



SOLEMN MOMENTS HAIL A BRAVE CAUSE

Thousands of barefoot people from all walks of life paid rich tributes to the martyrs of February 21 Language Movement amid tight security. The centre of celebration was Dhaka City where brave sons of this land -- Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Shafiq, Jabbar along with many others -- sacrificed their lives on this day in 1952 to establish Bangla as the state language of East Pakistan. Men and women, students and children, flocked to the Central Shaheed Minar a minute before midnight and waited in a long queue for their turn to place wreaths at the site. Despite ongoing political unrest and recent bomb attacks a huge crowd wearing black badges to pay their respects to these brave souls, walked up to the Central Shaheed Minar, to pause a moment solemnly to recollect the depth of the sacrifice they had made.

Photo: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN