

## JCD celebrates silver jubilee

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, yesterday celebrated its silver jubilee marking the 25th founding anniversary of the party with a pledge to ensure congenial atmosphere in all educational institutions of the country.

The day's programme began with the hoisting of organisational flag at the central office of the party in the morning.

It was followed by the distribution of sweets and cutting of cakes.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan cut the cake at the central office as chief guest.

The JCD leaders then placed wreath at the mazar of former president and founder of the BNP Ziaur Rahman who initiated the formation of the JCD on January 1, 1979 as a mark of respect to the late leader.

Thousands of JCD leaders and workers from across the country gathered at the Shatayoo Angan at

Ramna with colourful banners and festoons to mark the occasion.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia formally inaugurated the silver jubilee function by releasing balloons and pigeons.

She also addressed the function as chief guest.

Speaking as special guest, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the JCD made significant contribution to the restoration of democracy in the country.

He called on the JCD leaders to maintain present congenial atmosphere in educational institutions.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain said the opposition Awami League has been conspiring against the country.

He asked the JCD leaders to remain vigilant against all conspiracies.

Fazlul Haque Milon MP, student affairs secretary of the BNP, said the JCD would continue its efforts to build a happy and prosperous nation.

State Minister for Labour and

Employment Amanullah Aman criticised the activities of AL President Sheikh Hasina and former president Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Speaking on the occasion, former JCD leaders said with the guidance of BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, the accountability of the JCD has been established in all tiers of the party.

They called on party leaders and workers to practice fair politics to keep the educational institutions free from arms and criminal activities.

The former JCD leaders said there is no third force in the country and none can force the alliance government to step down.

Shafiq Bari Babu read out the organisational reports.

Presided over by JCD President Sahabuddin Laltu, the function was conducted by JCD General Secretary Azizul Baree Helal.

The inaugural session was rounded off with a cultural function performed by TV and Radio artists.



PHOTO: STAR

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurates the silver jubilee celebrations of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Ramna Park in the city yesterday.

## PDB realises Tk 25.28 cr in fines

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) has realised over Tk 25.28 crore in fines through its 16 First Class Magistrate's Courts across the country during the 2002-03 fiscal year.

The Barisal Energy Court realised Tk 8.68 crore, the highest amount by a single court, PDB sources said.

It was told at a coordination

committee meeting here yesterday with PDB chairman Syed Abdul Mayeed in the chair. Sixteen First Class Magistrates of the Energy courts, chief engineers of eight power distribution regions and high officials of the PDB attended the meeting.

The meeting underlined the importance of strengthening the process of realising revenue, taking action against illegal power consumers and augmenting activities of

mobile courts.

The energy courts also filed 17,027 cases against defaulters and illegal power consumers during the 2002-03 fiscal year. The courts sent 875 people to jail while 1,323 people were fined during the period.

A total of 22,366 lines were snapped due to illegal power connections and default of electricity bills. The courts also realised Tk 2.20 crore as fine during the period.

## Hasina distributes blankets

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday distributed blankets among the poor people in front of the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office.

Dhaka city Awami League arranged the blanket distribution programme in the morning.

A large number of poor people gathered in front of the AL central office to receive blankets.

General Secretary Abdul Jalil, MP, Dhaka city AL President Mohammad Hanif, General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Maya, Omar Ali, Abdul Huq Sabuj and Sayeed Khokan were present on the occasion.

## Nasim Khan's appeal to Musharraf, Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Chief patron of stranded Pakistanis Mohammad Nasim Khan has appealed to Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to resolve the issue of repatriation of stranded Pakistanis during the ensuing SAARC summit.

Khan in a statement yesterday said the issue of repatriation remained unresolved for more than three decades.

He urged the two leaders to take up the humanitarian issue when they meet during the SAARC summit in Islamabad beginning Sunday.

## Water transport workers threaten strike

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Noutjan (water transport) Sramik Federation will go for countrywide indefinite work stoppage from January 11 if its demand for new pay scale is not announced by January 10, says a federation press release here yesterday.

The decision on work stoppage was taken yesterday at a meeting of the Federation with its president Alhaj Golam Mowla in the chair.

The federation leaders said they have no alternative to movement, as the new pay scale was not announced by December 31, the deadline set at a tripartite meeting on October 20 last year.

## RU students welcome New Year

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday welcomed the English New Year 2004 with jubilation and fun-fare.

Several hundred students gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar on the midnight of Wednesday to welcome the new year.

They came out with drums to enjoy the moment and exchanged greetings with friends and teachers.

The RU authorities deployed a large number of police at different points on the campus to check any untoward incidents.