



Projected design of North Bengal Museum. *Inset*, SM Abraham Lincoln, the founder of the museum.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

North Bengal Museum to get new address

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The North Bengal Museum displaying rare local artefacts and documents from the time of the war of liberation was established in 2012 at the abode of Kurigram’s Public Prosecutor (PP) SM Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln turned his familial home into an archive showcasing the invaluable documents of the Liberation War collected for 20 years.

The living room, dining room and even bedroom of the two-storeyed residence at Nazira Baparipara in the town are a treasure trove of more than two thousand authentic documents and materials related to local history, heritage and liberation war.

The museum is finally going to get an address of its own as the construction of a four-storeyed building was inaugurated by the Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque on June 9. The building will be constructed on 20 decimals of land donated by the museum’s founder SM Abraham Lincoln next to his current residence at a cost of Tk 2 crore and 16 lakhs allocated by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.

Lincoln collected many rare memorabilia while working in the field of research on

the Liberation War. While doing research, he came across many rare documents from the time of the liberation war and felt the need to preserve them.

Starting from his living room, he gradually turned his whole familial house into a museum reflecting on the local history, heritage and the war of

The four-storey museum will be constructed on 20 decimals land donated by founder SM Abraham Lincoln at a cost of Tk 2.16 crore.

independence. The museum contains a list of 5,865 Razakars from the greater Rangpur region, a list of members of the peace committee, some dummy rifles used by the freedom fighters on the Roumari battlefield, British-era swords, mortar shells fired by the Pakistan Army on the Bhurungamari battlefield, grenade shells and grenade launchers.

Currently, the visitors pay a visit to

the museum during the day. Lincoln and his family dwell in it at night. Once the construction work is completed, visitors will be able to visit the museum more comfortably.

The ground floor of the original design includes the library, store, office, seminar room, cafeteria and theatre hall. The upstairs will be the main gallery.

Abraham Lincoln thanked the government for its support and funding for the institutionalisation of the museum, saying, “I am grateful to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. I thank the entire ministry including the Liberation War Affairs minister. They have joined me with a big heart in my small endeavour to preserve history.”

The Liberation War researchers, freedom fighters in Kurigram said that the money allocated for the construction of the building will be needed for the construction of the basement and the ground floor. More allocation will be required to build the main gallery.

They have expressed hope that the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs will collaborate in the funding of the museum to upgrade it to an international standard.

No scope

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and others were reasons behind these violence,” Nurul said.

The media reported that people were killed in violence, but it needs to be probed whether the violence took place over the polls, he said.

Quoting newspaper reports, the CEC said the highest number of casualties was reported in the remote char area of Narsingdi’s Raipur during this year’s UP polls.

The casualties in Magura were recorded before the electoral symbols were allotted. It was for establishing dominance in the locality, he claimed.

In Meherpur’s Gangni, violence erupted over establishing a clan’s influence in the area, Nurul said.

In the second phase, 833 UPs went to polls. Of the 8,472 polling centres, voting at only 16 centres was postponed.

A total of 17 registered political parties and a large number of independents ran. There were 41,218 candidates vying for various posts, he said.

It has been observed that an average of four candidates ran for a chairman post.

“... the election was participatory and competitive,” Nurul said.

He urged all candidates, their supporters, and the political leaders to abide by the electoral code of conduct, be tolerant, and cooperate with the election officials in the coming phases.

He differed with Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar’s comment that “Election is now in ICU, democracy on life support” by saying that “I don’t believe that there is no proper atmosphere for election.”

“The comments he [Mahbub Talukdar] made are not decent,” Nurul said.

EC Rafiqul Islam and Brigadier General (ret’d) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury also spoke at the press conference.

Engineers make

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soft robots are “naturally geared to interact with the soft stuff, like humans or tomatoes”, Pierre-Thomas Brun, assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering at Princeton, said.

This could make them significantly more useful for harvesting food, taking items off a conveyor belt, or providing health care – as part of wearable exosuits or under-the-skin devices that could help people with heart issues.

The robots are built by injecting bubbles into a liquid polymer called elastomer which becomes rubbery when it solidifies, then inflating the device to make it bend and move. Gravity helps the bubble rise to the top as the elastomer reaches the bottom; once it has hardened, it can be removed from the mold and inflated.

UK expects inclusive, transparent

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economic development and assured that the two countries will continue to forge the partnership to uphold and improve development and human rights both here, in the UK and beyond.

Lord Tariq said Bangladesh’s founding values are an example to the world. Those are very farsighted, guarantees rights of freedom of all Bangladeshis, and stress the importance of human rights.

“We stand with those who promote respect and tolerance between communities ... I do hope and believe that ... inshallah the citizens of Bangladesh will have an open and vigorous debate about the country’s directions,” said Lord Tariq, minister of state for South Asia, UN and the Commonwealth.

He said inclusive politics is essential for every country’s prospect -- something that Bangladesh’s Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman knew very well.

