The Walking Museum
1971 Genocide & the University of Dhaka

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Price: 200 BDT
The Walking Museum
1971 Genocide & the University of Dhaka

Centre for Genocide Studies
University of Dhaka
Aparajeyo Bangla.
Syed Abdulllah Khalid's sculptural work, dedicated to the 1971 Liberation War, is located in front of Arts Faculty Building in the University of Dhaka.
Greetings of the 'Mujib Borsho' and that of the Centenary Celebrations of the University of Dhaka.

On the occasion of having a Walking Museum on the 1971 Genocide at the University of Dhaka, I pay my deepest respect to our teachers, students and staff who suffered a genocide at the hands of the Pakistan military in 1971. Established by the British Government in 1921 in the then East Bengal now Bangladesh, the University of Dhaka is its oldest and finest tertiary education institution. In fact, when the University of Dhaka was about to celebrate its golden jubilee i.e 50th anniversary, it became an epicentre of the 1971 genocide. Instead of celebration, we had to mourn the brutal killing of our beloved members of the University who lived and worked in the campus. I hope that the Walking Museum on the 1971 Genocide, undoubtedly, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, will identify and narrate the horrible accounts of the 1971 genocide to let the global communities know of and recognize it. It may be noted that the year 2021 is significantly marked by the golden jubilee of our independence and the Centenary of the University of Dhaka. We believe that initiatives of this kind during this memorable time will keep alive the history of the 1971 genocide so that the future generation of people would become appalled by the atrocities and work wholeheartedly for peace and prosperity on earth.

The Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS) deserves special thanks for having a 'Walking Museum' and bringing out the brochure. I wish CGS all the success.

Long live University of Dhaka. Long live Bangladesh.

(Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman)
Vice Chancellor
I feel privileged to introduce to you the first Walking Museum on the 1971 Genocide in Bangladesh. This is befitting mainly because the Walking Museum occupies the ground recognized as the epicentre of the 1971 Genocide. It is here where the teachers, students, and staff of the University of Dhaka were brutally killed, tortured and humiliated during the nine-month war of independence by the Pakistan army and its local collaborators in 1971. In fact, this is the place where the students said ‘No!’ to the imposition of Urdu as the state language in 1948 and later laid down their lives to establish the right of mother language for the entire Bengali nation on February 21, 1952, which is now celebrated as the International Mother Language Day by the UNESCO globally. This is also the place where the students raised for the first time the flag of independent Bangladesh on March 2, 1971, nearly a month before the declaration of independent Bangladesh and the war of independence in 1971. A walk through the historical places of the University of Dhaka that witnessed the 1971 Genocide is bound to make us sombre and sad but at the same time is bound to inspire us to commit ourselves to work relentlessly to put an end to genocide once and for all in this world!

Imtiaz Ahmed
Professor of International Relations &
Director, Centre for Genocide Studies,
University of Dhaka
PLACES THAT WITNESSED THE 1971 GENOCIDE

1. Bot Tola, Kala Bhaban (the Banyan Tree of Arts Building)
2. Kala Bhaban Gate (Arts Building Gate)
3. Smriti Chiranton (Memory Eternal)
4. Dhaka University Teachers’ Club
5. Shahid Sargent Zahurul Haque Hall
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11. Central Shahid Minar and Amtola
12. Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall
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14. Shamsun Nahar Hall
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17. Ramna Kali Mandir
18. Suhrwardy Uddyan
19. Ruqayyah Hall
20. Modhur Canteen
The University of Dhaka started its journey in 1921. The year 1971 was the 50th anniversary of this university, once known as the East's Oxford. Unfortunately, in the same year, the university also witnessed one of the worst genocides in the history of the world, perpetrated by the Pakistani military and its collaborators, against the people of East Pakistan. The university's sprawling campus is witness to the heinous crimes committed by the Pakistani Army on 25 March 1971. The first wave of the army’s “Operation Searchlight” hit the campus on the night of 25 March 1971. Armed with heavy weapons such as tanks, automatic rifles, rocket launchers, heavy mortars and light machine guns, the Pakistan military encircled the University of Dhaka from the east (unit 41), the south (unit 88) and the north (unit 26). The troops killed over 200 students, 10 teachers, and 12 employees of the university. One may wonder, why would a professional army attack the premise of a renowned university and kill hundreds of teachers and students in a single night? What is the motive behind conducting a genocide inside Dhaka University? Well, the answer is not difficult to find.
The University of Dhaka was closely associated with the formation of Bengali nationalism soon after Pakistan's creation. It started with the Language movement in 1948 when the students of Dhaka University defied Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Father of Pakistan, and his imposition of Urdu, a language spoken by a minority in West Pakistan, as the state language of Pakistan. This movement sowed the seeds for the liberation of the country. Throughout the 1950s and ‘60s, Dhaka University was at the forefront of the democracy movement. The movement shifted towards economic and political autonomy from cultural autonomy, which ultimately led to Bangladesh's creation on 16 December 1971. The emergence of Bengali nationalism in the pre-independence era was marked by the university's students and teachers' struggles against the oppressive Pakistani ruling elites. Perhaps, for this reason, the University of Dhaka became a target of the Pakistan military during the Liberation War.

The University of Dhaka has lost eminent teachers, academics, students, and employees during the nine-month-long Liberation War. Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), University of Dhaka, has introduced the Walking Museum: 1971 Genocide and the University of Dhaka, to pay homage to those brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of Bangladesh and also to make the younger generations, including academics and researchers, aware of the 1971 genocide at the University of Dhaka.
Map of Walking Museum
Bot Tola, Kala Bhaban বটতলা, কলা ভবন

Banyan Tree of the Arts Building

The historic Bot Tola (the Banyan Tree) located in front of the Arts Building, University of Dhaka, was the meeting place of protesting students in the 1960s. This place was the epicenter of mass uprisings against the Ayub Khan regime, the then President of Pakistan. Also, the historical premises of Bot Tola witnessed the first national flag of Bangladesh being hoisted by ASM Abdur Rab, the then Vice-President (VP) of Dhaka University Central Students’ Union (DUCSU) on March 2, 1971. The importance of the event lies in the fact that it was unusual and not witnessed before in history, for students of a university to hoist a first-ever national flag. The enraged Pakistani military equally feared and hated this place so much that they uprooted this historic tree in 1971 during the Liberation War.

Then US Senator Edward Kennedy, one of the longest serving senators in the country’s history, strongly condemned Pakistani atrocities against the Bengalis and supported the independence of Bangladesh. Mr. Kennedy planted the current tree during his visit to Bangladesh on February 14, 1972. The small banyan seedlings have grown into a giant milestone in the history of independence for Bangladesh today.
Kala Bhaban Gate কলা ভবন গেট

Arts Building Gate

The Arts Building of Dhaka University is one of the most significant places on campus, and has become a part of Bangladesh’s existence, since it witnessed the student uprising for independence. The faculty of Arts in Dhaka University was opened in 1921. Since then, it has stood witness to many historical events, such as the mass uprising against the ‘Ayub regime’ and the Liberation War in 1971. Initially, the Arts faculty building was located in the area adjacent to Dhaka Medical College. In the middle of the 1960s, the building was shifted to the Nilkhet area of Dhaka University. Soon, the Arts faculty building became a hub for those fighting for the restoration of democracy and later, for the independence of Bangladesh. In 1969, this place became the center for the anti-Ayub movement. Aparajeyo Bangla (Unvanquished Bengal), one of the most famous sculptures established to remember the Liberation War in 1971, is located in front of the building. During the war, the Pakistan Army killed several teachers, students, and university staff in front of the Arts Building gate. To commemorate the sacrifice of the martyrs, a monument has been erected in front of the building in recent times.
Smriti Chirantan স্মৃতি চিরস্তন Memory Eternal

