

## 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 LGD 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, harassing 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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# 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 Republican 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. "Substantial progress was made today, we feel that a deal is within reach," he said, adding that Annan "certainly hopes that he can reach agreement tonight or tomorrow morning."

"We are at this point much closer to a successful termination of these issues. It's not done yet," Eckhard said, declining to elaborate.

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 television show "Fox News Sunday," 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 not 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 sites.

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 Sammilita Sangskritik 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 unleashed 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 government, he said, the BTV cameraman did not record the attacks by the ruling party activists but covered the event in such a manner so that the BNP could be blamed for it. In this regard, he criticised the law-enforcing personnel for their 'inaction'.

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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 Sangsad Abul Hasanat Abdullah at an open square near Boradom Dighi at Dighinala thana of Khagrachhari hill district.

Today's arms surrender ceremony 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 Shantibahinimen led by their commander Major Tapos, officials attending the function said.

Major Tapos handed over one SMG to the Chief Whip. The Shantibahinimen today also deposited 1,28,974 rounds of ammunitions, they added.

The arms surrendering ceremony today was marked by a pandemonium as activists of the splinter faction of PCP (Pahari Chhatra Parishad) opposing 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 faction carried placards during demonstration.

The situation came under control when the demonstrators were chased away from the spot. Due to tightened security the demonstrators could not enter 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 Bangladesh 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.

The mishap forced suspension of the day's domestic

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# GM of Biman's cargo section sacked

By Special Correspondent

The general manager of the cargo section of Bangladesh Biman has been forced to retire on charges of alleged corruption, Biman sources said yesterday.

Yusuf Harun, the general manager was relieved of his duties with effect from yesterday, official said.

Further details were not immediately available.

# Trade Fair opens PM calls for united efforts to accelerate economic growth

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Dhaka International Trade Fair yesterday with a call for accelerating economic growth in the country through rapid industrialisation and increase of exports, reports UNB.

"The main objective of the government is to accelerate the economic development," she said and urged all irrespective of party affiliation to make concerted efforts for the economic progress of the country.

The month-long trade fair was opened at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, where more than 100 foreign firms from 20 countries and 275 local business houses are taking part.

Hasina said that she believed the fair would play a vital role in increasing friendly relations among the countries, accelerating industrialisation and expansion of trade.

She said the government is extending all-out support and

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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  
838120-6

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

DFP-3169-15/2  
G-288

# UP govt sacked: Vajpayee on fast unto death Eleven killed during second phase of Indian polls

NEW DELHI, Feb 22: India completed the bulk of its election for a new Parliament today, in voting marred by fatal clashes and distracted by the sudden collapse of the government in India's largest state, reports AP.

Eleven people were killed in polling booth battles or in attacks by anti-Indian factions intending to disrupt the electoral process. Nearly 40 others were injured in violence across the nine states that voted.

The turnout was 55 per cent — slightly below average — on the second day of a six-day procedure, which completed voting for three-fourths of the 543 constituencies at stake. More than 600 million Indians are

eligible to vote.

By next Saturday, all but a few votes will be in, and the state television plans to broadcast the result of its exit poll for all voting until then. Ballot counting begins March 2.

As expected, most deaths today were reported from the eastern state of Bihar, where 20 people were killed in the first round of voting on Feb 16.

One policeman was killed in the neighboring state of Orissa when leftist guerrillas attacked a vehicle taking security personnel to guard polling booths. In West Bengal, a communist party supporter was killed during fighting with other political parties.

More than 550 political ac-

tivists, including two state government ministers, were arrested on charges of disrupting elections.

As the voting proceeded, the nation's attention was drawn to Uttar Pradesh, the largest Indian state, where the state government was suddenly toppled overnight.

The maneuver by small-party defectors could have national repercussions because the ousted government was controlled by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP is predicted to emerge from the national vote as the largest party, but without a majority. Uttar Pradesh sends 85 members to the federal parliament

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# Govt may off-load shares of three oil, gas cos

By Staff Correspondent

The government is thinking of off-loading shares of Bangladesh Gas Field Company Limited, Titas Gas Limited and Jamuna Oil in a bid to open up new areas of private investment in the gas sector, Energy Secretary Toufik-e-Elahi has said.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the Society of British Gas Industries in the city yesterday, he said the government was expecting that foreign companies would invest heavily in these government-run enterprises once their shares were off-loaded.

"We have not yet decided how we would off-load the shares, but we are working on it," he added.

The government has been toying with this idea for the last two years.

The seminar was partici-

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# Tearful reunion for 2 of 10 trafficked boys brought back from Delhi

By Shehab Ahmed

Two of ten Bangladeshi boys, seized in India while being trafficked to the Middle-East apparently to be made jockeys in camel races, had a tearful reunion with their parents on Saturday.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), a non-government organisation, arranged to bring the boys back to Dhaka on Wednesday from a children's home in New Delhi.

