

## Homage to martyrs of Language Movement

By Staff Correspondent

The nation observed 'Shaheed Dibash' on Saturday paying rich tributes to those brave sons of the soil who sacrificed their lives to establish Bangla as the state language.

Taking fresh pledge to uphold the spirit of 'Amar Ekushey', people from all walks of life thronged at Central Shaheed Minar.

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BNP staged Shaheed Minar incident, says Zillur

Awami League General Secretary and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman has accused BNP of unleashing terrorism at the Central Shaheed Minar and said it is an act of hatred, reports UNB.

In a statement, he protested the incident, saying that BNP terrorists in presence of their Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia staged this heinous act at the sacred precinct of Shaheed Minar.

Zillur said the trampling of flowers, harrassing women and children and assaulting intellectuals at Shaheed Minar the blurred even the black chapter of killing of Salam, Jabbar and Barkat 46 years ago.

The AL leader said the nation was stunned by this anti-people committed by BNP at the instigation of Begum Zia.

He called upon the people to remain alert against the 'barbaric forces' and build up united resistance against them.

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## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue

Segunbagicha, Dhaka

**Sub: Regarding Assistance Cell for Issue of VAT Registration Certificate of the National Board of Revenue.**

It is notified for information of the esteemed individuals & firms interested to obtain VAT registration that VAT Registration Certificate is issued from the respective VAT Department Office. To help make issue of the certificate easier and quicker, a "Registration Cell" has been opened at Room No 327 of the National Board of Revenue. In case you face any inconvenience or harassment in obtaining VAT Registration Certificate from field level VAT offices, you are requested to contact the above-mentioned Registration Cell of the National Board of Revenue with written specific complaint. In view of expediting the registration, all kinds of cooperation are extended to the esteemed taxpayers from this Cell.

The undermentioned officer may be contacted for any explanation or information in this regard. Please collect the required form from any VAT Department Office. If necessary, the form will be available also from the undermentioned Cell. All concerned have been instructed to help in filling the form.

### Contact address :

Second Secretary (VAT) Registration Cell, Room No 327 National Board of Revenue Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Phone: 838101-8 232 838102-6

First Secretary (VAT) National Board of Revenue Phone: 838101-8/213

# Annan on verge of a breakthrough

## Three-hour meeting with Saddam

BAGHDAD, Feb 22: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is on the verge of a breakthrough, his spokesman said today, following talks aimed at averting the crisis over weapons inspections in Iraq, reports AP.

The announcement was made after Annan held a three-hour meeting with President Saddam Hussein at the Republic Palace in Baghdad and raised hopes a US strike on Iraq will be prevented.

"As a result of those discussions he feels he is on the verge of a breakthrough," Annan's spokesman, Fred Eckhard, said.

He said Annan expects to

leave Baghdad tomorrow.

Annan is expected to hold further talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and his delegation later today, Eckhard said.

If things go well, a written agreement will be drawn, he said, cautioning that "the deal is not finished."

Any deal must be endorsed by the United States, which has said it reserves the right to

refuse any agreement that it believes undermines the authority of UN weapons inspectors.

US Defence Secretary William Cohen, speaking today on the US television show "Meet the Press," reiterated the US position that there should be no time limits for weapons inspections.

To talk about setting time deadlines when in fact we have seen seven years of delay and

obstruction and obfuscation is really a prescription for success here."

US National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, speaking on the television show "Fox News Sunday," said any arrangement reached with Saddam "must allow for unfettered access" to all selected palaces.

During his stay in Baghdad, Annan has been in touch with a number of leaders including the

representatives of the UN Security Council's five permanent members.

Before the Annan-Saddam meeting, the indication was that Annan had been unable to resolve the last details of an agreement to grant UN inspectors access to all suspected weapons sites, including presidential palaces.

There is one substantive issue unresolved. It is a deal breaker," Eckhard had said earlier.

The sticking point is understood to be Iraq's insistence on

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## Rowdyism at Shaheed Minar

By Staff Correspondent

A group of unruly youths went on a rampage at the Central Shaheed Minar on Saturday, creating a mayhem in and around the Minar premises as throngs of people from all strata of life were placing wreaths in tribute to the Language Movement martyrs.

