

Most schools, colleges in Lalmonirhat have no Shaheed Minar

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A staggering 880 of 949 educational institutions in five upazilas of Lalmonirhat district are without any Shaheed Minar dedicated to the 1952 Language Movement martyrs.

Language heroes, teachers, students as well as cross section of people have urged the authorities concerned for taking immediate step to build Shaheed Minar at those institutions.

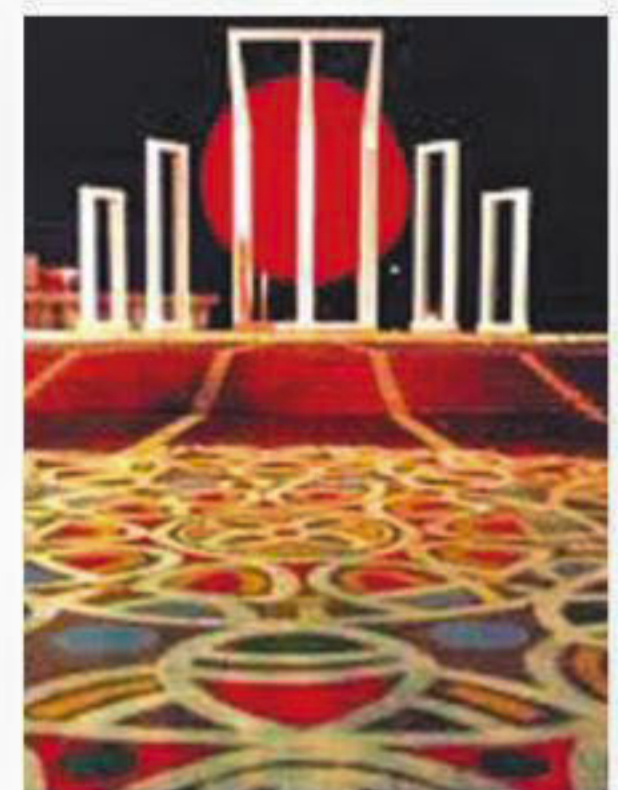
Of the 43 colleges, 201 high schools, 621 primary schools, and 84 madrasas in five upazilas of Lalmonirhat district, there are Shaheed Minars at 11 colleges, 33 high schools and 25 primary schools, said sources at Lalmonirhat District Education Office.

None of the 84 madrasas in the district has any Shaheed Minar, they added.

Azmir Hossain, a class ten student of Durgapur High School in Aditmari upazila, said, there is no Shaheed Minar at their school although the students demanded it on several occasions.

Mousumi Akhter, a BA student of Mozida Khatun Government Women's College in Lalmonirhat town, said, "We urged our principal for building a

Shaheed Minar on the campus but no initiative has been taken yet. The government spends lots of money for construction of buildings at educational institutions but



only a small amount is needed to build a Shaheed Minar."

Sultana Akhter, a class ten student of Lalmonirhat Government Girls' High School, said, "We feel the necessity of a Shaheed Minar here but the school authority is not taking any initiative for it."

Shamim Ara, principal of Mozida Khatun Government Women's College, said, "I feel the necessity of a Shaheed Minar on the college campus but I cannot do it due to lack of fund. The government should take step for constructing Shaheed Minar at every educational

institution."

However, Sudan Chandro Roy, principal of Saptibari Degree College in Aditmari upazila, said, "With the fund collected from teachers, students, and local donors, I constructed a Shaheed Minar on the college campus two years ago. Institution chiefs can take such initiative and everybody in the society should extend help from their level."

Lalmonirhat District Education Officer Moslem Uddin Sarker said, "The government rule does not make it mandatory to construct Shaheed Minar at all educational institutions, and so, I cannot direct them to construct Shaheed Minar on their own initiative."

Language hero Comrade Shamsul Islam, a resident of BDR Road in the town, said, "It is necessary to build Shaheed Minar at every educational institution to keep the glorious history of Language Movement alive in the mind of our students as it was the first step towards our Liberation War."

"Money should not be considered a hindrance if there is sincere desire to build Shaheed Minar," he added.

THREE UPAZILAS OF LALMONIRHAT

Foot-and-mouth disease kills 73 cattle in 20 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 73 cattle died of foot-and-mouth disease and 1000 more have been affected in three upazilas of the district during the last 20 days.

Despite informing the livestock officials of the matter, they have so far failed to take any effective measure to check the disease, much to the worry of cattle owners of Lalmonirhat Sadar Aditmari and Hatibandha upazilas.

The disease appeared about 20 days ago but it is now spreading in an epidemic form at Chinipara, Harati, Mohendronagar, Kulaghat, and Kalmati villages of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila; Hajiganj, Velabari, and Kadomtola villages of Aditmari upazila; Goddimari, Dawabari, Nowdabash and Singimari villages of Hatibandha upazila.

