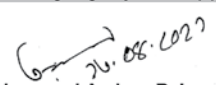
ICU facilities could not be started at the hospital one year into the PM's pledge, said Nizam Uddin, a rights worker in Tangail.

"It is very true that the preparations of the local health department as well as the local hospitals are as poor that they won't be able to tackle the situation if the Covid-19 situation deteriorates further," he added.

Contacted, Civil Surgeon in Tangail Dr Abul Fazal Mohammad Shahabuddin, also member secretary of District Covid-19 Prevention Committee, said that they have plan to upgrade the corona isolation unit at the General Hospital to 70 beds from 50 beds.

On the other hand, arrangements are going on to set up a 20-bed corona isolation unit at Kumudini Hospital in Mizapur, he said.

"However, we will have to put more emphasis to curb the further spread of the coronavirus. Otherwise, it will not possible to tackle the situation by the limited resources," he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
National Board of Revenue (NBR)				
Internal Resources Division (IRD)				
Ministry of Finance				
Invitation for Tender (National)				
01. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance, IRD.			
02. Agency	National Board of Revenue.			
03. Procuring entity name	Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade), National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.			
04. Procuring entity code	Not applicable.			
05. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
06. Invitation for	Goods and related works and services.			
07. Invitation Ref. No. & Date	08.01.0000.067.42.012.20 Date: 19/04/2021.			
08. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM), National.			
09. Budget and source of funds	Government Revenue Budget (GOB).			
10. Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.			
11. Project/program code (if applicable)	N/A.			
12. Project/program name (if applicable)	N/A.			
13. Tender package No.	NBR-GD-2.			
14. Tender package name	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of 10 units Dual View X-ray Baggage Scanners and 01 Unit of Millimeter Wave Human Body Scanner.			
15. Tender publication date	20/04/2021.			
16. Tender last selling date	30/05/2021	Date		Time
17. Tender closing date & time	31/05/2021			3.00pm
18. Tender opening date & time	31/05/2021			3.40pm
19. Name & address of the office(s):	Address			
-Selling tender document (principal)	Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade), Room No. 512, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. Tender schedule will be collected through Treasury Challan on Misc. Code is 1-1103-0000-2681 at Sonali Bank/Bangladesh Bank in favour of Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade), National Board of Revenue, Dhaka.			
-Receiving tender document	Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade), Room No. 512, Tender Opening Committee, National Board of Revenue, Dhaka.			
-Opening tender document	Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade), Tender Opening Committee, Room No. 512, National Board of Revenue, Dhaka.			
20. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Conference Room, VAT Online Project, 7th Floor, 160/A, IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Date: 06/05/2021, Time: 11.00am, Queries will be taken in written within 02/05/2021 till 13.30pm.			
21. Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender documents.			
22. Brief description of goods	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of 10 units Dual View X-ray Baggage Scanners and 01 Unit of Millimeter Wave Human Body Scanner at different Airports and Land Ports of Bangladesh (e.g., Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Akhaura LCS, Sylhet Osmani International Airport, Tamabil LCS, Sonamasjid LCS, Darshana LCS, Bhomra LCS, Burimari LCS, Banglabandha LCS, Hili LCS and some location might be changed).			
23. Brief description of related services	03 (Three) years Operation and Maintenance for X-ray Baggage Scanner and Human Body Scanner and 05 (Five) years Operation and Maintenance for X-ray Generator.			
24. Price of tender document	BDT 5000 (five thousand Taka) (non-refundable).			
25. Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount	Completion time in weeks
Lot-1	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of 10 units Dual View X-ray Baggage Scanners and 01 Unit of Millimeter Wave Human Body Scanner.	National Board of Revenue	80,00,000 (eighty lac) BDT in the format of either BG/Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh	As per Section-6 of Tender Schedule
26. Designation of official inviting tender	Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade), Room No. 512, National Board of Revenue, Dhaka.			
27. Address of official inviting tender	National Board of Revenue, Rajshsha Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.			
28. Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: +88-02-8392360 Fax: +88-02-8391233 E-mail: rahman_toffee@yahoo.com			
29. Special instructions:	(a) The tender shall be guided by PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 of Bangladesh. (b) In the event of unavoidable circumstance, if the receiving, closing and opening of the tender cannot be done on the abovementioned dates, the next normal working day will be treated as the valid date of receiving, closing and opening of the tender respectively. Time & place shall remain unchanged. (c) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept/reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason(s) thereof.			
 Khondaker Muhammad Aminur Rahman Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade) National Board of Revenue, Rajshsha Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka Tel: +88-02-8392360 Fax: +88-02-8391233 Mail: Rahman_toffee@yahoo.com				
GD-788				