“Bangladesh has today built something quite remarkable. Yet, no country progresses by sitting on its laurels. There is an opportunity for this great nation to go even further.”

He said Bangladesh has shown sustainability of democracy, the pillars of democracy are being strengthened, but always there are needs to work on, call it in UK or Bangladesh, he said.

EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley said they will be following the next general election very closely because the international community

Bangladesh issue

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military regime of West Pakistan.”
BANGLADESH PROBLEM WILL BE RESOLVED SOON

Indira said today that the Bangladesh problem might be solved in a month or two. She was confident that refugees would soon go back to Bangladesh. Speaking at a meeting of the Congress parliamentary executive committee, the Indian premier said she had no objection to the visit of the six-man commission named by president Nixon for a tour of India and Pakistan or even a visit by the UN observers.

YAHYA LOSING CONTROL OVER EAST PAKISTAN

The US president’s assistant for national security affairs, Henry Kissinger, in a memorandum dated November 16, 1971, informed president Nixon, “Yahya has only decreasing control over his government’s policy in East Pakistan because the Pakistan Army there is nearly autonomous. The army’s policy is such that the running battle with guerrillas is likely to continue with little attention to changing practices in a way that could restore genuine civilian government.” The memorandum was based on the report of USAID official Maury Williams who had visited East Pakistan recently.

“The Pakistan Army in East Pakistan was

is “very interested” in what happens in Bangladesh.

“Why we’ll be following it very closely is not because we want to interfere, but the international community is very interested in what happens in Bangladesh,” he said at “DCAB Talk” in a city hotel.

Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh, (DCAB) President Pantho Rahaman and General Secretary AKM Moynuddin also spoke at the event.

“I think the bottom line is in any election, average citizens wake up the day after the election and see the results and say my vote is counted,” said the EU diplomat.

£54M EDUCATION HELP

During the talks, marking the 50 years of UK-Bangladesh relationship, Lord Tariq said the UK is working to strengthen the ties with Bangladesh in terms of trade, education, climate change and more.

“We must work together so that economic development does not come at the cost of the planet. It is now the time to act now, not tomorrow,” he said.

He assured that the UK would continue to stand with Bangladesh in urgently finding ways to a solution to the Rohingya crisis, stressing the need for accountability as well as repatriation.

Lord Tariq announced that the UK will provide £54 million to ensure disadvantaged girls and young people have access to quality education. Nearly half a million children will be benefited by it.

operating in many respects independent of the policies and direction of president Yahya. The recently appointed civilian government is really run by a major general who is the military adviser to the governor,” added the memorandum.

ON THE WAR FRONT

Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops position in Godagari area of Rajshahi today. Six enemy soldiers were killed and four were wounded in the operation.

The Pak occupation troops attacked a Mukti Bahini position near Bamondia in Kushtia district today. The freedom fighters retaliated bravely, and after a fierce battle the enemy retreated. The enemy troops suffered heavy casualties.

Mukti Bahini clashed with occupation troops in Bagerhat area today killing 10 enemy soldiers. On the same day, Mukti Bahini ambushed a Pakistan army Jeep near Jagati and killed four enemy soldiers. Another group of Mukti Bahini attacked Pakistani troops moving to Goalahati from Chhutipur area, killing two and injuring three enemy soldiers.

Mukti Bahini raided Muktagacha Police Station today and killed six enemy irregulars.

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Global powers urged

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wasn’t true of everybody. Sadly that’s the nature of diplomacy...

“We cannot force sovereign nations to do what they do not wish to do. It’s ultimately their decision to make and they must stand by it.”

Meanwhile, China yesterday pushed back at criticism that it helped weaken language on phasing out coal at the COP26 conference, saying that it had already made “enormous efforts” to reduce coal consumption.

China’s foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian at a news briefing in Beijing said that China has already made “enormous efforts” in controlling coal consumption, reports Reuters.

Energy transitions should be based on national circumstances and developing countries’ energy security should be guaranteed, he added.

Johnson said “Glasgow Pact” had managed to “turn the dial down” to warming of “around two degrees” Celsius – still failing to meet a 2015 Paris Agreement pledge to limit warming to 1.5-2.0C.

Teen held captive for 80 days, raped

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Kamal, 46, Naser, 25, and Farhad, 27.

All of them are residents of different villages of the same upazila.

The four used to stalk the girl, a student of class-9, according to the case statement. At one stage, the girl shared the incident with her guardians, who later sharply rebuked the stalkers.

The incident made the stalkers furious.

On August 26, as the girl was en route to her school, Mamun and his cohorts abducted her from the Mazumdar Hat area at gunpoint.

The girl was first taken to a house at Chatarpaiyyar village under nearby Senbagh upazila. She was kept hostage for about a month and was violated by Mamun and Kamal continuously.

On September 28, the girl was taken to a residence in Tangail’s Shahidpur village, where the

four accused continued to rape her.

The acts were filmed by the accused, who threatened to release the video on social media if she discloses the matter.

Later on November 9, the girl managed to flee from the compound and returned to her home in Noakhali in a poorly state.