The ‘Memory Eternal’, popularly known as ‘Smriti Chirantan’, is one of the most famous monuments on the premises of Dhaka University. A 150-year-old rain tree, also a silent witness to history, has kept the ‘Memory Eternal’ under its shade for decades. For a long time, the ‘Memory Eternal’ has been a testimony to the Pakistani atrocities committed against the Bengalis. This spectacular memorial was erected in March 1995. It is located in front of the residence of the university’s Vice-Chancellor. The construction of the monument started back in 1987, and since then, it has gone through a series of renovations. After the renovation work was done in 2015, the memorial was uncovered again for the common people. The significant events in the history of Bangladesh have been portrayed magnificently in the clay terracotta frames on the wall. Since then, the place has become a hub for those who are interested to know more about the brutality inflicted upon the students, teachers, and staff of Dhaka University in 1971. Initially, architect Abdul Mohaimen and Moshiuddin were given the responsibility to design the memorial. Later, eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi and Abu Syed Talukdar joined for its extended beautification. The monument is designed with 14 columns of granite slabs of different shapes and sizes. A list of those who became martyrs inside Dhaka University during the 1971 Liberation War is engraved on the inner side of each wall, with 195 names in total. Moreover, the outer side of the columns, through several mural works, portray the landmark events that led to the independence of Bangladesh. It has not been possible to ascertain the specific details of martyrdom since the Pakistan army burnt down essential official documents of the university during the war.
Teacher's Club

Dhaka University Teacher’s Club has been closely associated with the glorious past of the university. It is the center of the traditions, culture and entertainment of the teachers and officers of the university. The club started its journey at the same time as the academic and administrative commencement of the university. Although the club started on a small scale, with the passage of time, it expanded and played a significant role in creating a bond among the teachers. Along with the other significant places in Dhaka University, this place too witnessed the atrocities of the Pakistani Army in 1971. On the night of 25 March 1971, Pakistan armed forces brutally killed four employees who worked as service staff at the Dhaka University Teacher’s Club. They are Abdul Majid, Ali Hossain, Sirajul Haque and Sohrab Hossain. A memorial was erected in front of the main building of the Teacher’s Club to remember the martyrs.
Shahid Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall

Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall, formerly known as Iqbal Hall, was founded in 1957. This hall was a meeting place for the leaders and activists of the student movement in the 1960’s. It was named after Sergeant Zahurul Haque, a sergeant of the Pakistan Air force who was killed in Dhaka Central Jail when he was under trial during the anti-Ayub movement in 1969. He was one of the 35 accused persons in the Agartala Conspiracy case. Since this hall played a pivotal role during the mass uprising against the Ayub regime, the Pakistani ruling elite always felt great anger against the students of this hall. Finally, on the night of 25 March 1971, the Pakistani Army conducted one of the most heinous genocides in the history of the world inside Dhaka University, and it is needless to say that Zahurul Haque Hall was one of their primary targets. The horror of that night was indescribable, paralleling scenes of slaughter you might expect to see in a war movie. The place, once full of students with resonant voices, chanting slogans and protesting for various political issues, suddenly went into a deep silence. After that, it was all about the non-stop sound of gunshots, along with the groaning of wounded students. The students who were trapped inside the hall that night were trapped within a nightmare. London based ‘The Times’ reported a large number of corpses lying on the field in front of Zahurul Haque Hall after 25 March. Chishti Helalur Rahman, an eminent student leader, was killed at that time, along with many other students.
শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা মো. সামসুদ্দীন