A chaotic situation was created when supporters of BNP and its front organisations marching along with party chief Begum Khaleda Zia reached the foot of the Shaheed Minar at around noon. Begum Zia and her followers climbed the stairs and stood at the base of the Minar.

Within a few seconds, several hundred supporters of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) student front of the BNP, started trampling wreaths placed since morning, tearing flowers from thousands of bouquets offered by various organisations and individuals. They damaged the wreaths and bouquets totally, using some of those to shower Begum Zia, defying repeated request by the

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### Case filed against JCD activists

By Staff Correspondent

A case was filed with Ramna thana on Saturday night on the incident of violence at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city, police said.

Mohammad Selim, Registrar of the Dhaka University, lodged the case accusing 20 people including Habibunnabi Sohel, general secretary of BNP's student front JCD. Other accused named in the case include JCD leaders Manjur Elahi, Monir Hossain and Shishir.

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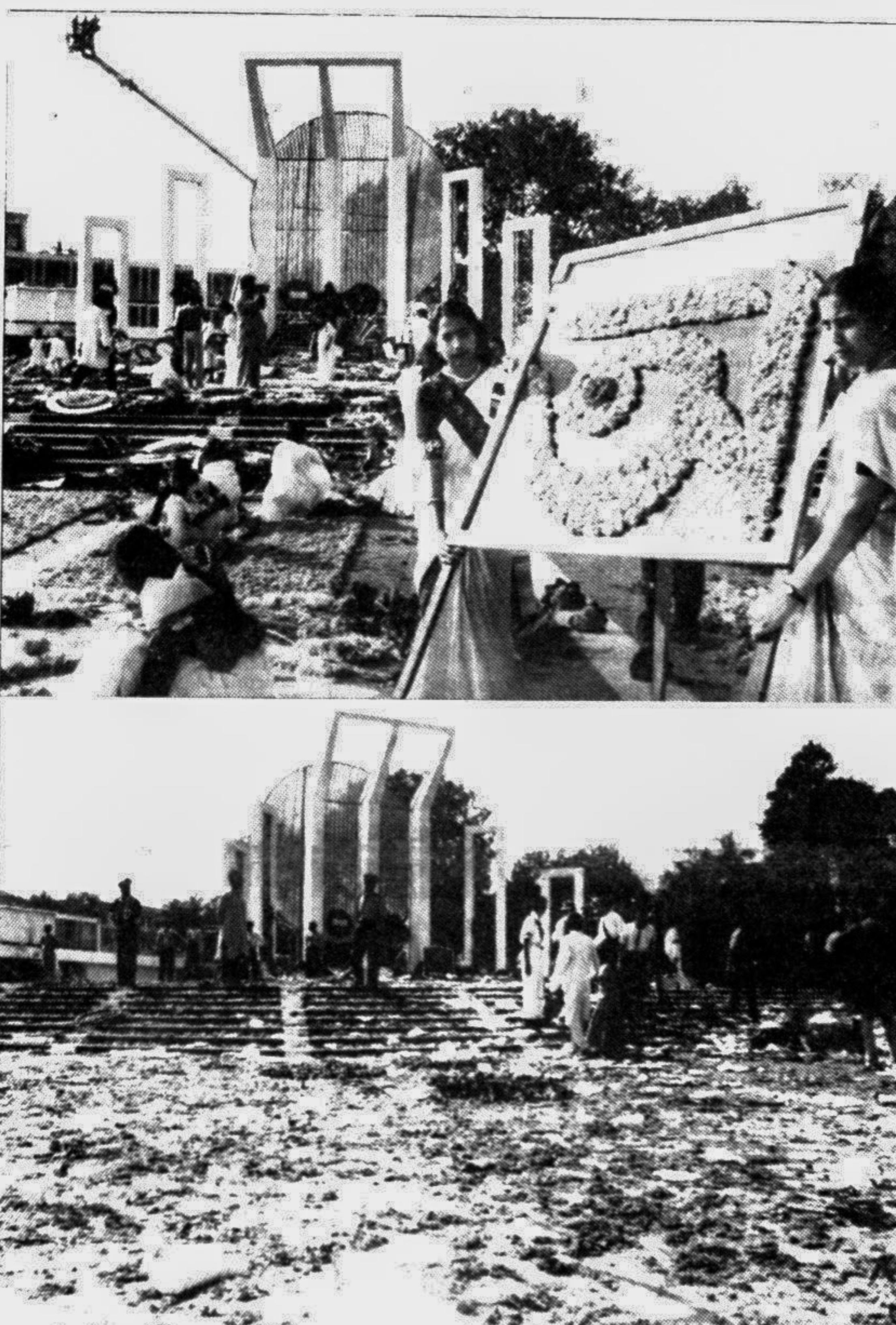
### Ramendu Majumder assaulted

