



PHOTO: STAR

BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia places wreaths at the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman yesterday on the occasion of the party's 25th founding anniversary.

## DU JCD expels female activist

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Dhaka University unit, has expelled a female activist for her involvement in anti-organisational activities.

The decision to expel Poly Majumder, joint secretary of Shamsunnahar Hall unit, was approved by DU JCD President Amirul Islam Khan and General Secretary Hasan Mamun on Sunday, said a JCD press release.

DU JCD had also expelled its Senior Vice-President Golam hafiz Nahin a week ago.

## Prof Jamilur Reza, Dr Mehedi BES president, secretary

Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury and Dr Mehedi Ahmed Ansary have been elected president and secretary general of Bangladesh Earthquake Society (BES) for 2003-2005, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Muhammad Saidur Rahman and Prof. Aftab Alam Khan – vice-presidents; Dr. Tahmeed Malik Al-Husaini – secretary; M A Sobhan – treasurer; and Mir Fazlul Karim, Abdul Latif Khan, Abdul Malek Sikder, Prof. Md Abdur Rouf, Syed Ashraf and Dr Mohammad Shariful Islam – members.

All of them were elected unopposed on August 26.

## CARE survey reveals grim picture of education, health

Despite decades of development, the inhabitants of the Southeast region of the country are still struggling to get access of basic services, says a survey report of CARE.

The Southeast Livelihoods Baseline Survey, conducted in 800 households of eight upazilas under Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts, focused primarily on education, health and debt burden of the people living in the region.

According to the survey, only five per cent of the 'always poor' households have completed class five despite increases in school enrolment after the introduction of the food for education programme.

The 'always poor' category also suffer from food insecurity for at least seven months of the year.

Sixty-three per cent of them reported that they suffer regularly from various diseases and miss, on an average, nine working days in a month.

Despite efforts to upgrade medical services, only 26 per cent of the 'always poor' group continue to use government or NGO health care services, and spend most of their loan-credit on healthcare.

The survey reveals that the 'always poor' group spends 146 per cent of their net asset value in repaying loans, while they continue to owe 167 per cent of their net asset value to loan-agencies.

However, access to union parishads has increased due to current restructuring. About 30 per cent of all households receive services from union parishads.

Early marriage, dowry and gender-abuse were pointed out as significant factors that continue to hold back women development in the region.

Dr Tim Frankenberger, president of TANGO International, presented the report at a seminar at BRAC Inn in the city yesterday.

CARE Country Director Steve Wallace inaugurated the seminar while Loretta Payne and Tony Hill facilitated the discussion.

## Attack on judge Mahila Parishad demands punishment to culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) has condemned the attack on a woman judge in Narayanganj and demanded punishment to those involved.

In a statement on Saturday, Parishad President Hena Das and General Secretary Aeysha Khanam termed the attack in the courtroom a threat to democracy.

The leaders urged the prime minister and the home minister to take steps to ensure security for the common people and uphold the independence of the judiciary.

Rokeya Begum, a judge of Narayanganj district court, was assaulted by some miscreants in the court on August 26.

## RUET celebrates first University Day

BSS, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET) celebrated its first 'University Day' as it started its journey yesterday with a daylong programme.

A discussion was held at its auditorium in the morning with Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mijanur Rahman Minu MP as chief guest.

Inaugurating the university, Mayor Minu praised Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for turning the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Rajshahi, into a full-fledged engineering university along with three other BITs in the country.

He called for maintaining congenial academic atmosphere on the campus in the greater interest of the nation.

Presided over by founder vice-chancellor of the university Prof Dr. Keramat Ali Molla, the meeting was addressed by Prof. AM Rezaul Karim Talukder of Electrical and Electronics Department and two student leaders, Zaheed Hossain Khan and Sohel Rana.

Students, teachers, officials, employees and local political leaders attended the programme.