

Press Release

Request for Collective Efforts and Awareness to Protect Museums and Heritage

Dhaka, August 6, 2024: On behalf of the Bangladesh National Committee of the International Council of Museums, the world's largest organization of museums, we would like to inform everyone that at this time of crisis in the country, we observe with deep concern our many priceless museums - Independence Museum, Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Genocide Museum, Shashi Lodge and various heritage are being destroyed by arson and widespread vandalism.

On behalf of ICOM-Bangladesh, we feel that threatening the existence of museums, historical documents, memorial plaques, archaeological sites etc. is harmful to the universal humanity. Our cultural heritage has made us unique in the world. UNESCO has recognized some of our heritage as World Heritage. We believe that more of our heritage will be part of global recognition in the future.

Museums, historical buildings, archives, etc. are unique examples of our national identity, inspiration for our future, our source of self-identity. Damage, arson, vandalism etc. cannot be desirable in any way. Protecting them is everyone's moral, personal and, above all, national responsibility. Let us strive to maintain them, keep our collective memory intact and protected.

Sincerely,

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