



Barisal Divisional Museum has been established in the old *Collectorate building* of the district. The building itself is a historical monument that was built in the British era. The government of Bangladesh declared the building as a protected archaeological site in 2003. In 2005, the work of transforming the building into a museum has been started.

There are 9 galleries in the Museum. The galleries display the pictures of many archaeological and historical landmarks of almost 1.5 thousand years old. Besides Around 200 pieces of archaeological remains are displayed in these galleries. Various archaeological patterns, ancient furniture, stone statues, various terracotta plaques, designed bricks, inscriptions, coins and various types of utensils are exhibited here.



Barisal Divisional Museum in 200-year old Collectorate Building in the city was opened yesterday. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurated the museum after eight years of the completion of the project works in June, 2007. Barisal Divisional Museum is situated at Barisal Deputy Commissioner's office complex opposite Barisal City Corporation, near Barisal District Council, judge court and the Kirtankhola River. Shirin Akhtar, additional secretary and director general of the Archeology Department, presided over the inaugural function that was addressed among others by Jebunnesa Afroj, MP, divisional commissioner of Barisal Md. Gaus, deputy commissioner of Barisal Shohidul Alam, regional director of the Archeology Department Amiruzzaman and others. High officials of the cultural affairs ministry, archeology directorate, divisional and district administration, as well as local elites attended the programme. The cultural affairs minister narrating the importance and role of the museum to preserve history

and identities of the nation, called for assistance to enrich and develop it.

Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, co-operation and peace among peoples of different regions, the minister said.

Speakers at the function requested the minister to open a regional office of the archeology directorate in Barisal for development of the museum.

Speedy approval and appointment of 38-strong workforce, including curator, deputy director, assistant director, office staff, security guards and caretakers, also urged by the speakers.

The museum would remain open on weekly working days from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM during summer and 9:00 AM to 6 : 00 PM during winter season

with entrance fee of Tk5 for minor aged above five years, Tk10 for general, Tk25 for SAARC country citizens and Tk100 for citizens of other countries.

For the first time in the country, a special gallery about history and effects related with disaster

management have been also opened at this museum to develop mass awareness in the natural disaster-prone region.