

# Feb 21 observed countrywide

STAR REPORT

People around the country, educational institutions and social, political and cultural organisations observed the Amar Ekushey, Language Martyr's Day and International Mother Language Day yesterday, with the demand for capital punishment for war criminals.

They offered flowers at Shaheed Minars in memory of the 1952 Language Movement martyrs who, on February 21 that year, gave their lives demanding that Bangla be made one of the state languages of the then Pakistan.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: Thousands thronged the Chittagong Central Shaheed Minar, bare-foot and holding a myriad of flowers for the martyrs.

Teachers and students placed wreaths at Chittagong University's Central Shaheed Minar and attended a discussion at Buddijibi Chatter (intellectuals' square).

The Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology organised a discussion, painting competition, poetry recitation and cultural programmes.

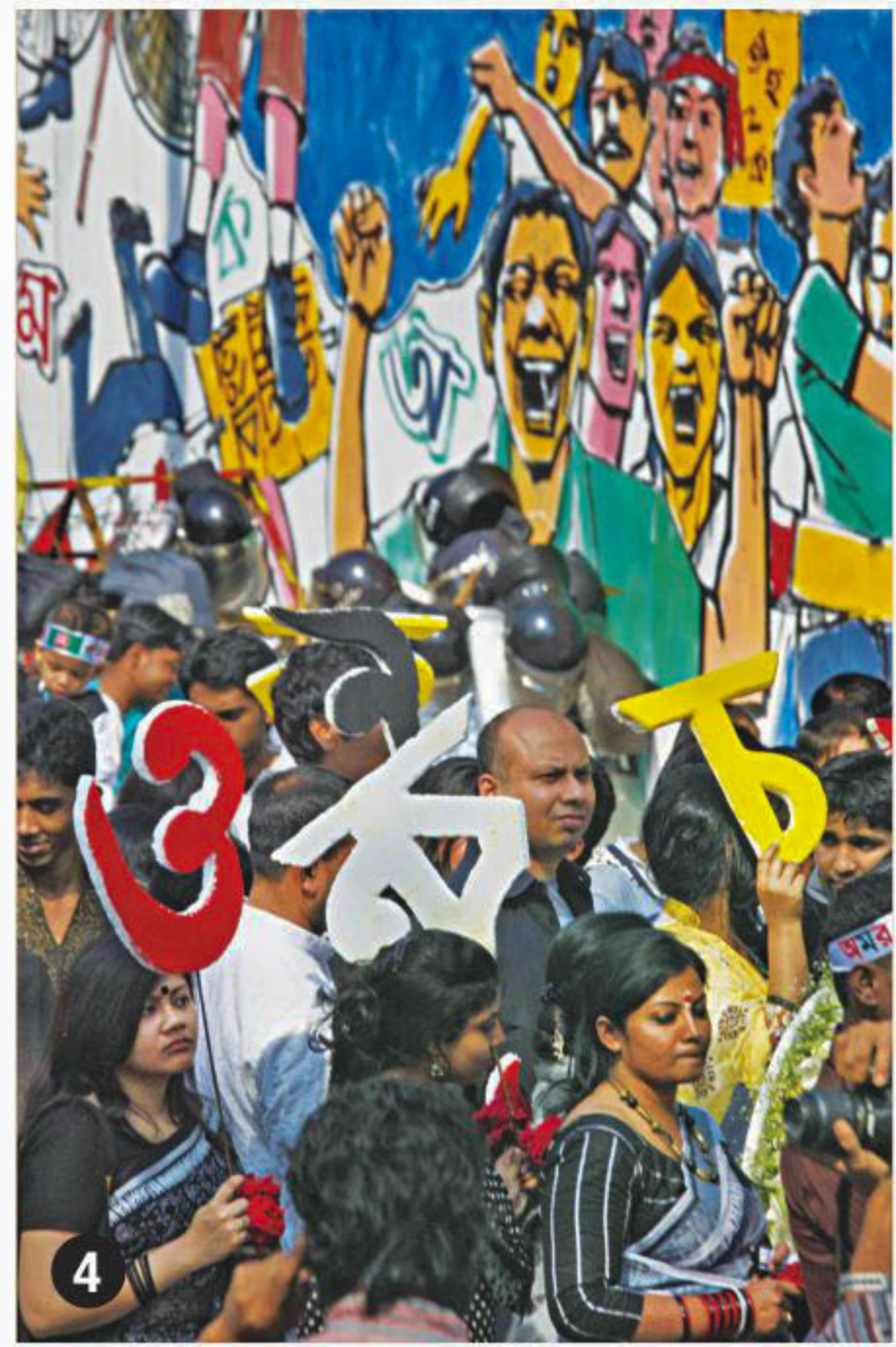
Our Rajshahi correspondent adds: Thousands paid floral tributes at Shaheed Minars of Rajshahi, including Court Shaheed Minar, Rajshahi College Shaheed Minar and Bhubon Mohon Park Shaheed Minar.

Rajshahi Photographic Society organised a three-day photo exhibition, "Developing Bangladesh".

Our RU correspondent adds: Over 200 teachers and students brought out a silent procession, placed wreaths at Central Shaheed Minar on the campus and organised a rally.

Our Sust correspondent reports: Shahjalal University of Science and Technology organised a seminar, "Language movement and Bangla nationalism", after teachers, students and staff placed flowers at the Shaheed Minar on the campus.

The daylong programmes began with hoisting of the national flag before the registrar building, followed by a children's art competition. A cultural programme was also held at Sylhet Shaheed Minar.



## REMEMBERING LANGUAGE MOVEMENT MARTYRS

1) Family members of Language Movement martyr Rafiq lay a wreath at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital in the first hour of International Mother Language Day yesterday in remembrance of those killed during the 1952 movement. 2) Family members of another language martyr, Abdul Jabbar. 3) Language hero Abdul Matin arrives with a bouquet to pay respects to his martyred co-fighters. 4) People gather around the monument with large styrofoam cutouts of Bangla letters. 5) The chief justice about to place flowers. 6) Jatiya Sangsad speaker, deputy speaker and ruling party chief whip. 7) Three chiefs of the defence forces give salute after the wreath laying. 8) Top leaders of the main opposition BNP. 9) Foreign diplomats. 10) A wreath being placed on behalf of Gonojagoron Mancha, the centre of Shahbagh demonstration. 11) The entire Shaheed Minar premises covered with flowers on the occasion of Amar Ekushey.

PHOTO: STAR



## NEWS IN *brief*

### Meghna, Gumti bridges open today

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway reopen for vehicular movement at 6:00am today.

The two important bridges remained closed for nine days due to repair work.

Bangladesh Army, which was assigned to do the repair job, replaced the damaged expansion joints and hinge bearings of the two bridges.

Officials of the Roads and Highways Department said they decided to open the

### Yaba pills worth Tk 1 crore seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) seized a plastic bag with 19,810 Yaba pills worth Tk 1 crore from the Bay of Bengal near Shah Porir Dweep in Teknaf on Wednesday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a BCG (East) team chased a fishing boat coming from Myanmar with around 20 people on board. The people on the boat threw the bag into the Bay and fled the scene with the boat.

### Barisal road accident kills 5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least five people were killed and 20 others injured after a passenger bus plunged into a ditch beside Barisal-Bhola road at Talukdar Bari yesterday morning.

Injured passengers and police sources said the bus of Emrania Paribahan fell into the ditch as its driver tried to overtake another bus.

The injured were taken to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Agitating locals blocked

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