

LALMONIRHAT SHAHEED MINAR Neglected for years on end

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The Central Shaheed Minar of Lalmonirhat, located on Thana Road in the district town, has long been neglected by the authorities.

Despite repeated pleas from residents, no permanent steps have been taken to preserve the sanctity of the structure.

Activists of the Language Movement, freedom fighters, political and cultural activists together built the Shaheed Minar in 1972.

Since its establishment, the Central Shaheed Minar has been a meeting place for the cultural and political activists, teachers, students and progressive minded people of the district.

The authorities concerned only seem to care about the dignity and beautification of the place before February 21 every year, said locals.

Besides, locals expressed their dissatisfaction as the original design of the Shaheed Minar was changed during its renovation work in 2020.

A number of local cultural activists alleged that former mayor of Lalmonirhat Municipality Riazul Islam Rintu demolished the old Shaheed Minar and renovated it,

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AMAR EKUSHEY BOI MELA Highlighting stories of the overlooked

DIPAN NANDY


Becoming a writer was always a distant dream of theirs. But due to harsh realities of life and meagre income, they had to sustain themselves first. In the process, they had to bury that dream a long time ago.

Little did they know, that distant dream would become a reality.

In this year's Ekushey Boi Mela, Bidyanondo Prakashani has published a book titled "Nirokkhorer Golpoguchho" in translation "stories of the illiterate".

The writers of the 12 story compilation are -- Joyнал Uddin, Mainuddin Majhi, Ruhul Amin, Zakir Patwari, Sirajul Islam, Moslem Howlader, Asutosh Chakraborty, Naren Mondal, Momela Bibi, Shahidul Shikder, Bidhan Howlader, Zakir Hossain and Karim Ullah.

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PRAYER TIMING FEB 21			Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
		Azan	5-20	12-45	4-30	6-03	7-30
		Jamaat	5-55	1-15	4-45	6-07	8-00
		SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

Anwar never

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He went to his village about two months ago to see his wife, who was expecting on February 7. He sought leave from the flat owner but was asked to go later during the delivery period, said Rabeya.

"My grandma came to Dhaka a few days ago. She will leave for the village today [yesterday]. Uncle [Anwar] had told grandma to take some money for his wife before leaving for home," she said.

"Instead of taking the money home, now she'll return with her son's dead body," she said.

Like Anwar, Razib Peres, a cook of another flat in the apartment complex, jumped off the balcony on the 10th floor to save himself from the blaze.

A father of two siblings, Razib hailed from Paoran village in Nagori union of Gazipur's Kaliganj upazila.

After hearing the news of the fire, Sajib Peres, his younger brother, rushed to Gulshan.

"He was on the 10th floor. We were talking to him on the phone. He was telling me how he could save himself from the fire," said Sajib.

"He didn't tell me once about jumping off the balcony," he said, adding that he found his brother unconscious inside an ambulance.

"He was alive for about one hour," he said.

Rajib's daughter is a seventh grader and his son studies in second grade.

"We're a joint family. And now we've lost our breadwinner," he added.

SSC exams

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made considering the fact that the candidates of these public exams have fewer in-person classes compared to the pre-Covid period.

Schools remained closed from March 17, 2020, to September 11, 2021, and from January 20 to February 21, this year because of Covid-19.

Death toll now 2, probe on

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respond to fires with initial firefighting. "But the residents of this building had no training on it and they could not respond to the incident accordingly," he said.

Replying to a query, he said the two died as they jumped off the building. "We repeatedly told them not to jump. After some time, our firefighters with breathing gear entered the building and rescued trapped victims alive," he said.

One person who jumped off the building to avoid the blaze died yesterday, raising the death toll to two.

Mohammad Raju, 30, who was a cook in an apartment on the 12th floor, died around 3:30am yesterday at a hospital in Gulshan.

On Sunday night, Anwar Hossain, 32, died.

Three people are under treatment at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

The fire began around 7:00pm on the sixth floor and spread up to the 12th floor. It could be brought under control around 11:00pm with the efforts of firefighters who were joined at one point by the air force and army personnel.

Firefighters rescued 22 people, including 11 women and a child, from the building on Road-104 of Gulshan-2.

The fire could have originated from a short circuit inside the building's lift which then spread quickly due to the wooden décor inside the lift, Brig Gen Md Main Uddin, director general of Fire Service and Civil Defence, told The Daily Star.

PM confers

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and Maniruzzaman in language and literature.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh National Museum received the award in the category of education and the Bidyanondo Foundation in social service.

Each awardee received



Renovation work of the Central Shaheed Minar on Thana Road in Lalmonirhat town goes on in the month of February. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Ensure basic facilities before relocation

Demands Telugu community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 130 families of the Telugu community have agreed to be shifted to a new place, but they want a house each and some essential utility facilities before leaving their current location.

They made the demand when general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Boudha-Christian Oikya Parishad Rana Dasgupta informed them about the assurance of DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh that they will be shifted to buildings in future.

"As long as temporary houses on the new location are not built, authorities should not demolish our houses," said Maria Das, priest

of a church of the community.

