



President Iajuddin Ahmed speaks at the golden jubilee celebration of Women Voluntary Association (WVA) at a city hotel yesterday.

'Launch social movement to stop violence against women'

WVA celebrates golden jubilee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called on women to equip themselves with modern education to become self-reliant. He also called for launching social movement to prevent crimes like acid attack on women. The president was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the golden jubilee celebration of Women Voluntary Association (WVA) in the city. "A sharp change has occurred in the attitude that the sole obligation of

mothers, wives and sisters is to rear the children and perform other household works," said the president. He said it is a matter of great satisfaction that our women are now playing an important role in the society by participating in politics and other social activities. Referring to violence against women, the president said a number of women have been subjected to acid attacks without any fault of their own. He urged the non-government organisations and affluent people of the society to help the acid victims

so that they can maintain a decent living. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman said it is not possible to change the economic condition of the country leaving half of the population outside the development process. She said the establishment of WVA fifty years ago was a significant event as at that time women did not come out from their homes due to social taboos. WVA President Ruby Rahman and its immediate past president Farida Moni also spoke.

Fulfil 11-point demand to face post-MFA situation

Say garment workers

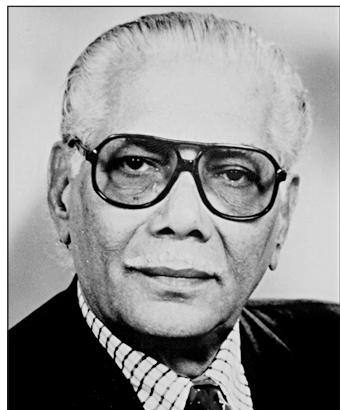
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council yesterday called for implementation of its 11-point demand to face the situation that may arise when the Multi Fibre Agreement (MFA) expires at the end of this year. The demand was made by the council leaders while addressing a rally at Muktangan in the city. "Thousands of garments workers will lose their jobs after the phase out of the quota facilities, but the government is yet to take any effective steps in this regard," said Amirul Haque Amin, co-ordinator of the council. He said the government has

formed a nine-member committee to face the challenge without including any garment representatives in it. Amirul Haque said the government and the civil society should join their hands in solving the problems of the garment workers considering the human aspect of the problem. He also demanded arrest of the killers of Rahela, a garment worker of Savar EPZ. Council leaders Shafiqur Rahman Majumdar, Abdul Kader Howlader and Salauddin Swapan also spoke at the rally. Later, the council brought out a procession that paraded different streets in the area.



Jago Bangladesh Garment Sramik Federation stages a demonstration demanding trial of the killers of Rahela, a garment worker of Savar EPZ, at a rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday.



Death anniversary of Samar Das today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the third death anniversary of renowned music director and composer Samar Das. He was the chief music director at Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. Samar Das Smriti Sangsad will place wreaths at his graveyard at the Christian Cemetery at Wari at 8.30am and hold a prayer session. A discussion and Samar Das Music Award distribution ceremony will be held at the National Press Club in the city at 4.30pm.

Book on 1998 floods to be launched today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'The 1998 Floods and Beyond: Towards Comprehensive Food Security in Bangladesh' will be held today. The book has been edited by three internationally recognised editors--Paul Dorosh, Carlo del Ninno and Quazi Shahabuddin, says a press release. The book describes Bangladesh's efforts before and after the severe floods of 1998 to achieve food security at the national and household levels and addresses the policy issues on food security, crisis management and long-term hunger. It also highlights the role of trade liberalisation and private sector rice imports from India in dealing with major production shortfalls in the 1990's. The University Press Limited has published the book.

BNP emergency meeting today

BSS, Dhaka

An emergency meeting of BNP will be held at the party's central office at 5:00pm today. Joint secretaries general of the executive committee, organising secretaries, president and general secretaries of Dhaka city and central committees of front organisations have been asked to attend the meeting. Secretary General of BNP and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will preside over the meeting.

OIC plays vital role in advancing causes of Muslim Ummah: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has played a very vital role in advancing the causes of the Muslim Ummah. "We believe that the OIC is uniquely equipped to initiate dialogue between the Muslim World and other civilisations and cultures," she said in a message on the eve of the OIC Day. Expressing her pleasure in joining the Muslim people around the world and the OIC family in celebrating the 3rd OIC Day today, she said, "On this happy occasion let me reaffirm our constructive and meaningful relationship with the organisation." "Islam is a great way of life that guides humanity to the path of success both in this world and in the life hereafter. Its lessons of moral, spiritual and ethical

emancipation have proved instrumental in human civilisation. That is why all attempts at desecrating Islam by way of stereotyping and vilification should be challenged," the prime minister said. "We must project the true image of Islam whose core spirit is imbued with the universal principles of human rights, democracy, tolerance and peace," she said. Khaleda recalled with deep satisfaction the dynamic and pragmatic leadership of late President Ziaur Rahman in strengthening the Bangladesh-OIC relationship. "Ever since its membership to the organisation, Bangladesh has remained active in the OIC and I would like to reiterate our firm commitment and resolve to work with the other members of the OIC to fulfil the aspirations of the Muslim Ummah," she said.

