

Brighten country through your brilliance

PM asks children

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has asked children to brighten the country by the light of their brilliance, elevating Bangladesh to become an enlightened nation in the world.

"If you grow up properly, we will become an enlightened nation in the days ahead. Your task is to be mindful to your studies, while at the same time, you will have to pursue creative intelligence and hone your genius," the Prime Minister advised the children.

She was addressing a prize giving ceremony of Nutun Kuri National Competition 2005 at Bangladesh Television auditorium yesterday.

Referring to the nation's rich culture, she said it will be the responsibility of the children to uphold and protect that heritage in future.

Some 242 boys and girls, out of over 17,000 participants, came out as winners in 20 categories of events staged for the Nutun Kuri National Competition 2005, organised by Bangladesh Television.

The Prime Minister distributed prizes among the winners.

Referring to the Independence and National Day, Khaleda said the country earned the independence with the sacrifice of many lives while millions of people had to bear

untold hardship and sufferings during the War of Liberation.

"Now this country is ours. There is none today to dominate or rule us," the PM said, adding that the responsibility of all citizens of this free nation has increased with achieving our independence.

She said none from outside will

come here for work for our progress. "Our national progress will have to be achieved by ourselves. If we can do that and if the country develops, our independence will be meaningful," she said.

Ministers, MPs, artistes, cultural personalities, distinguished personalities and child artistes and their guardians attended the function.

Khaleda urged all to be dutiful and to perform their responsibilities bestowed on them by independence. She underlined the need for maintaining peace, discipline and punctuality in all spheres of national life.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, Deputy Minister for Information Abdus Salam Pintu, Information Secretary Mohammad Hyder Ali and BTV Director General AKM Hanif also spoke at the function.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) takes out a colourful procession in the city yesterday marking the Independence Day.

ELECTORAL REFORMS

Let us sit together to sort out differences

Bhuiyan tells opposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday called on the opposition to sit across the table with the ruling party and discuss with an open mind the proposals for reforms in the caretaker government system and Election Commission.

"Let us sit together to sort out our differences instead of indulging in mud-slinging at each other," Bhuiyan said while inaugurating a colourful procession in front of the BNP central office in the city. The ruling BNP took out the procession to mark the Independence Day.

Referring to the dialogue on electoral reforms, the BNP leader said he would write back to the opposition very soon.

Bhuiyan also hoped that the people would once again vote for BNP in the upcoming general election for the sake of continuation of

the development programmes.

Paying tribute to late president Ziaur Rahman as the proclaimer of independence, he said when everyone fled on the night of March 25 in 1971, it was Zia who showed the courage to declare independence from Kalurghat radio station.

Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Environment Minister Tariqul Islam, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, State Minister for LGRD Ziaul Haq Zia, State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Maj. (retd.) Kamrul Islam, State Minister for Labour Amanullah Aman, BNP central leader Abdus Salam and Mafiqul Hasan Tripti were also present on the occasion.

Carrying colourful posters, banners, festoons, portraits of late president Ziaur Rahman, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, sheaves of paddy,

BNP's election symbol, as well as dummy rifles and canons, BNP activists from different parts of the city joined the procession that paraded through city streets to the rhythm of music played by band groups.

A big elephant and several horse-drawn carts were the attractions of a procession led by Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu MP from Laibagh.

On an open truck, some children acted out the incidents of capture of militant kingpins Shaekh Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai along with their wife and children by the Rapid Action Battalion members.

The huge procession that started at Naya Paltan ended at Moghbazar.

JU student expelled for misbehaviour with female student

JU CORRESPONDENT

The syndicate of Jahangirnagar University (JU) has expelled Ranju Ahmad, a student of business administration, for one year and fined him Tk 3,000 for indecent behavior with a female student of the department.

The syndicate, however, postponed the expulsion order considering the academic life of Ranju, a student of 2000-2001 academic session, who in association with removed teacher Tanvir Ahmad Siddiqui misbehaved with the female student.

The syndicate decision followed the recommendations of the university disciplinary committee.

Tanvir was removed in last November in the face of student protest against his indecent behaviour with the female students of the department.

Ranju was his accomplice, according to probe body report.