



It's like a blanket of red, yellow and brown has been pulled over this garden at the banks of Sunamganj's Jadukata river. Across this 100 bighas of land, Shimul flowers have blossomed in more than 3,000 trees. It's a delightful scene, and visitors are finding it hard to not spend time here, alone or with their loved ones. This photo was taken from Tahirpur upazila's Badaghat area recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## For 2 days, it was known as the 'Control Room'

The Language Movement did not just come to be. Behind the historic movement, that brought about a turn of events for Bangladesh, are a million stories — of people, of premises, of places. In this 10-part series, we explore some of the places and premises vital to the movement. Establishments that we've lost to time, buildings that today bear no sign of the glories they once hosted. For part nine, we take you to the "control room", which was at the very spot where the Central Shaheed Minar now stands.

DIPAN NANDY

On February 4, 1952, an announcement was made from Dhaka Medical College Hospital's Bel Tala for the general strike on February 21. From the get go, the strike started gaining mass engagement. Seeing this, the then Pakistan government felt compelled to declare a Section 144 in Dhaka.

To thwart the curfew, barrack 20 of DMCH was turned into a control room by its students. It is at this very spot that the Central Shaheed Minar stands today.

It can be known from history that the control room became central for the movement after February 21's bloody events. It became the gathering place for activists and leaders of the movement. From its microphone and speakers, stories of the student killing spread across the city. Fast. Soon, shops, hostels and restaurants started closing down one by one.

Besides student leaders, members of the East Pakistan Ain Parishad also delivered speeches from the control room. After walking out of the Parishad building in protest of the violence, Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish went there and delivered an anti-government speech. Aside from his speech, the control was always abuzz with declarations and slogans, as well as announcements of the programmes and activities for the coming days. Inevitably, the

control room became a target of the then government. On February 22, a joint drive by the police and army laid waste to the place. Terrorising students with bayonets, they snatched the microphone in a move to silence them.

In 1952, Sharfuddin Ahmed was GS of Chhatra Union's DMCH unit, and one of the main organisers behind the control room. He later went on to become a colonel.

place thanks to Yahya, who was particularly adept at such things. We hung up a speaker high up on a mango tree at the northwest corner of the hostel, almost parallel to the Parishad building."

Although Shaheed Minar is a fitting replacement of the control room, very few know about its importance.

Language Movement veteran Dr Ahmad Rafiq said, "Judging the



FILE PHOTO

In a memorial piece, he wrote, "We took a decision to break February 21's curfew after discussing with Union VP Golam Mawla in the morning. With this aim, I along with Sayeed Haider, Abul Hashim, Ahmad Rafiq and more turned DMCH's shed-20's room 1 into a control room, complete with microphones and other facilities."

"By noon, everything was in

political climate of those times, the establishment of the control room is a significant historical event. Within just two days, it became the heartbeat of those who loved their mother language. The meetings, statements, announcements and activities carried out from here shook the authorities to their core. To be honest, for those couple of days, it seemed like there was no administrative authority in Dhaka."

## RAJSHAHI'S FIRST SHAHEED MINAR

# Reconstruction project aborted midway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

In the immediate aftermath of February 21, 1952, residents of Rajshahi went to work and built a Shaheed Minar near the Muslim Hostel premises of Rajshahi Government College.

The Shaheed Minar still stands today, though not with as much prestige as Dhaka's Central Shaheed Minar is afforded. In fact, the entirety of Rajshahi city doesn't have a Central Shaheed Minar, which means on the International Mother Language Day, people pay homage to the martyrs at the ones at Bhubanmohan Park Memorial and the court area.

In light of this, Language Movement veterans started demanding preservation of the Muslim Hostel Shaheed Minar, which led Rajshahi City Corporation to take up a project in this regard in October 2018.

One Sabera Enterprise was tasked with the construction works, which were slated to be completed by June 2020. But four-and-a-half years have



passed by and the project is yet to finish.

According to RCC, the work was estimated to cost Tk 50 lakh, which was later revised midway. Owner of Sabera Enterprise Zulfikar Haider told this correspondent they completed the foundation works for the project at a cost of Tk 35 lakh.

