



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.

Referring to violence against women, the president said a number of women have been subjected to acid attacks without any fault of their own.

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.

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.

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

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.

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-

## 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-storyed buildings there.

Bapa leaders called upon the people, different social organisations and mass media to be more alert to save the Uddyan from illegal encroachers.

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 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.



PHOTO: STAR

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

## WEATHER TODAY

### Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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.

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
Dhaka	32.3	26.5
Chittagong	31.2	26.0
Rajshahi	32.0	26.5
Khulna	33.5	26.5
Barisal	32.0	25.5
Sylhet	31.2	24.9
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0
	78	75
	87	87
	--	84
	90	97
	87	89
	78	81

## আলোচনা সভা

প্রধান অতিথি: ড. কামাল হোসেন

### জাতীয় নারী এক্যমন্ত্র



PHOTO: STAR

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.

## 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 Muktagon 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



### 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 Nino 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 1990s.

The University Press Limited has published the book.

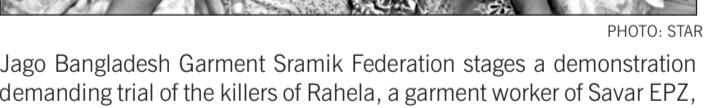
## BNP emergency meeting today

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.



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

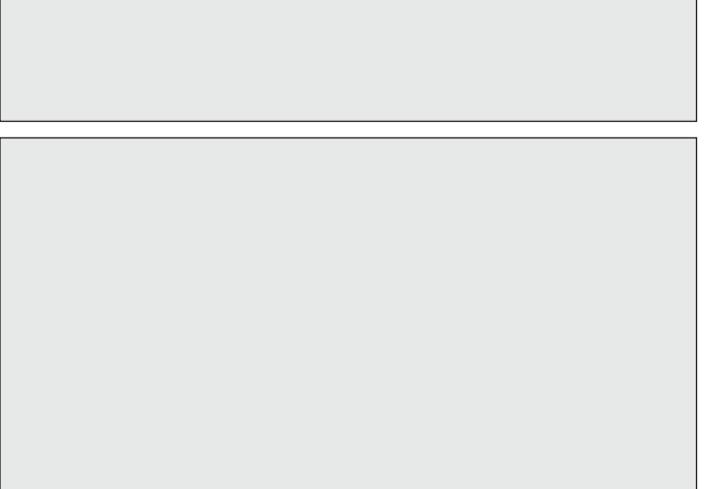
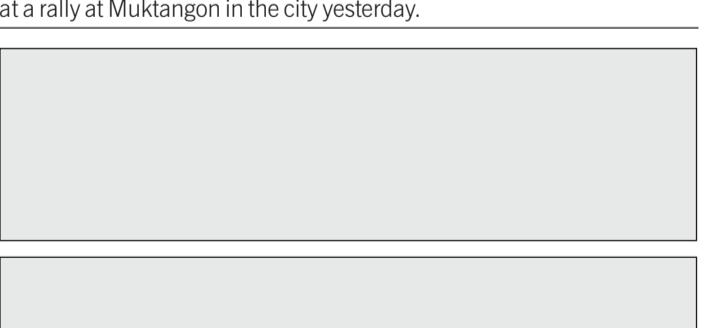


PHOTO: STAR