১৯৭১ সালের ২৫ মার্চ দিনটির কাছাকাছি যুদ্ধে শহীদ হন।

তৎকালীন সরকারের কর্তৃপক্ষ তাকে অবশ্যই গণ্য করত।
Nilkhet Slum নীলক্ষেত বসতি

Nilkhet is one of the most famous places in Dhaka city, especially for book lovers. The area is surrounded by Dhaka University on the east, Mirpur Road and New Market on the west, and Elephant road on the north. The name Nilkhet (indigo field) implies that during the British colonial rule, indigo plants were cultivated here, and the place was named after the indigo fields. History suggests that before 1847, there was no human habitation in the Nilkhet area. Things started to change when the British forced the local people to cultivate indigo plants here. The British East India Company built at least 37 administrative buildings named ‘Neel Kuthi’ to administer Indigo farmers. In 1961, after the British left India, a slum was constructed in the Nilkhet area, which was known as Nilkhet slum. In 1974, after Bangladesh became independent, the slums were replaced by the present-day book market. Like many other places in Dhaka city, Nilkhet slum, too, witnessed the atrocities of the Pakistani Army on the night of 25 March 1971. Immediately after storming Zahurul Haque Hall, the Pakistani Army attacked the Nilkhet slum. Some of the students and Bengali police officers from the Nilkhet barracks tried to resist the attack, but they could not survive long since the Pakistani Army was equipped with modern weapons. The Army set the Nilkhet slum on fire and shot the slum dwellers, mainly fourth-grade employees of Dhaka University, who were trying to escape the attack. Although many people witnessed the killing of unarmed Bengalis in the Nilkhet slum area that night, no memorial has been built there to recall this massacre.
আশ্বাসের মৃত্যু পর্যন্ত বাঙালির মন্ত্র শিব ও বান্দর মূর্তি প্রতিষ্ঠা করা হয়।

ফরিদপুরের কাহারো কোনো অপরিচিত স্থানে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়।

দামোদর নদীর পাশে একটি সর্বসমুদ্র অবস্থিত কাহারো স্থান প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়।

ফরিদপুরের কাহারো প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়।

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Fuller Road Teachers’ Quarters

The short and winding Fuller Road, located inside Dhaka University campus, is perhaps one of the most beautiful roads of Dhaka city. This calm and quiet road, shaded by large trees, has witnessed many historical events since British colonial rule. Although the road is steeped in history, it looks like it was built just a few days ago. Undoubtedly, this spacious and clean road is beautiful and a distinctive place in Dhaka city. Fuller Road was named after Bampfylde Fuller, the first Lieutenant-Governor of the province of East Bengal and Assam. He initiated the plantation of sprawling rain trees across the Dhaka University campus. Perhaps, the road was named after him to remember his indirect contribution to the beautification of the area, which later became a part of Dhaka University. Fuller Road also witnessed the brutal killings of Bengalis by the Pakistani army during the 1971 Liberation War. On both sides of Fuller Road, there are three residential areas for the teachers and staff of Dhaka University. Just before the independence of Bangladesh, on 14 December 1971, with the help of their Bengali collaborators like Razakars, Al Badr, and Al-Shams, the Pakistani army stormed these quarters and brutally killed many teachers and staff. If you enter the university staff quarters from either the left or right side of the road, you can find the graves of the intellectuals or plaques honoring them. Three monuments have been built to commemorate the sacrifice of these martyrs. The sculptures and plaques are not only testaments to the atrocities of the Pakistani army and their collaborators, but also to the supreme sacrifice of the university’s teachers and staff.
British Council Bangladesh, the local branch of the British Council, is one of the pioneers in providing English and British education in Bangladesh. Founded in 1934 in London, the organization commenced its journey in East Pakistan, present-day Bangladesh, in 1951. Located in the beautiful Fuller Road inside Dhaka University, British Council soon became a treasure trove for book lovers, especially for Dhaka University students. The reach of the collection of the British Council library at that time was incomparable, since there were very few other places in Dhaka that could boast such a world of books. Since then, alongside learning to read and speak English well, the British Council has also taught visitors to make books a part of everyday life. The library has always helped the members to connect with global knowledge. Currently, the British Council has introduced stricter policies in terms of access to the library for everyone due to various security issues. On the night of 25 March 1971, the Pakistani Army did not spare the British Council either. They killed at least 8 East Pakistan Police officers guarding the British Council premises that night. Then, the Pakistani Army positioned mortars there to bombard Zahurul Haque Hall. In July 2017, to express its sincere gratitude to the eight brave guards, British Council unveiled a memorial on its premises.
During the nineteenth and early twentieth century, the Muslim population of British India, especially those living in the eastern part of Bengal, were deprived of higher education. After the partition of Bengal in 1905, the Muslims anticipated that the British authorities would take significant steps to ensure quality education for them. However, the proclamation of the Partition of Bengal badly shattered their dreams. To reduce the frustration of the Muslims, the British Government formed the ‘Nathan Committee’, which recommended a hall-based university in Dhaka. Finally, in 1921, the University of Dhaka started its journey with only three halls, and Salimullah Muslim Hall was one of them. The present building of the hall was inaugurated in August 1931. Named after Nawab Khwaja Salimullah Bahadur, an eminent Muslim landlord, the hall started functioning with 75 residential students. The halls’ beautiful architecture shows how it is not only a hall but a part of Bengali heritage and culture. The two-storey Salimullah Hall faces south, and the four wings of the building surround a rectangular courtyard, while a covered walkway bisects its northern and southern sides. On 25 March 1971, the Pakistani Army attacked Salimullah Muslim Hall, along with other residential halls of Dhaka University. They searched every room of the hall and dragged innocent students out of the building before shooting them dead. At least 12 students were killed by the Pakistani Army that night. The army then vandalized and set ablaze the dormitory. Many other unidentified bodies were discovered later from different parts of Salimullah Muslim Hall.
In December 1971, during the last stages of the Liberation War, the Pakistani Army realized that they are going to lose the war soon. Sensing imminent defeat, the top generals of the Pakistani Army, along with the Bengali collaborators such as Razakar, Al- Badr and Al-Shams, decided to eliminate the intellectuals who supported the independence movement of Bangladesh. Not surprisingly, many prominent teachers’ names were included in that list. Many of the Dhaka University teachers were staying in the Isha Kha Road Teachers Quarters at the time, which is adjacent to Dhaka University. Just two days before the independence of Bangladesh, on 14 December 1971, the Pakistan Army and their local collaborators stormed the quarters located on Isha Kha Road. The notorious killing squad Al-Badr, in particular, abducted eminent teachers of Dhaka University like Munier Chowdhury, Rashidul Hasan, Anwar Pasha — the author of “Rifle, Roti, Aurat”, the first novel on the Liberation War — and Santosh Chandra Bhattacharya from the Isha Kha Road residential area. Later, the bodies of some of the teachers were discovered in the Mirpur area of Dhaka city.
Central Shaheed Minar and Amtala
কেন্দ্রীয় শহীদ মিনার ও আমতলা