By DU Correspondent

A group of unruly youths assaulted President of Sammiliti Sanskrity Jote Ramendu Majumder on the Dhaka University campus Saturday noon, witnesses said.

The Jote, in a statement yesterday, blamed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the main opposition in parliament BNP, for the attack.

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Volunteers decorating the Central Shaheed Minar with flowers at 11 am on Saturday (top) and the Minar after rowdyism at around 1:30 pm (bottom).

— Star photo

## AL behind Shaheed Minar incident: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has blamed the 'ruling party terrorists' for the untoward incidents that took place at the Central Shaheed Minar Saturday noon when party chief Begum Khaleda Zia turned up there to pay homage to the martyrs of the Language Movement.

"We're surprised and shocked by the unruly conduct and unexpected incident by the ruling party terrorists. We strongly condemn this heinous act that has marred the sanctity of the Shaheed Minar," BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP told a press briefing at the Minto Road official residence of the leader of the opposition in Parliament in the city yesterday afternoon.

Mannan Bhuiyan also de-

nied his party's involvement in the Shaheed Minar incidents saying those were nothing but a 'staged drama'.

The government has un-

leashed the incident in a

planned way and is engaged in a

heinous conspiracy to tarnish

the image of BNP and Begum Zia through telecasting one-sided picture of the pre-planned event," he commented.

As directed by the govern-

ment, he said, the BTV cam-

eraman did not record the at-

tacks by the ruling party ac-

tivists but covered the event in

such a manner so that the BNP

could be blamed for it. In this

regard, he criticised the law en-

forcing personnel for their in-

action.

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## PCP faction stages protest 443 more tribal rebels surrender arms

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 22: The third batch of Shantibahini guerrillas comprising 443 surrendered today by handing over 109 arms to Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsads Abdul Haq at an open square near Boradom Dighi at Dighinala thana of Khagrachari hill district.

Today's arms surrender cer-

emony was held in a different

way at 11 am as all the arms

were handed over to the Chief

Whip one after another by the

Shantibahinim who led by their

commander Major Tapos, offi-

cials attending the function

said.

Major Tapos handed over

one SMG to the Chief Whip.

The Shantibahinim today also

deposited 1,28,974 rounds of

ammunitions, they added.

The arms surrendering cer-

emony today was marked by a

pandemonium as activists of

the splinter faction of PCP

(Pahari Chhatra Parishad) op-

posing the peace accord, staged

a demonstration at the venue,

witnesses said.

Chase and counter-chase

amid brick-bats between the

activists of two rival factions

of

PCP started after the ceremony

began, witnesses added, saying

that one activist of the splinter

faction of PCP was injured

during the melee.

The activists of the PCP fac-

tion carried placards during

demonstration.

The situation came under

control when the demonstra-

tors were chased away from the

spot. Due to tightened security

the demonstrators could not en-

ter the encircled portion of the

venue, said a police official.

So far 1725 members of the

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Landing gear of Biman's ATP damaged

By Special Correspondent

The right landing gear of Bangladeshi Biman's ATP aircraft was damaged during landing on Saturday at Zia International Airport (ZIA), forcing evacuation of passengers on the runway.

None of the passengers or crew, however, suffered injury. The flight was coming to Dhaka from Rajshahi, a Biman spokesman said.