'Stop illegal constructions inside Osmani Uddyan'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) has urged the government to stop illegal constructions inside the Osmani Uddyan to maintain ecological balance in the city. During a visit to uddyan yesterday, Bapa leaders expressed their resentment at its shrinkage and mismanagement. They said despite their repeated call for expansion and beautification of the Osmani Uddyan, the authorities con-

cerned seem to be interested in constructing multi-storied building there. Bapa leaders called upon the people, different social organisations and mass media to be more alert to save the uddyan from illegal encroachments. Bapa, in cooperation with other environmental organisations, will form a human chain near the Railway Hospital in support of their demand tomorrow.

Fire at shopping centre in Ctg: 3 shops gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three shops were gutted and several others damaged partially in a fire that broke out at a shopping mall at Agrabad in the port city on Thursday night. An electrical short-circuit sparked off the fire on the first floor of the Southland Centre at around 10.30pm, fire service sources said. The blaze destroyed three crockery's and cloths stores. Fire fighters brought the blaze under control after a three-hour struggle. Owners of the shops estimated the loss at over Tk 30 lakh but the fire service sources said the loss would be around Tk 7 lakh.

Art exhibition begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day art exhibition began at National Museum in the city yesterday. The exhibition followed an art competition titled 'Draw your dream house'. Brac Concord Lands Limited organised the competition. Some 2,600 schoolchildren between the age of six and 10 took part in the competition held across the country. Inaugurating the exhibition, artist Hashem Khan said the children want to live in a beautiful environment. The pictures of their dream houses prove that children are pretty conscious about their dwelling places, materials and environment, he added. They drew pictures on 'Rainbow Town' (Ashulia) and 'Rajdhani Prkalpa' of Brac Concord Lands Limited. The pictures will be sold and the sale proceeds will be donated for the welfare of the disabled children, said AJM Sajedur Rahman, marketing executive of the company.



Children take part in an art competition organised by the National Press Club in celebration of its founding anniversary yesterday.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest of 24.0 degrees at Rangpur. The sun sets in the capital at 5:52pm today and rises at 5:49 am tomorrow. The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.3	26.5	78	75
Chittagong	31.2	26.0	79	75
Rajshahi	32.0	26.5	87	87
Khulna	33.5	26.5	--	84
Barisal	32.0	25.5	90	97
Sylhet	31.2	24.9	87	89
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	78	81



Jatiya Nari Oikyamancha organised a discussion to mark the 'Day of resistance to violence against women' in the city yesterday. Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain attended the function as chief guest.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable

Sujan- Citizen for good governance and The Daily Star will jointly organise a roundtable on Political reforms in Bangladesh'. Venue: The Daily Star Conference Room, Karwan Bazar. Time: 9.30am.

Workshop

A workshop on the role of media in achieving the national target of reaching sanitation facilities for all by 2010 will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9.30am.

Seminar

Campaign for Popular Education organises a seminar on 'Early childhood care and development'. Venue: IDB Bhaban Auditorium, Rokeya Sharani. Time: 3.30pm.

Nari seminar

Karmojibi Nari, an initiative for working women, will hold a seminar on labour laws. Venue: Hotel Purbani, Motijheel. Time: 3.00pm.

Health seminar

National Institute of Mental Health and Research organises a seminar titled 'A new treatment option in the management of opioid dependence'. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.30am.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'The Crying Game'

Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Rajshahi Bishwabidyalay Prakton Chhatra Samity will be held. Venue: Swanirbhar Bangladesh Conference Room, 5/5 Block-C, Lalmatia. Time: 5.00pm.

Photo exhibition

The opening ceremony of a ten-day photo exhibition titled 'China in the eyes of Bangladeshi photojournalists' will be held. Chinese Embassy has organised the exhibition to mark the 55th founding anniversary of Peoples'

Rotary Central

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 1.30pm.

Rotary North West

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5.30pm.

Peshajibi meeting

A meeting of Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad will be held. Venue: Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad Office. Time: 3.00pm.

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