Central Shaheed Minar is a national monument located in the Dhaka University area to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives during the Bengali Language Movement on 21 February 1952. Thus, Bengalis became the only nation in history to sacrifice their lives for the recognition of their mother language. Sculptor Hamidur Rahman, in collaboration with Novera Ahmed, designed and built Shaheed Minar in 1963. Since then, Shaheed Minar has always been a congregation center for people during all kinds of national events. In 1999, UNESCO declared 21 February as International Mother Language Day. During Operation Searchlight in March 1971, the Pakistani Army completely demolished this monument. It was rebuilt after the Independence of Bangladesh.

The members of the Razakar and Al-Badr squad renamed Shaheed Minar as a mosque during the Liberation War. Central Shaheed Minar, indeed, epitomizes efforts to represent the glorious past of Bangladeshi nationalism. The abstract monument is comprised of four columns. The larger one represents a mother protecting her children, with a bold red sun behind them. The Pakistani Army, on the black night of 25 March 1971, shot dead an unidentified laborer at building number 34 in the south-west corner of the Shaheed Minar area. Every year, in the early hours of 21 February, people come and lay wreaths to remember the supreme sacrifice of the martyrs for the recognition of the Bengali language.
Established in 1940, Fazlul Haque Muslim Hall is one of the oldest residential halls of Dhaka University. The hall commenced its journey with approximately 363 students. It is comprised of three parts—the Main building, the South building, and an extension of the South building. The eminent Bengali linguist Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah was the first provost of the hall. The hall’s library is well equipped with different types of books, which is open for both resident and non-resident students. There is also a Muktamancha (open space) in the hall for students to perform cultural activities. The building is named after A.K. Fazlul Huq, who was the first prime minister of Bengal. Born in Jhalokati District in Barisal Division, he was popularly known as Sher-e-Bangla (Tiger of Bengal). Fazlul Huq played an active role in establishing Dhaka University and worked for the educational advancement of the Muslims of Bengal. The history of Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall is also marked by the brutality of the Pakistani Army in 1971. The Pakistani Army killed at least seven of its students during the Liberation War. To remember the martyred students, a monument was built on the eastern side of the pond near the hall, better known as Shahidullah Hall pond.
Jagannath Hall  জগন্নাথ হল

