

Reflection on the Liberation War Museum Visit

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The Liberation War Museum, which has an everlasting flame blazing at its entrance, is devoted to honoring the sacrifices made by soldiers and civilians during the Bangladesh Liberation War, which lasted from 26 March to 16 December 1971.

The Liberation War Museum is situated in a large building of a spacious area. When I entered the building, on my right side, I saw some green surface garnished with grass. And on my left side, there were some artifacts that symbolizes some signs of our war of independence of 1971.

Then I entered the main building. And the first thing that caught my attention was the “Fighter plane” attached to the ceiling of the ground floor.



Figure : The Fighter Plane
(picture was taken from internet)

Then the galleries of the museum start from the first floor of the building. The staircases of the entrance towards the galleries are really eye-catching; the walls beside the staircases have different handmade stonework on various themes of our culture, nationality as Bengali.

The museum's interior areas are planned to be open and customizable, with a major center working as a meeting place and providing access for visitors to the various galleries and exhibition spaces. The display areas of the museum are organized in a circle around the main hall, with steps and ramps linking numerous numbers of the floors.

Moreover, The lighting was mainly focused on the exhibition's items very properly. The overall decoration of the museum is adequate and modernized which helps to make the visitors' mind check out the artifacts and know about them thoroughly.

In terms of modern structure, the Liberation War Museum building is a spectacular example of traditional Bangladeshi design incorporated into contemporary construction. Visitors are given a profound and touching experience by its artistic use of materials, light, and space, and its design represents the museum's dedication to respecting Bangladesh's history and culture.

The Liberation War Museum has a total four galleries :-

- Gallery-1 : Our Heritage, Our Struggle
- Gallery-2 : Our Rights, Our Sacrifices
- Gallery-3 : Our Battles, Our Friends
- Gallery-4 : Our Victory, Our Values

I have visited all these galleries. But the gallery-2 named “ Our Rights, Our Sacrifices” caught my attention mostly. The events leading up to the 1971 Liberation War are shown in Gallery 2.

Basically, this gallery contains the artifacts, memories of 1971. The displays in Gallery 2 are arranged according to themes, with subjects including the role of women in the Liberation War, the function of the media, the effects of the conflict on civilians, and the contributions of international journalists and photographers being covered. A portion of the exhibit is reserved to the war's martyrs, including photographs and biographical details of individuals who gave their lives in defense of freedom. The exhibition also portrays the Bengali people's resistance and battle, including the creation of the Mukti Bahini (the Liberation Army) and the cooperation they got from India.

Some exhibits such as particles of burnt houses in 1971, Bangladesh Airforce's aircrafts, parachutes, their used rifles, the used daily commodities of Giasuddin Ahmed, Rashidul Hasan(Lecturer, University of Dhaka), and so on.

When I visited the gallery-2, I saw so many artifacts about the War of Independence of 1971. But the pictures of refugees moving from their own country to India moved me very emotionally. Those pictures clearly depict the fear and uncertainty on their faces. The children and the aged people were the worst sufferers of this move. But India was a great friend for us about this



Figure-2 : Bengali refugees moving to India to save their lives

(source: gettyimages.com)

matter. They Arranged shelter camps for our people. People were starved, sick, helpless. Their misery knew no bounds then.

Moreover, the then Pakistani army tortured almost over 2 lakhs women of our country, raped and murdered them cruelly.

In 1971, everyone of East Pakistan fought for their own identity, their own independence as Bengali. Their fight, courageous moves, The then artists motivational songs, dramas, speeches were also an inspiration for our freedom fighters. The 9 months long war was a very emotional, strong and at the same time a brave movement against West Pakistan's injustice upon us.

To conclude, in my point of view, every exhibits are equally important which are displayed in the galleries of the museum. Furthermore, the museum's objective is to commemorate the Liberation

War's history and heritage, and it is home to a variety of displays, images, and relics that provide visitors a glimpse into the military, social, and political developments that preceded the war as well as the conflict itself and its consequence. Ultimately, the Liberation War Museum serves an important purpose as a learning and cultural institution, giving visitors a fuller appreciation of Bangladesh's independence battle and the sacrifices made by its people. This not only, it serves as a reminder of the value of defending our freedom and human rights as well as the endurance of humanity in the face of extreme suffering.
