

## Law & order situation better than anytime in the past: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said, "We have fulfilled our pledge to the countrymen about curbing crime and improving the law and order situation."

Khaleda said this while she was speaking at a function on the occasion of unveiling the foundation plaque of a multi-storey commercial building of Bangladesh Police Welfare Trust at Gulshan in the city.

"Now there is no oppression by 'godfathers' in the country, there is no government-backed terrorism. The law and order situation is much better now than any time in the past... Now people can sleep in peace, can move around

freely," she added.

"Police force is an indispensable and important element in the democratic system. Considering this importance, we've done everything possible from the government in protecting your interest and for your welfare and development," she said.

"You'll also always try to maintain safe and peaceful environment as desired by the people... it is the expectation of all," Khaleda said.

She mentioned that 17,500 additional police have been recruited in the last five years and her government approved a policy for recruiting 30,000 more in the next five years.

"We also approved raising the number of police stations in the capital to 51 from the previous 22. Already work has started in 11 new police stations," Khaleda said.

She said Police Welfare Trust have been formed for welfare of the members of police force and their families, and the government allotted three bighas of land in Gulshan for the trust considering its importance.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Anwarul Iqbal were present at the function.



PHOTO: STAR

Sylhet Bibhagh Unnayan Sangram Parishad forms a human chain at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday urging Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina to make reform talks a success and solve the political crisis.

## Schoolgirl killed in wall collapse in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolgirl was killed and three others, including two children, were injured when a wall of an under-construction building collapsed on a tin-shed house in the city yesterday.

Witnesses said part of a wall crumbled on the tin-shed house on Poet Jasimuddin Road in North-Kamalapur at around 11:45am when the children were taking lessons from a tutor inside the room.

Salma Akhter, 8, a Class 1 student of local school, died on the spot while Rabbi, 5, and Jerin, 6, and their tutor Zannatun Mewa sustained injuries.

They were undergoing treatment at Islami Bank Hospital at Shahjahanpur. Daughter of a poor wayside tea stall owner, Salma was the first girl in her class at Malancha Shishu Shikkhaloy at north Kamalapur.

Her sudden death has shocked her mother so much that she remained unconscious even in the afternoon.

Locals alleged that assuming the risk of falling construction materials on the nearby dwellings, they requested the owners of the under-construction building to take safety measures, but in vain.

After the accident, owners and construction workers fled the scene.

Motijheel police said the accident took place due to negligence on the part of the owners of the building and a case will be filed in this connection.

## Suspected mugger beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat a suspected mugger to death and injured another critically at Moghbazar in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mizan, 25, and the injured as Rahim.

Police said local people caught hold of the two and beat them up at Chairman Goli, suspecting them to be muggers.

On receiving information, Ramna police rushed to the spot and rescued the two at around 2:00am.

They were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Mizan succumbed to his injuries at about 3:00am. The condition of Rahim was stated to be critical.

## Japanese envoy meets Ershad

UNB, Dhaka

The newly appointed Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Masayuki Inoue yesterday made a courtesy call on Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad at his Banani office.

They discussed matters of mutual interest, existing brotherly relations between the two countries and international issues at the meeting.