Jagannath hall, established in 1921, is one of the three oldest residential halls of Dhaka University, and witness to many historical events in Bangladesh. Mainly, the hall is a residence for minority students like Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and others. Professor Naresh Chandra Sengupta was appointed as the first provost of the hall. Kisorilal Roy Chowdhury was an eminent zamindar (landlord) of Baliati in Tangail. He established Jagannath college, and later built Jagannath hall of Dhaka University. Kisorilal Chowdhury named Jagannath hall after his father, Jagannath Saha. Since Jagannath Hall was the residence of minority students, mainly Hindus, the Pakistani Army fell upon them with particular ferocity. On 25 March and 26 March, the Pakistani Army conducted one of the most horrifying genocides in Jagannath Hall, where they killed hundreds of unarmed students, teachers, and staff. It is difficult to describe the heinous rampage of murder and torture inflicted by the Pakistani Army upon the sleeping students of Jagannath Hall. The Pakistani Army did not even spare some of the renowned teachers of Dhaka University for their pro-independence mindset. In the teacher’s quarter of this hall, they brutally killed the hall provost Dr. Jyotirmay Guhathakurta, Dr. G.C Dev and Dr. Muniruzzaman. Professor Nurrullah, a teacher of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, secretly captured the video of the gruesome killing of the students at Jagannath Hall from the safe confines of his quarter. The video, which is still available on Youtube, shows people being lined up and then shot dead, one by one, by the Pakistani Army. After the independence of Bangladesh, a mass grave inside the hall was discovered, and a memorial consisting of the name of martyrs was built there later.
চােনের ২৫শে মার্চের বিজয়কারা রাতে জগন্নাথ হল প্রাঙ্গণে জগন্নাথ হলসহ চাঁদপুর জেলার বিভিন্ন বাস্তবলেখনের পে কদিন শিক্ষক-কুর্স-কর্মচারী গ্রামে বাসরিয়ে একে হলের বে শক্তি সৃষ্টি মুক্তিক্ষেত্র সরণ্য সংগঠন আত্মসাতি নিয়েছে--সে মরুভূমির সেই মরু

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“বীর ও সম্মানে স্বপ্নও আমার কর্মে জুড়া না।
হয়-শিক্ষক-কর্মচারী-কর্মচারীরাই জগন্নাথ হল

লগ্ন উদ্যান: ২৫ মার্চ ১৯৭৪
সকলভাবের সমাজ উদ্যান: ২৫ মার্চ ১৯৭৪

প্রকাশে: জগন্নাথ হলের বহু ও বিভিন্ন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অব নিঃসন্দিগ্ধ
Shamsun Nahar Hall