As the affected cattle develop symptoms like high temperature, drooling of saliva, blister in tongue and

around gum, they cannot take solid food and later die, cattle owners said.

They blamed shortage of vaccine and lack of necessary measures by the livestock officials for failure to check the spread of the disease.

Tomijuddin of Chinipara village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said his three cows died of foot-and-mouth disease in a week. "I could not ensure treatment of my cows for lack of vaccine at upazila livestock office, he said.

Anwar Hossain of the same village said one of his three cattle died of foot-and-mouth disease a week ago. He went to the upazila livestock office but he didn't get any vaccine. "If the livestock office fails to give vaccines immediately, two more cows may be attacked with the disease anytime," Anwar said, adding that vaccines are not available in the market.

A farmer of Hajiganj village under Aditmari upazila said over 100 cattle have been affected with

foot-and-mouth disease at the village. He said many more cattle at the village may be affected with the disease anytime if they are not provided with vaccines as soon as possible.

Laila Yasmin, veterinary surgeon of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, a special medical team has been working at the villages of the upazila, giving advice and distributing medicines to help cattle owners to check the disease.

Farmers face problem as vaccines are not available in the market, she said, adding that many cattle are likely to be affected with foot-and-mouth disease if vaccines are not provided for them immediately.

Contacted, District Livestock Officer Dr Abu Hossain Sarker said efforts to check spread of the disease are being hampered due to scarcity of vaccine.

"I have already informed the higher authority of the matter and sought vaccines for the affected upazilas," the livestock officer said.



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer takes care of a calf, affected with foot-and-mouth disease, at Chinipara village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, inset, saliva comes out of the mouth of a cow infected with the virus at the same village yesterday.



BLACK FLAG HOISTED, HARTAL REJECTED

PHOTO: STAR

1) Traders keep their shops open and hoist black flags in Kurigram town, 2) some youths travel in a car in Jessore town, pasting an anti-hartal poster on the vehicle, 3) protesters set fire to two national dailies for their alleged support to Jamaat-Shibir activities at Mogholhaat in Lalmonirhat town, 4) teachers and students of Moriumnessa Girls' High School stand in solemn silence on the school ground after hoisting black flag atop the institution in Rangpur city, 5) people from all walks of life take out an anti-hartal procession on the main street of Bogra town, 6) school and college students, wearing black badges and carrying black flags, gather at Mukta Mancha in Khagrachhari town, 7) teachers and students of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy Government College in Magura town hoist black flag on the college premises yesterday to pay tributes to the martyrs of the ongoing movement for capital punishment to the war criminals, and 8) protesters lock a branch of Islami Bank in Satkhira town on Sunday evening.



Milk crisis hits sweetmeat trade

Unavailability of grass discourages cattle rearing in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur

Milk production, both at dairies and from domestic cattle, has marked a sharp fall in the district in the last few years.

Local sources attributed the declining trend of milk production to disappearance of pastures from the char (newly emerged land-mass) areas due to massive farming and from rural and suburban areas due to rapid construction of dwelling and trading houses, buildings, mills and factories.

Because of unavailability of grass, most people in the

district are losing interest in rearing cattle, both at farm and household levels.

Chandpur has a wide reputation for its exquisite production of sweetmeat, alongside hilsa fish from Meghna River.

Various kinds of sweets, like *rosgolla*, *rosh malai*, *sandesh*, *Ganga rosgolla*, *Jamuna rosgolla*, *kata rosgolla*, *gurer* (molasses) *sandesh*, curd and others attract consumers, also from outside the district.

But shortage of milk is hindering preparation of such mouthwatering sweets

up to their traditional standard, sources involved in the industry said.

Production of cow milk has declined to a great extent in all eight upazilas of the district in the recent years, said veteran sweetmeat traders Kalam Haji, Shampad Saha and others.

Their views have been echoed by several cattle milk producers and suppliers.

Since last Ramadan, milk

sells at Tk 60 or 65 per litre at local milk market at Puran Bazar in the district town, said some traders who buy

milk every day. But still this milk is not found pure most of the time, they alleged.

Around 30 percent of the milk is found adulterated with river water, said sweetmeat trader Shampad Saha of the town's famous sweetmeat shop "One Minute".

Acute shortage of pure cow milk has put the renowned sweetmeat trade into a dwindling position.

The traders cannot run their business smoothly for want of sufficient quantity of pure cow milk for the last few years.

During Eid and other

festivals, they face serious crisis of milk. Most of the customers have to go back disappointed after moving from one shop to another for a packet of quality sweets, said many sweetmeat traders.

A random survey shows there are over 900 sweetmeat shops in the eight upazilas and seven paurasavas (municipality) of the district.

Frequent mobile court is needed to curb adulteration of milk and sweets in the local shops, observed several affected consumers.