Around 1,200 residents of the Telugu community living at No-14 Outfall Colony at Dhalpur, are currently in constant fear of getting ousted, after Dhaka South City Corporation's alleged directive to evict the colony.

On February 12, DSCC demolished around 1,000 structures -- which it identified as illegal -- to recover 15 acres of land in Dhalpur.

The colony, with its two churches, one temple and a school, is still intact.

While visiting Telugu colony residents yesterday, Rana stated that he and other leaders of rights organisations met with Mayor

Taposh on Sunday, who assured them of building temporary houses for all Telugu families on a five-acre plot of land.

While visiting the colony, Rana informed the victims that the mayor also assured them that they will be shifted to permanent buildings in future.

Two buildings have already been constructed where 120 Telugu families have been shifted and two more buildings will also be constructed where 130 others will be shifted, said Rana, quoting the mayor.

Rana also said the mayor assured the Telugu community to provide jobs gradually in the

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EC asks for Tk 3,954cr

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to EC on Thursday.

The EC in August last year started assessing the EVMs as it decided to use the machines in highest 150 constituencies. At that time, EC officials said they would be able to hold elections to 70-80 constituencies with the EVMs and that they would need to procure more machines if they were to use them in up to 150 seats.

Accordingly, the commission prepared a project involving Tk 8,711 crore to buy 2 lakh new EVMs. But the government in January shelved the

project, forcing the commission to reconsider its plan.

An internal EC workshop in September 2022 was told that there were 93,000 EVMs at the commission's field offices and schools in districts and upazilas across the country. About 30 percent of those machines were unusable.

EVM project officials said 75,404 EVMs are stored now at field offices, 73,810 at BMTF and the rest at the EVM customisation centre.

So far, the quality checking of EVMs in five out of 10 EC regions has

been completed.

A total of 43,624 more were checked and 27,223 or 62 percent of them apparently need repairs.

At least 25,000 EVMs in five other regions may require repairs.

EC sources said that they usually need more money in the national election year than other years. From July 2023 to June 2024, the commission will also need to hold upazila polls in several phases.

Besides, the EC will have to conduct Gazipur City Corporation polls between March 11 and

September 10, Khulna City Corporation and Rajshahi City Corporation elections between April 13 and October 10, Barishal City Corporation polls between May 14 and November 13, and Sylhet City Corporation elections between May 6 and November 5.

EC officials said Tk 700 crore was allocated for the last national polls held in December 2018. The figure was Tk 500 crore for the JS polls held in January 2014, but the commission needed to spend Tk 265 crore as 153 MPs were elected unopposed.

New 6.4-magnitude


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A few metres away, a digger was clearing a road was covered with rubble after the new quake.


AFTERSHOCKS

"This one just fell," a rescuer said, referring to a collapsed building.

Hatay province is on the Mediterranean Sea and the disaster agency said the sea level could rise by 50 centimetres, warning people to stay away from the coast.



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তারিখঃ ৮ ফাল্গুন, ১৪২৯
২০ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২৩

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পঞ্চগড় জেলা পরিষদের আগুতাবীন বোদা ডাকবাংলো প্রাপনে প্রস্তাবিত নতুন, দ্বি-তল, আধুনিক ডাকবাংলো ভবন নির্মাণ প্রকল্পে বর্তমানে মোট ২৩টি গাছ (৮টি আম ও ১৫টি কাঁঠাল) রয়েছে। এ সকল গাছ জীবিত, মরা, পোকা খাওয়া ও বুকিপূর্ণ। এছাড়া জেলা পরিষদ চত্বরে আগের কেটে রাখা ২টি মহশুলি গাছের কাঠ রয়েছে। এ প্রেক্ষিতে, বোদা ডাকবাংলোর ভেতরের উক্ত ২৩টি গাছ এবং ২টি মহশুলি গাছের কাঠ প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হবে। সে উদ্দেশ্যে আগ্রহী ক্ষেত্রে আগের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আবেদন করা যাচ্ছে। আগামী ১২ মার্চ ২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০টা পর্যন্ত জেলা পরিষদ কার্যালয় হতে দরপত্রের সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। জেলা পরিষদ অফিসে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তবে আগামী ১৩ মার্চ ২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১.০০টা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ১.৩০টা দরদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাস্তব উন্মুক্ত করা হবে। যে কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

শর্তাবলিঃ

- ১। দরপত্রদাতাকে দাখিলকৃত দরের ১০০% হারে বিডি/পে-অর্ডার প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, জেলা পরিষদ, পঞ্চগড়, বরাবর দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ২। দাখিলকৃত দরের সাথে ৫% আয়কর ও ১৫% ভ্যাট (মুসক) জমা দিতে হবে।
- ৩। দরদাতাকে অবশ্যই নাম ও ঠিকানা স্পষ্ট অক্ষরে খামের উপর লিখতে হবে।
- ৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে দরদাতাকে গাছসমূহ সরেজমিনে পরিদর্শন করে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। এ বিষয়ে পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রকার গুজর আপত্তি গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

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জিডি-৩১৫