Shamsun Nahar Hall is one of the prominent residential halls for the female students of Dhaka University. The hall was named after eminent writer and educationist Shamsunnahar Mahmud. She was a teacher of Bangla at Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata. During her stay in Kolkata, Kazi Nazrul Islam, the national poet of Bangladesh, deeply inspired her to start writing. Later, she became secretary to the Nikhil Bangla Muslim Mahila Samity (All Bengal Muslim Women’s Society) for some time. She also played an active role in the establishment of The Centre for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Children in 1964. On 25 March 1971, the Pakistani Army attacked the residential halls of Dhaka University. Although the attack on Shamsun Nahar Hall came later, the people of that area eventually also became victims of the Pakistani Army’s brutality. On that night, several Pakistani Army convoys entered the hall area, and after some time, they started indiscriminately firing on the residential areas adjacent to the hall. During the Liberation War in 1971, this was the residences of service staff of Ruqayyah hall, the other residential hall for female students. The Pakistani Army killed at least 33 people, most of whom were university staff. Heaps of dead bodies, including that of women and children, were seen in the narrow lane between Shamsun Nahar Hall and Ruqayyah Hall. Later on, many of them were buried in nearby areas. A memorial was built in front of the hall gate to remember the martyrs.
The Shiv Bari Temple, also known as Buro Shib Dham, is one of the oldest and most fascinating temples in Dhaka city. It is located in the Shaheed Minar Road inside Dhaka University. Although the exact history of the temple is unknown, it is believed that the temple was built during the regime of Mughal emperor Jahangir. It has gone through several transitions at different points of time. King Bijay Chand Mahtab of Bardhaman district of West Bengal built the present structure of the temple. The Pakistani Army demolished the temple in 1971 during the Liberation War. On the night of 25 March 1971, they attacked Jagannath Hall, and soon after that, targeted this Hindu monastery adjacent to the hall area. The Pakistani Army first surrounded the temple, and then they entered the temple premises and indiscriminately opened fire on the sleeping priests.
Being an epicentre of genocide, Dhaka University has undoubtedly sacrificed a lot for the cause of democracy and emancipation. Perhaps, for this reason, the University has a lot to offer not only to the nation and the world but to humanity as a whole. Since Dhaka University witnessed one of the most despicable mass killings during the 1971 war, the University authorities, with active support from the teachers and students, embarked upon the noble task of establishing a Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS) within the campus premises. Located just beside the famous Teacher-Student Centre (TSC), the Centre for Genocide Studies was inaugurated on 25 March 2012. Currently, it is housed in the Center for Advanced Research in Arts and Social Sciences (CARASS) building. Moreover, the Centre itself is intimately linked with the history of liberation. A graveyard of one of the martyrs is located adjacent to the building. From the beginning, the Centre has maintained its reputation as a non-profitable, non-political research-based academic institution of professionals, researchers, planners, policymakers, and academics. To make its task unique in this part of the world, CGS has declared a mandate to perform four sets of activities. Firstly, through extensive research, the Centre aims to collect ‘life stories’ of victims as well as of perpetrators of the Bangladesh genocide. Secondly, the Centre seeks to educate students about genocide and mass violence through different courses. Thirdly, the Centre aims to have a ‘genocide tour’ inside the University for the public with student-volunteers as tour guides. Last but not least, it aims to house a genocide museum and archive, which could attract a large number of people from within the country and beyond by collecting relics of genocide, and printed and visual materials of all kinds, including posters, photos, and pamphlets, relating to genocide and mass violence.
Ramna Temple

Ramna Temple, popularly known as Ramna Kali Mandir, is one of the most famous temples of Dhaka city. The temple is dedicated to the Hindu Goddess Kali. There is a belief among the devotees that the temple was initially built a thousand years ago, although there is no evidence to substantiate this claim. However, the temple was reconstructed during the Mughal era in the early seventeenth century and then again in the early twentieth century under the patronage of Rani Bilashmoni Devi, a wife of Rajendra Narayan, the king of Cooch Behar, West Bengal. One of the most popular destinations for Hindu devotees, Ramna Temple is located in Suhrawardy Udyan, formerly known as Racecourse. Before 1971, the temple had a tall Sikhara (tower), which was destroyed by the Pakistani Army. Long before the beginning of ‘Operation Searchlight’ on 25 March 1971, the Pakistani Army was furious at the Hindu communities of East Pakistan. Since they were well informed of the legacy of Ramna Kali Mandir, they did not waste any time in attacking this centuries-old temple. On the morning of 26 March, the Pakistani Army encircled the temple to make sure that none of the persons staying inside could escape. Immediately after, they entered the temple premises and started killing the innocent priests and devotees of the temple. After two or three days, a pile of bodies, charred and machine-gunned, was seen inside the temple. It is estimated that more than 100 people were killed in the Ramna Temple massacre, of which many were burnt alive. The Pakistani atrocities at the Ramna Temple were not limited to murdering Hindu devotees. They also razed the temple to the ground, and after bulldozing it, not a single intact brick was visible at the site. In this way, the Pakistani Army took their atrocities to a new level - by not only murdering Hindus but destroying their cultural heritage as well. A memorial in front of the newly erected temple lists the names of the martyrs who lost their lives in the 1971 genocide. After 48 years of independence, Ramna Temple still carries the memory of the genocide committed on its premises.
Suhrawardy Uddyan সোহরাওয়াদী উদ্যান

