

JCD founding day observed

## Khaleda's call to remove illiteracy

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday asked students to devote to studies and pursuit of knowledge to prepare themselves to meet the demand of time as future leaders of the country, reports UNB.

"There is always a demand of the time... the present time demands of the students to see books and pens in their hands in the pursuit of knowledge that will help them groom as future leaders," she said.

Addressing the 15th founding anniversary of BNP's student front, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, near Shahbag Crossing on the Dhaka University campus, the Prime Minister said the student force which wrested country's independence through immense sacrifice should now shoulder the responsibility of making the country self-reliant.

The function was attended by Ministers, MFs, BNP and its front organisation leaders and a huge number of students.

Chaired by JCD President Fazlul Huq Milon, the function was also addressed by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman, BNP Mayor candidate Mirza Abbas, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP, BNP's Student Affairs Adviser Advocate Mofizur Rahman, DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokon and JCD leaders, including Nazimuddin Alam, Abul Khair Bhuiyan and Nasiruddin

Pinto.

The Prime Minister called upon the students irrespective of their party affiliation to work for eradicating illiteracy, injustice, indiscipline and poverty from society.

Mentioning the stress put on education by the present government, Begum Zia said "we have increased allocation for education and taken various programmes for the development of the education sector."

She assured that the present government wanted to establish more congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions and asked the workers of her party student front to help maintain discipline on the campuses, frequently troubled by violence.

Reminding that nine years of autocratic rule has destroyed all institutions, she said "we don't have time to spare. We have to work, work and work in all sectors."

The Prime Minister said the students would have to go back to their respective areas to educate people in fields, factories and laboratories with their acquired knowledge and help in their own capacities solve national problems.

Assuring all support of her government, Begum Zia also asked the students to take up village-based self-employment projects to resolve the unemployment problem. "Gov-

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ernment jobs alone cannot solve the huge unemployment problem."

Pointing at the near self-sufficiency attained in food, the Prime Minister reminded all that the nation was still lagging far behind in all other sectors. Although the country has made a little economic progress, it is not sufficient, she said.

"The country will only attain progress if the educated people integrate themselves with development activities," she said, expressing her firm confidence towards achieving self-reliance if all use their knowledge, talent and experiences properly.

Begum Zia mentioned that potentials in poultry, dairy, pisciculture and shrimp cultivation which she said would not only earn huge foreign exchange but also create significant employment opportunities.

She expressed her optimism that it is possible for the students who were major force in bringing the country's independence and ousting the autocratic regime to make the country self-reliant.

"Let our aim be economic emancipation and making the country self-reliant," she said. "I tell not only my students, but students at large and all student organisations that it is time to build the country, know the country and love the country."

Earlier on arrival at the venue, the Prime Minister hoisted the national flag and the flag of the JCD and also released a number of pigeons and balloons.

She also enjoyed a cultural function arranged on the occasion.