"I am so happy that we could find their parents," Salma Ali,

executive director of the BNWLA, said on Saturday after Milon and Moqbul Hossain, both aged about 8, were reunited with their parents and relatives.

The two and eight other boys had been rescued by Indian police in New Delhi six months ago from a gang suspected of smuggling children to the Gulf to work as camel jockeys.

Alli drove the two boys on Saturday to a sprawling slum along the railway tracks at Malibagh in the city, hoping to

trace the children's parents.

Before setting out from Ali's office where she also runs a small home for children and women rescued from traffickers, Milon said he would be able to locate his home.

Soon he identified a bazaar at Malibagh where his father Abdul Rahim used to sell fish. Although the boy did not find Rahim there he did not lose heart.

Milon ran all the way to their shanty home and jumped into his mother's lap, with

neighbours and friends watching with tearful eyes.

"The reunion brings me boundless joy," his mother Shanti Begum said weeping. Moqbul also found his brother at Malibagh.

But Ali's job is yet to be finished. She took Milon and Moqbul back to her home and asked their parents to come with adequate evidence like photographs to validate their relationship.

"I still have to complete

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**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড**  
**ঢাকা**

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

**বিষয়ঃ সেলুলার টেলিফোন হ্যান্ডসেটের অবৈধ আমদানি ও সংযোগ প্রসংগে**

শুধু-কর পরিশোধ ব্যতিরেকে অবৈধভাবে সেলুলার টেলিফোন হ্যান্ডসেট আমদানির প্রবণতা বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। কাস্টমস্ এন্ট্রি মতে এরূপ আমদানি চোরাচালান হিসাবে পরিগণিত। অবৈধভাবে আনীত এরূপ হ্যান্ডসেট যার নিকট থাকবে, যিনি ব্যবহার করবেন, যিনি বিক্রয় করবেন, যিনি ক্রয় করবেন, যিনি সংযোগ দেবেন, যিনি সংযোগ নেবেন, এমনকি যিনি অবহিত থাকা সত্ত্বেও এ সংক্রান্ত তথ্য শুধু কর্মকর্তার নিকট প্রকাশ করা থেকে বিরত থাকবেন, তারা সকলেই কাস্টমস্ এন্ট্রি ভংগের দায়ে দোষী ও শাস্তিযোগ্য হবেন। এমতাবস্থায় এরূপ চোরাচালানকৃত সেলুলার হ্যান্ডসেটের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট না হওয়ার জন্য সকলকে সতর্ক করে দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

- ২। সরকার বিশেষ বিবেচনায় ইতোপূর্বে আমদানিকৃত অবৈধ সেলুলার হ্যান্ডসেট প্রযোজ্য শুধু-কর এবং ১০০/- (একশত টাকা) অর্থদণ্ড দিয়ে নিয়মিত করার জন্য একটি সুযোগ প্রদান করছে। যার নিকট এরূপ অবৈধ হ্যান্ডসেট আছে তিনি তা নিয়মিতকরণের জন্য টাকা শুধু ভবনের শুদ্ধায় গ্রুপ-৩-এর দায়িত্বে নিয়োজিত সহকারী/ডেপুটি কমিশনার (চট্টগ্রাম শুধু ভবনের ক্ষেত্রে সহকারী/ডেপুটি কমিশনার, প্রিভেটিভ)-এর নিকট উপস্থাপন করতে পারেন। এ সুযোগ ১৫ই মার্চ ১৯৯৮ অপরাহ্ন ৫.০০ টা পর্যন্ত উন্মুক্ত থাকবে। উক্ত তারিখের পর এরূপ হ্যান্ডসেট এবং এর সাথে সম্পৃক্ত সকলের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। যদি শুধু-কর দিয়ে নিয়মিতকরণে কেউ কোন অসুবিধার সম্মুখীন হন তা হলে তিনি নিম্নশাস্ত্রকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন।
- ৩। পুরাতন ও নিম্নমানের/ক্রটিযুক্ত সেলুলার হ্যান্ডসেট আমদানি নিষিদ্ধ। এরূপ আমদানি থেকে বিরত থাকার জন্য সকল আমদানিকারক ও বিদেশ প্রত্যাগত যাত্রীগণকে পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।
- ৪। সেলুলার টেলিফোন হ্যান্ডসেট ব্যাগেজ আইটেম নয়। বিদেশ প্রত্যাগত যাত্রীগণকে এরূপ হ্যান্ডসেট সঙ্গে না আনার পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে। কোন যাত্রী যদি সঙ্গে করে হ্যান্ডসেট আনেন তবে তার জন্য প্রযোজ্য শুধু-কর আদায়সহ আইনানুগভাবে অর্থদণ্ডও আরোপ করা হবে।

**মাহমুদ আশতার**  
জিআইসি-৩৭০৯-১৮/২  
জি-২৮৩  
দুরালাপনী ৮৮০১২০-৬/৩৪৩