However, he alleged that the city corporation is yet to pay his bills, which has compelled him to suspend the works.

Contacted, RCC Executive Engineer Nur Islam claimed the project has been halted as they want to redo the minar with an improved design. "We will restart the works soon," he said.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha said he doesn't know the reasons behind the project's delay. He also mentioned that he has allocated Tk 50 lakh for the project.

RCC Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton blamed the delay on working in an "unplanned way", mentioning that they are taking up a new project to construct a separate Central Shaheed Minar spending Tk 16 crore.

"We've already got the allocation. We'll be inviting tenders within a month or two," he said, adding that they are on the process of acquiring Rajshahi Zilla Parishad land to build the minar.

Talking to The Daily Star, former principal of Rajshahi Government College Prof Habibur Rahman said, "The works should not be delayed as it is concerned with the memory of Language Movement veterans. This Shaheed Minar was the first of its kind in Rajshahi, and thus it should be preserved for the future generations."

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
District Primary Education Office  
Dhaka  
[www.dpe.dhaka.gov.bd](http://www.dpe.dhaka.gov.bd)

Memo No. জেলাশিক্ষা/ঢাকা/২২/২২৭ Date: 16/02/2022

**Invitation for Tender (Goods)**  
e-Tender Notice No. 01/2021-2022

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following packages:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Tender method	Tender proposal
1	596017	NBIDGPSP-1/G1-0090	Furniture Supply for 75 Nos. Class Room and 8 Nos. Teachers Room of selected 19 Nos. of Govt. Primary School at different location of Dhamrai and Savar Upazila of Dhaka district.	NCT OTM	Last Selling 02.03.2022 at 17.00 Submission: 09.03.2022 at 13.00
2	635184	NBIDGPSP-1/G1-0091	Furniture Supply for 66 Nos. Class Room and 7 Nos. Teachers Room of selected 14 Nos. of Govt. Primary School at different location of Keranigonj Upazila of Dhaka district.	NCT OTM	Last Selling 02.03.2022 at 17.00 Submission: 09.03.2022 at 13.00
3	636539	NBIDGPSP-1/G1-0092	Furniture Supply for 96 Nos. Class Room and 11 Nos. Teachers Room of selected 20 Nos. of Govt. Primary School at different location of Dohar and Nababgonj Upazila of Dhaka district.	NCT OTM	Last Selling 02.03.2022 at 17.00 Submission: 09.03.2022 at 13.00

These are online tenders where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through and registered bank's branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Sd/- 16.02.2022  
**Aleya Ferdousi Shikha**  
District Primary Education Officer  
Dhaka  
02-48041059  
E-mail: [dpeodhaka@gmail.com](mailto:dpeodhaka@gmail.com)

GD-335

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Department of Films & Publications  
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
Tatthya Bhaban  
112 Circuit House Road, Dhaka-1000  
[www.dfp.gov.bd](http://www.dfp.gov.bd)

Memo No: 15.57.0000.003.07.022.21.936 Date: 20.02.2022

**Invitation for e-Tender**

Sl No	Tender ID	Procurement Nature, Title	Ministry, Division, Organization, PE	Tender Publishing date & time	Tender closing date & time
01	661578	Procurement of Printing Books on the Bangladesh Quarterly	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Department of Films & Publications (DFP)	Date: 20 February 2022 time: 10.15	Date: 15 March 2022 time: 13.00
02	658801	Procurement of Printing Books on the Monthly Sachitra Bangladesh	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Department of Films & Publications (DFP)	Date: 20 February 2022 time: 10.10	Date: 15 March 2022 time: 11.30
03	645217	Procurement of Printing Books on the Monthly Nabarun	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Department of Films & Publications (DFP)	Date: 20 February 2022 time: 10.00	Date: 15 March 2022 time: 10.00

- This is an online tender, only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no office/hard copies will be accepted
- Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

Sd/- 20/02/2022  
**Sheelina Aktar**  
Deputy Director (Admin)  
Department of Films & Publications  
112 Circuit House Road, Dhaka-1000  
Phone: 8300682

GD- 332