As soon as she was physically able to venture out of her home, the girl filed the case with the Begumganj Police Station.

The victim’s medical test was completed yesterday, said Mir Zahedul Haque Rony, the officer-in-charge of Begumganj Police Station.

The victim’s family members said they are passing days in insecurity as the rapists are threatening them, the police said quoting the victims.

Police were conducting raids to arrest the accused, Rony added.

How do Covid pills work?

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The second such drug, Paxlovid by Pfizer is, however, yet to be authorised around the world.

The two drugs have a lot to offer in terms of treatment of coronavirus infection.

But how do these work?

MOLNUPIRAVIR

According to the makers of Molnupiravir, it cuts the risk of being hospitalised or dying by half – among adults with mild to moderate Covid, who would otherwise be at risk of developing serious disease.

The drug creates erroneous mutations in the genetic code of the virus, stopping it from replicating accurately.

The increasing replication with mutations, called “error catastrophe,” eventually stop the virus’ reproduction entirely.

The drug, due to its powerful destructive process, is named after “Mjölnir”, the hammer wielded by the God of Thunder, Thor.

PAXLOVID

Paxlovid also stops viral replication, but in a different way.

Coronavirus remains functional and reproduces in our body with the help of protease, which is a kind of enzyme.

Paxlovid attaches to protease and makes it non-functional, thus making the coronavirus non-functional.

According to studies revealed by Pfizer, Paxlovid reduces the risk of hospitalisation or death by 89 percent among those most vulnerable to Covid-19.

A major advantage the new drugs have is that they come in pill form, rather than as intravenous drugs. However, for both drugs, starting treatment early is important.

In clinical trials, Merck and Pfizer started the treatments within five days of symptoms starting. The trials for both treatments reported no unfavourable side-effects.

Such drugs, in the form of pills are expected to not only help cure people, but also stop the spread of coronavirus.

EC asks Pabna MP to leave Bera

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reasons. He, however, claimed he does not violate electoral code of conduct.

The lawmaker’s son, Asif Sams Ranjan, is contesting the mayoral polls on AL ticket.

More than one mayor candidate complained against the lawmaker over influencing the election violating the electoral code of conduct, said Md Mahabubur Rahman, Pabna district election officer and also the returning officer of Bera municipality polls.

“According to the electoral rules [section 22], important personalities, including lawmakers, do not stay in the electoral area to make sure that the election is not influenced. We have requested the lawmaker to leave the area ahead of the election for the sake of maintaining the electoral code of conduct.” Mahabubur said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, lawmaker Tuku

yesterday said he was staying at his home in Bera and was not violating the electoral code of conduct.

“I am staying at my home and this is my right. I don’t take part in any polls campaign and never influence the election. I have no intention of influencing the polls.”

He said he would go to Dhaka soon to join the current parliament session.

Campaigning in the municipality polls began on Friday. A total of five candidates are taking part in the election.

Tuku, also a former state minister for home affairs, thanked the returning officer for trying to hold an impartial and peaceful election.

“I am happy that the election officials are working to hold a peaceful and impartial election.”

He said the Awami League is a well organised organisation and its leaders and activists will work for the party mayor candidate.

Getting GSP Plus

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to a single bloc, and it has benefited under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) over the years.

The privilege will end by 2029, but the country can access another scheme called GSP Plus.

The EU envoy said accessing the GSP Plus will require the ratification of 32 UN Conventions. Bangladesh is good in ratifying the conventions, but what is needed is the implementation.

“It’s very heartening that Bangladesh is already engaging in that,” Whiteley said, adding that it is very encouraging to see Bangladesh’s awareness in the matter.

The country is already investing in green industries, which is something great, he said, pledging the EU’s support to Bangladesh in achieving the GSP Plus facility.

Responding to a question on the Digital Security Act, the ambassador referred to what they discussed at the EU-Bangladesh Diplomatic Consultations held in Brussels last month, where the EU raised the issue of the act, expressing concerns that some of its provisions risk going beyond the stated purpose of fighting digital crime. It also inquired about certain ongoing trials in this context.

The EU encouraged Bangladesh to implement the recommendations made

during the last Universal Periodic Review. “We’re also having a very open dialogue with the government which is important to respect and I think it will continue,” he said.

In response to a question, he said there is the UN mechanism of Universal Periodic Review and all states come under watch. Bangladesh accepted some of the recommendations of the UPR made in the previous years.

He said the EU sanctioned many individuals and suspended development assistance for the atrocities committed by Myanmar military, but pointed out that it continues the “Everything But Arms” facility to Myanmar, considering that its suspension may harm the common people.

Whitely said some powerful countries, who have influence on Myanmar, are creating obstacles to putting the required pressure on Myanmar in resolving the situation. “We are working to maintain the pressure [of resolving].”

He said that the EU was deeply concerned over the recent attacks on the Hindu community, and that it is backing the government announcement to ensure protection for the minorities in the country.

The EU wants to see the perpetrators brought to book, he added.