Suhrawardy Uddyan, formerly known as Race Course, is one of the most significant historical places in Bangladesh. After the Partition, in 1948, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, in a famous speech at this site, declared that Urdu would be the only state language of Pakistan. The Bengalis then started a mass movement, and, in the end, Bangla was recognized as one of the state languages of Pakistan. On March 7 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation, delivered his historic speech at this place to a gathering of thousands of people.

That day, he urged everyone to be prepared for the struggle of independence. It is also believed that Bangabandhu declared the Independence of Bangladesh on that day. He proclaimed that “This time the struggle is for our freedom. This time the struggle is for our independence.” The speech later inspired the indomitable Bengalis to fight against the well-equipped Pakistani Army and bring about the independence of Bangladesh. A surprising fact about Suhrawardy Uddyan is that this place has witnessed both the struggle before freedom and after the birth of Bangladesh. After nine months of blood and suffering, finally, on December 16, 1971, at 4.31 PM, the Pakistani Army surrendered before the joint forces of the Indian Army and Bangladeshi freedom fighters, and the world saw the emergence of Bangladesh. After his return from jail in Pakistan on January 10 1972, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave his maiden speech in independent Bangladesh at Suhrawardy Uddyan. During British rule, this ground was famous for games, especially for horse racing. It is estimated that the name Race Course came from the famous horse races during British colonial rule. After the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, the place was named after Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, an eminent Bengali politician who also served as the fifth Prime Minister of Pakistan. In 2013, a spectacular monument named Swadhinata Stambha (Pillar of Independence) was inaugurated in 2013 at Suhrawardy Uddyan to commemorate the historical events that took place here.
Ruqayyah Hall

Ruqayyah Hall is the first female student dormitory of Dhaka University, which was established in 1956 with twelve female students. In 1964, this hall was named after Begum Ruqayyah, who dedicated her life to emancipate the women of this subcontinent. Professor Akther Imam of the Philosophy Department was the first provost of this hall. The hall was set ablaze on 25 March 1971. Herbert D Spivack was the US Consul General in Dhaka at the time. After the horrifying events of 25 March 1971, he sent a report to his government in which he mentioned the attack on Ruqayyah Hall. He stated that at least six female corpses were found in a room of the hall. Almost all of the bodies were found unclothed, with gagged mouths and bound hands. The Pakistani Army did not even spare the employees of the hall. At least 45 employees of Ruqayyah Hall were killed by the Pakistani Army that night. The Pakistani Army then buried the corpses in front of the present Shamsun Nahar Hall gate.
Aditya Chandra Dey was a tea seller in Dhaka, who used to sell tea and snacks to the Dhaka University students. Since his house was located quite far away from Dhaka University, he decided to set up a tea stall in front of the Old Arts Faculty Building, currently Dhaka Medical College. In 1965, when the existing Arts Faculty building was built, his son Madhusudan Dey shifted the stall to the front of this new building, and soon it became a center for the mass gathering and protests of the students. Also, the students started to call it ‘Madhu Dar Canteen' (Canteen of Madhu Da). Many student leaders, politicians and poets spent time at the canteen together. Madhusudan Dey was sympathetic to the democratic-progressive student movement. Later, he was given a small land beside the canteen where he started to reside. The Pakistani Army was well aware of the involvement of Madhu Da in the pro-democracy movement. After the onslaught of atrocities on the black night of 25 March 1971, the Pakistani Army, on the morning of 26 March, stormed the house of Madhusudan Dey. They opened fire on him, along with his newly married son and daughter in law. Even after being wounded by several bullets, Madhusudan Dey was still alive for some time. Yet, due to heavy bleeding, Madhu Da, who was more than a canteen operator, embraced martyrdom. A statue of Madhusudan Dey is located in front of the canteen.
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**টাকাংসু প্রকৌশল, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**